

**Accreditation of Arkansas  
Schools and School Districts  
Monitoring Process and  
Procedures  
2021-2022**



The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) monitoring process is based on the [ARKANSAS DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION OF ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, Effective Date: July 1, 2020](#). The monitoring process is designed to assess the degree to which accreditation requirements are being fulfilled. In addition, the monitoring process provides an opportunity for DESE to provide technical assistance to LEAs in order to strengthen their program administration and improve the quality of programs and interventions being implemented. As per [Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-206](#), DESE is required to conduct compliance reviews to ensure that LEAs meet the Standards for Accreditation. In addition as per [Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2202](#), DESE is required to monitor implementation of state code, rules, and regulations. The following tiered monitoring system has been established to inform LEAs of their accreditation status:

#### **Tier 1 - Desk Monitoring**

Each year LEAs will begin in the desk monitoring tier which utilizes the Standards for Accreditation (SFA) tool and information found on the district website. LEAs will be notified of their accreditation status monthly by automated email. DESE may request the LEA provide additional information in order to achieve clarifying information regarding full compliance with the Standards for Accreditation. LEAs may contact the Standards and Systems Support Unit for opportunities to receive guidance and technical assistance.

#### **Tier 2 - Request Additional Information**

The LEA will be notified by the Standards and Systems Support Unit if additional documentation is needed to meet the standards for accreditation. The LEA will be asked to address the items and submit the necessary additional information. These newly submitted documents will once again be desk monitored in an effort to ascertain the LEA's compliance status. It is recognized, and expected, that the LEA may require technical assistance.

#### **Tier 3 - Deeper Dive into Data or Evidence**

In the event that a deeper dive becomes necessary, the LEA will be notified in writing of the specific circumstances and the recommended remedies required to move the grant to a point of substantial compliance. This may require the submission of additional documentation from the LEA, more intensive technical assistance, a site visit by DESE staff, or other remedies determined in consultation with the LEA.

#### **Tier 4 – Onsite Monitoring**

LEAs can be selected for onsite monitoring based on (1) a request from the Superintendent or Commissioner of the Elementary and Secondary Education, (2) the risk assessment score meets the high risk threshold, (3) a sampling of LEAs or an established cycle, or (4) the tiered monitoring system. After on-site monitoring is conducted, a letter will be sent to the superintendent outlining recommendations and/or required corrective actions. The LEA will have ten (10) business days to complete and submit the necessary documentation to DESE for approval.

At any time, a public school or public school district, which does not meet the Standards for Accreditation, as determined by DESE, shall be notified in writing of the deficiency and the timeline for correction. Any deficiency unresolved shall be reported to the State Board of Education for consideration of action.

### **Procedures for On-Site or Virtual Review:**

1. **Entrance Conference:** An entrance conference (virtually or in person) is held with the superintendent and other district personnel. The meeting acquaints LEA staff with the DESE team and provides an opportunity to familiarize district staff with the purpose and goals of the visit.
2. **Review:** Interviews with appropriate program personnel or staff members and a review of additional documentation gathered is conducted on-site or virtually. This may also include interviews with non-public school staff, multi-district consortium members and parents and/or other stakeholders if issues are noted during the site visit that warrant further investigation. The DESE Monitoring Team will utilize the monitoring indicators to interview the LEA during the on-site monitoring review.
3. **Exit Conference:** The monitoring team will hold an exit conference (virtually or in person) with the superintendent and other district personnel. The DESE monitoring team will summarize the monitoring activities, the potential findings and the timeline for developing the monitoring report.
4. **Monitoring Report:** Within ten (10) business days of the exit conference, the monitoring report will be issued to the superintendent. The LEA will have ten (10) business days to complete and submit the necessary documentation listed in the corrective actions (if applicable). Documentation/evidence received from the LEA during this time will be reviewed for compliance. If all documentation is deemed complete and compliant, a final compliance letter will be issued within thirty (30) business days of the exit conference. DESE reserves the right to alter the timeline to fully collect necessary data. The LEA will be notified if an extended timeline is required.
5. An LEA that does not respond to the report within the established timeline or fails to comply, the DESE may report any deficiency unresolved to the State Board of Education for consideration of action.

## 2020-2021 Risk Assessment

The risk assessment will be completed annually to assist DESE in identifying districts which may be at risk of not being in compliance with state or federal laws or requirements. Evidence for the risk assessment will be collected throughout the school year and scores updated to reflect new information. LEAs earning 50 points or more on the risk assessment will be considered high risk for onsite monitoring.

Risk Criteria	Value	Points Earned
District had a private audit or had an audit finding in previous year	30	
District has 40% or more students in need of support in reading on previous state assessment	20	
District or school has a Probation or Citation during previous year	20	
District is identified as high risk by any DESE unit or division	20	
District has been identified as fiscal distress or early intervention	15	
District or school has been late in submitting a budget or report	10	
District had expired federal funds in previous year	10	
District has a new bookkeeper	10	
District has a new superintendent	10	
District has not participated in an onsite monitoring in the last five (5) years	5	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>150</b>	

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## Standard 1: Academics

### Standard 1-A Curriculum and Instruction

1-A.1	Each public school district board of directors shall annually adopt and implement <b>written curriculum</b> aligned to the Arkansas Academic Standards for the operation of the school district in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the Rules of the Division. Reading, writing, speaking and, personal success skills shall be incorporated into all curriculum areas. (D/C) (SOA)	<p>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-15-1505</a></p> <p>* Written curriculum documents are required for Math, Literacy, Science, and Social Studies</p> <p>* Approval of the curriculum should be reflected in Board minutes</p>
1-A 1.1	For <b>Grades K-4</b> , all students shall receive instruction annually in each of the following content areas (S/P)	
1-A. 1.1.1	<b><u>English Language Arts</u></b>	<p>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-146</a></p> <p>* Cursive writing instruction should be provided by the end of grade 3</p>
1-A. 1.1.2	<b><u>Mathematics</u></b>	
1-A. 1.1.3	<b><u>Social Studies</u></b>	
1-A. 1.1.4	<b><u>Science</u></b>	
1-A. 1.1.5	<b><u>Fine Arts</u></b>	<p>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-130</a></p> <p>* <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Visual Art and Music Instruction for Students in Grades one through six (1-6)</a></p> <p>* K students are required to have fine arts instruction, but there are no requirements for time or content certification</p> <p>* Grades 1-4 are required to have 40 minutes of art and music weekly or the equivalent (1440 minutes per year) and teacher must be certified in content area.</p>
1-A. 1.1.6	<b><u>Health and Safety Education and Physical Education</u></b>	<p>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-132</a></p> <p>* <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index</a></p> <p>* K-4 students are required to have 40 minutes of PE weekly (not equivalent)</p> <p>* Health must be taught annually - no time requirements</p>
1-A.1.2	For <b>Grades 5-8</b> , all students shall receive instruction annually in each of the following content areas (S/P)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-16-103</a>

1-A.1.2.1	<b><u>English Language Arts</u></b>	
1-A.1.2.2	<b><u>Mathematics</u></b>	
1-A.1.2.3	<b><u>Social Studies</u></b>	
1-A. 1.2.4	<b><u>Science</u></b>	
1-A. 1.2.5	<b><u>Fine Arts</u></b>	<p>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-130</a></p> <p>* Students in grades 5-6 are required to have 40 minutes of music weekly or the equivalent (1440 minutes per year)</p> <p>* Students in grades 7-8 are required to participate in either art or music instruction - no time requirements</p> <p>* Both art and music must be offered in both 7th and 8th grades</p>
1-A.1.2.6	<b><u>Health and Safety Education and Physical Education</u></b>	<p>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-132</a></p> <p>* <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards</a></p> <p>* Health must be taught annually - no time requirements- can be embedded, but in grades 7-8 teacher must be certified for Health</p> <p>* Students in grades 5-8 are required to have 40 minutes of PE weekly or the equivalent (1440 minutes per year)</p> <p>* <b>List minutes by the week in eSchool</b></p>
1-A.1.2.7	<b><u>Career and Technical Education</u></b>	<p>* Students should have a semester of Career Development <b>AND</b> a semester of Keyboarding or Keycode in grades 7 or 8</p> <p>* No required courses for grades 5-6 for 2020-2021</p>
1-A.1.2.8	A unit of <b><u>Arkansas History</u></b> shall be taught as a social studies subject at each elementary grade level in every elementary school in the state with greater emphasis at the fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) grade levels, and at least one (1) full semester of Arkansas history taught to all students at the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade level in every public secondary school in the state. (S/P)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-124</a>
1-A.1.2.9	Upon approval by the Division, courses taught in grades 5-8 may be offered for <b>high school graduation credit</b> . Courses shall have the same rigor as those taught in high school, but content for a single course may be taught over a two-year period. Teachers shall be licensed, or teaching under an approved waiver, in the course taught with students participating in appropriate examinations. (S/P) (SOA)	* Approval required each time new academic standards are adopted

1-A.1.3	For <b>Grades 9-12</b> , the following content areas shall be offered annually for a total of 38 units, except as otherwise allowed by law and these rules. The list of courses, approved by the State Board of Education for each content area, is posted annually on the Division website. (S/P)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-103</a>
1-A.1.3.1	<b>English Language Arts</b> - 6 units	
1-A.1.3.2	<b>Science</b> - 5 units	
1-A.1.3.3	<b>Mathematics</b> - 6 units	
1-A.1.3.4	<b>Computer Science</b> - 1 unit	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-147</a>
1-A.1.3.5	<b>Foreign Languages</b> - 2 units of same language	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-142</a> (options include American Sign Language)
1-A.1.3.6	<b>Fine Arts</b> - 3 ½ units	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-130</a>
1-A.1.3.7	<b>Social Studies</b> - 4 units	
1-A.1.3.8	<b>Health and Safety Education and Physical Education</b> - 1½ units	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-132</a>
1-A.1.3.9	<b>Career and Technical Education</b> - 9 units of sequenced career and technical education courses representing three (3) occupational areas	* <a href="#">Arkansas Division of Career and Technical Education Program Operational Guide</a>  *Schools must offer one (1) program of study from three (3) different Occupational Areas annually. Each Occupational Area defines the required entry level (core) course for each program of study. Core courses must be offered annually.
1-A.1.3.10	Course offerings shall include <b>advanced educational courses</b> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division (S/P)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-1204</a>  * <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-15-214</a> (AP count as core curriculum)  * One (1) AP course in each core area (math, English, science, social studies) must be offered annually
1-A. 1.4	Following the Course Approval Process, a public school may request to <b>combine or embed</b> the Arkansas Academic Standards from two (2) separate courses into one (1) combined course. The public school must continue to teach the Arkansas Academic Standards for each separate course that is combined. (S/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-15-202</a> (b)(2)(B)
1-A.2	A high school unit of credit shall be awarded for a course which meets for a minimum of <b>120 clock hours</b> unless the public school district awards units of credit based on subject matter competency in compliance with the public school district's approved plan under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-216. (S/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-15-216</a> (credit awarded for subject matter competency)  * <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit</a> (Section 3)



1-A.3	Each public school district shall establish <b>procedures and monitoring</b> processes to ensure that the content of each course offered by the district is consistent with the Arkansas Academic Standards. (D/C) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-15-1505</a></li> <li>* Procedures must be written</li> </ul>
1-A.4	Each public school district shall adopt a <b>school calendar</b> and provide planned instruction per day in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. By August 1, the school calendar shall be posted on the district website under State Required Information. (D/C) (WCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A §6-10-106</a> (School Start Date)</li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-18-213</a> (40-50 Days in each quarter)</li> <li>* Approval of school calendar should be reflected in Board minutes and posted to district website</li> </ul>
1-A.4.1	Each public school shall provide a minimum of <b>178 days</b> of student teacher interaction time. (S/P)	<p><b>STANDARD ONLY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-102</a> (Instructional time per day)</li> <li>* Unless operating a four day school week according to <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-10-117</a> and <a href="#">Rules Governing 4-Day School Weeks</a></li> <li>* 178 days of instruction/6 hours per day = 1068 hrs/yr</li> <li>* 4 day week must have 7.5 hours of instruction per day for 142.5 days</li> </ul>
1-A.4.2	Except where otherwise allowed by law, each public school shall provide a planned instructional day that averages no less than six (6) hours per day or thirty (30) hours per week. Any day in which fewer than six (6) hours of instruction time is provided to students shall be counted as one-half (½) of a school day if at least three (3) hours of instructional time is provided to students. Any day in which fewer than three (3) hours of instructional time is provided to students shall not be counted as part of a school day. (S/P) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-102</a> (a2-a4)</li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-10-126</a> (Late Arrival/Early Dismissal)</li> <li>* 4 day week must have 7.5 hours of instruction per day for 142.5 days</li> </ul>
1-A.4.3	At least forty (40) minutes of instructional time per school day shall be used for <b>recess</b> for students attending public elementary schools, in accordance with the Division;s nutrition and physical activity standards. (S/P)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. §6-16-102</a> (a)(5)</li> </ul>
1-A.5	Each public school district shall comply with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division regarding <b>class size and teaching load</b> . (D/P)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-17-812</a> (Compensate over 150 or during planning period- no waiver needed)</li> <li>* <a href="#">ADE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load</a></li> <li>* Large Group Instruction: PE 5-12, Instrumental/Vocal Music 5-12, General Music 7-12, JROTC, Non-academic (all 999--- codes or class size limit in CCMS=999)</li> </ul>

1-A.6	Each public school district shall <b>adopt instructional material</b> consistent with the public school district's curriculum and the Arkansas Academic Standards and educational goals established by the State Board of Education in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. (D/P) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A §6-21-403</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-21-413</a> (Instructional Materials Committee)</li> <li>* Evidence that instructional materials were selected by the instructional materials selection committee or adopted by the Board.</li> </ul>
1-A.7	The district shall <b>provide necessary instructional material</b> to each student without cost to the student. (D/P) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-21-403</a></li> </ul>
<b>Standard 1-B Academic Policies</b>		
1-B.1	Each public school district shall engage parents, staff, and students in the adoption or review of the <b>written discipline policies</b> , including a code of student behavior , in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. The public school district shall notify the parent(s) or guardian and students of the rules and procedures by which the school is governed and require a signed acknowledgement from the paren(s) or guardian that they have received the school's discipline policies. (D/C) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-18-503</a></li> <li>* Signed acknowledgements of parent or guardian notification</li> </ul>
1-B.2	Annually by August 1, each public school district shall <b>post its written discipline policies</b> on the district website under State Required Information (D/C) (WCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-11-129</a></li> </ul>
1-B.3	Each public school district shall comply with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Decision regarding <b>nutrition and physical activity</b> standards. (D/C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-132</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 20-7-135</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index</a></li> </ul>
1-B.3.1	Each public school and public school district shall develop and implement a written <b>health and wellness plan</b> that must be submitted annually to the Division by October 1. (D-S/C) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index</a></li> </ul>
1-B.4	Each public school district shall comply with any requirements of the <b>Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act</b> placed on the public school or public school district. (D/P)	<p><b>NO WAIVERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. §6-15-2911</a> (Success Plans)</li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-15-2914</a> (SIP)</li> <li>* <a href="#">Act 83 of 2019</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">Act 930 of 2017</a></li> </ul> <p>* Includes Student Success Plans, School Improvement Plans, District Support Plans</p>
<b>Standard 1-C Student Performance</b>		

1-C.1	Each public school district must comply with laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division regarding the <b><u>statewide assessment system.</u></b> (D/P) (SOA)	<b>NO WAIVERS</b> * <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-15-2907(e)</a>
1-C.1.1	Public school shall <b>assess at least 95%</b> of its students on the annual statewide student assessment. (S/C) (SOA)	
1-C. 1.2	Selected public schools shall participate in any and all components of the <b><u>National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).</u></b> (S/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-15-2907(g)</a>
1-C.2	Each public school district shall adopt <b><u>graduation requirements</u></b> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division and include the graduation requirements in the student handbook. (D/P)(SOA)	<b>NO WAIVERS</b> * Graduation requirements included in the Student Handbook * Minimum of 5.5 credits per year to be on track to graduate
1-C.2.1	Each public school district shall maintain <b><u>accurate student records</u></b> including graduation requirements. (D/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-18-213</a> (Attendance) * <a href="#">ADE Rules Governing Student Permanent Records</a> * Cycle Reports Submitted
1-C.2.2	For graduation, students must have acquired a minimum of <b><u>twenty-two (22) units of credit</u></b> as determined by the State Board of Education. (S/P) (SOA)	<b>STANDARD ONLY</b>
1-C.2.3	All students must pass the <b><u>Arkansas Civics Exam</u></b> with a score of at least 60% in order to graduate. This requirement shall not apply to those students exempt by law. (S/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-149</a>
1-C.2.4	Beginning with the freshman class of 2017-2018, students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) must earn credit in a course that has <b><u>personal and family finance</u></b> standards (S/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-16-135</a>
1-C.2.5	Students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) must complete at least one <b><u>digital course</u></b> for credit to graduate. (S/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-16-1406</a>
1-C.2.6	Students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall be trained in quality psychomotor skill bases in cardiopulmonary resuscitation ( <b><u>CPR</u></b> ) to graduate. (S/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-16-143</a>

<b>Standard 2: Student Support Services</b>		
<b>Standard 2-A Equitable Opportunities</b>		
2-A. 1	All policies and action of a public school district's board of directors shall be <b>nondiscriminatory</b> and shall be in accordance with state and federal laws and the rules of the Division. (D/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-10-114</a>
2-A. 1.1	Each public school district shall file an accurate and timely <b>Equity Compliance Report</b> by October 15 as part of the cycle 2 submission. (D/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-10-111</a>
2-A. 2	The board of directors, administrators, and employees of a public school district shall not knowingly authorize the participation of students in events or activities held at a location where some students would be excluded or not given <b>equal treatment</b> because of the student's race, national origin, disability, sex, or ethnic background. (D/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-10-114</a>
<b>Standard 2-B Student Attendance and Enrollment</b>		
2-B. 1	Each public school district board of directors shall adopt a <b>student attendance policy</b> and include the attendance policy in the student handbook. (D/C) (WCL)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-18-209</a>
2-B. 2	Each public school shall maintain <b>accurate student attendance records</b> in a format prescribed by the Division. (D/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-18-213</a>
2-B. 3	Each public school shall not admit any student who has not been age-appropriately <b>immunized</b> as required by state and federal laws and rules unless the student has an exemption. By December 1, the school must post the required exemption report pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-702 on the district website under State Required Information. (S/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-18-702</a>
<b>Standard 2-C Student Support Services Plan</b>		
2-C. 1	Each public school district shall develop and implement a written plan for providing <b>comprehensive school counseling services</b> to all students in the public school system in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. By August 1, the written plan shall be posted on the district website under State Required Information. (D/C) (WCL)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-18-2001 through A.C.A. § 6-18-2005</a>
2-C. 2	Each public school district shall provide a developmentally appropriate <b>guidance program</b> to aid students in educational, personal/social and career development. (D/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-18-2003</a>
<b>Standard 2-D Media Center for Student Support</b>		

2-D. 1	Each public school district shall annually budget and expend sufficient resources to purchase and maintain an <b>appropriate balance of print, non-print, and electronic media</b> that is adequate in quality and quantity to meet the academic standards for all students. (D/C) (SOA)	
<b>Standard 2-E Health and Safety Services</b>		
2-E. 1	Each public school district shall provide a <b>health services program</b> under the direction of a <u>licenced registered nurse</u> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the ruses of the Division. (D/C) (SOA)	<p>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-18-706 (Ratio of 750:1)</a></p> <p>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-18-701(f)</a> Individual Health Care Plans</p> <p>*DESE Rules Governing Public School Student Services <b>(REPEALED)</b></p> <p>*RN must oversee LPNs according to State Board of Nursing</p> <p>*District does not have to employ RN but must have contract with one to create Individual Health Plans (IHPs) and oversee LPNs</p>
2-E. 2	Each public school and public school district shall maintain appropriate materials and expertise to reasonably ensure the <b>safety of students, employees, and visitors.</b> (D/C) (SOA)	* A.C.A. § 6-18-216 <b>(REPEALED)</b>
<b>Standard 2-F Special Education Services</b>		
2-F. 1	All public school district personnel, teachers, and administrators must comply with the <b>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)</b> , 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 300, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-101 et seq., the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Department. (D/P) (SOA)	<p><b>NO WAIVERS</b></p> <p>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-41-201 through 206</a></p>
2-F. 2	Each public school district shall offer a full continuum of <b>special education services</b> as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 300, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-101 et seq., the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Department. (D/P) (SOA)	<b>NO WAIVERS</b>
<b>Standard 2-G Gifted and Talented Services</b>		
2-G. 1	Each public school district shall provide <b>gifted and talented services</b> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. (D/C)	<p>* <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards</a></p> <p>* Staff member with job code 3050</p> <p>* GT courses do not have to be scheduled</p>

Standard 2-H Dyslexia Services		
2-H. 1	Each public school district shall provide screening and intervention for <b>dyslexia</b> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Department. (D/P) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-41-603 through 605</a></li> <li>* A minimum of 3% of previous year's ADM should be identified</li> </ul>
2-H. 2	Each public school district shall comply with the annual <b>dyslexia</b> reporting as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-606. (D/P) (WCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-41-606</a></li> <li>Required Information from Previous Year</li> <li>* Name of intervention program used</li> <li>* Number of students receiving dyslexia interventions</li> <li>* Total number of students identified with dyslexia</li> </ul>
Standard 2-I Alternative Education Services		
2-I. 1	Each public school district shall provide appropriate <b>alternative programs</b> for students who are identified as required such programs to continue their education. (D/C) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-15-1005(b)(5)</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-48-101</a> et seq.</li> <li>* <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funds</a></li> </ul>
Standard 2-J English Language Services		
2-J. 1	Each public school district shall conduct a <b>home language usage survey</b> for each student upon the student's initial enrollment to identify students that need to be screened for English for Speakers of other Language Services. (D/C) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Evidence of home language usage survey</li> </ul>
2-J. 2	Each public school district shall offer a <b>Language Instruction Educational Program</b> for identified English Learners in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. (D/C) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Number of identified EL students</li> <li>* Evidence of program</li> </ul>

### Standard 3: District Operation and Fiscal Governance

#### Stan 3-A Operating Policies, Procedures, and Training

3-A.1	Each public school district board of directors shall adopt and update written <b>policies for the fiscal operation</b> of the school district in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. By August 1, the written policies shall be posed on the district website under State Required Information. (D/C) (WCL)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-10-124</a>
3-A.2	Each public school district shall adopt written <b>personnel policies</b> , including the salary schedules for the licensed and classified staff. By August 1, the written policies shall be posted on the district website under State Required Information. (D/C) (WCL)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-201</a> * <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-17-2301</a>
3-A.3	Each public school district shall submit <b>accurate and timely reports</b> deemed necessary to ensure compliance with federal and state law and the rules of the Division, as requested. (D/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-10-129</a> * Submission of cycle reports, district budget, Minority Teacher and Administrator Recruitment Plan, Constitutionally Protected Prayer, Statement of Assurance
3-A.4	Each public school district shall ensure compliance with the Arkansas Public School Computer Network ("APSCN") and reporting and <b>annual training requirements</b> required by the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. (D/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-20-2204</a> * Tier I Training for superintendent and bookkeeper * Tier II training for other staff involved in financial coding
3-A.5	Each public school district shall employ a <b>general business manager</b> responsible for the fiscal operations of the school district (D/C)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. §6-15-2302</a>
3-A.6	Each member of a public school district <b>board of directors shall receive annual training</b> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. A statement of the hours of training and instruction received by each board member for the preceding year shall be included in the annual school performance report required by the laws of the State of Arkansas (D/C)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-13-629</a> * Report 311 from Cycle 5  <b>* The required 9 hours for new board members does not apply to charters. Charter boards need 6 hours per year.</b>
3-A.7	Each Public school district superintendent shall file a <b>written statement of assurance</b> annually by October 1 in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. (D/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-15-202</a>
3-A.8	Except where otherwise allowed by law, each public school district shall comply with the Standards for Accreditation without using <b>enhanced student achievement funding</b> . (D/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(b)(4)</a> * <a href="#">Act 1082 of 2019</a> * <a href="#">Act 1083 of 2019</a>  * <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditures of Those Funds</a>

3-A.9	By August 1, each public school district shall post all <b><u>student handbooks</u></b> on the district website under State required Information. (D/C) (WCL)	<b>STANDARD ONLY</b>
3-A.10	Each public school district which has not obtained full and complete <b><u>unitary status</u></b> and has not been released from court supervised desegregation obligations shall seek to obtain a declaration of full and complete unitary status and release from all court supervision from the federal courts. (D/P) (SOA)	
3-A.10.1	Beginning September 15 of each year, any public school district identified in Section 3-A.10 shall submit written quarterly reports to the Division detailing the district's outstanding <b><u>desegregation obligations</u></b> and the district's efforts towards obtaining full unitary status and release from court supervision. The detailed plan shall include the district's progress towards meeting its obligations and timelines for reaching a determination of full unitary status and release from court supervision. (D/C) (SOA)	
3-A.10.2	If the Division is unable to verify the public school district's efforts to <b><u>comply with the submitted detailed plan</u></b> required by these Rules, the Division shall recommend to the State Board of Education whether the public school district should be placed on Accredited-Probation status in accordance with the Rules.	
<b>Standard 3-B School-Level Improvement Plans and Reporting</b>		
3-B.1	Each public school in Arkansas shall develop, with appropriate staff and community participation, a <b><u>school-level improvement plan</u></b> . School goals shall be compatible with district, state, and national educational goals and shall address local needs in accordance with the laws of State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. The school -level improvement plans must be approved by the district and school board and posted to the district website under State Required information by August 1. (D/C) (WCL)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-15-2914</a>
3-B.2	Each public school district board of director shall systematically and at least annually explain its policies, programs, and goals to the community in a <b><u>public meeting</u></b> that provides opportunities for parents and other members of the community to ask questions and make suggestions concerning the school program in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. The report shall detail the progress of the district and schools toward accomplishing program goals, accreditation standards, and proposals to correct deficiencies. The report shall be made available to the public and the public shall be notified of the meeting. (D/C) (SOA)	<b>STANDARD ONLY</b>



3-B.2.1	The <b>annual report to the public</b> shall be posted on the district website under State Required Information no later than 10 days after the public meeting is held. (D/C) (WCL)	<b>STANDARD ONLY</b>
<b>Standard 3-C Maintenance of Records and Reports</b>		
3-C.1	Each public school and public school district shall develop and implement a <b>records retention policy</b> that retains all reports and records necessary for effective planning, operation, and education in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. (D/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-20-2206</a>
3-C.2	Each public school and public school district shall maintain <b>permanent student records</b> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the Rules of the Division. (D/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-18-901</a> * <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Student Permanent Records</a>
<b>Standard 3-D Food Service</b>		
3-D.1	Each public school district shall provide <b>food services</b> in accordance with federal and state laws and the rules of the Division. (D/C) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-20-701 through 709</a> * Child Nutrition Monitoring Reports

## Standard 4: Human Capital

### Standard 4-A Background Checks

4-A.1	Each public school district shall not employ personnel, whether licensed or non-licensed, who have not successfully completed <b>background checks</b> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. (D/C)	<p><b>NO WAIVERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-17-410</a> et seq</li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-17-411</a> (initial employment)</li> <li>* Includes student workers</li> </ul>
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### Standard 4-B Superintendent

4-B.1	Each public school district shall employ a full-time <b>superintendent</b> to oversee all operations of the public school district. (D/P)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-13-109</a></li> <li>* Superintendent can teach no more than 1/2 of school day.</li> <li>* If under district under 300, superintendent can also serve as K-12 principal</li> </ul>
4-B.2	Each public school district <b>superintendent</b> shall meet the <b>licensure</b> requirements in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division unless the public school district has a licensure exception in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. (D/C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-13-109</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-17-427</a> (Mentoring)</li> <li>* <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Superintendent Mentoring Program</a></li> </ul>

### Standard 4-C Principals

4C.1	Each public school shall employ at least a half-time <b>principal</b> . A full-time principal shall be employed when a public school's enrollment reaches three hundred (300). A public school district superintendent may be permitted to serve as a half-time principal when district enrollment is less than 300 providing the superintendent is appropriately certified and is not already teaching classes. Schools with an enrollment exceeding five hundred (500) shall employ at least one full-time principal and a half-time assistant principal, instructional supervisor or curriculum specialist. (D/P)	
4-C.2	Each public school district shall employ public school <b>principals that meet the licensure requirements</b> in accordance with the laws of the state of Arkansas and the rules of the Division unless the public school district has a licensure exception in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division	* <a href="#">A.C.A § 6-17-302</a>
4-C.3	Each public school district shall register with the Division any building or district level administrator, with the exception of the superintendent, that is in his or her first year of employment as an <b>administrator</b> and ensure these administrators receive <b>mentoring</b> support for their first three years. (D/C) (SOA)	

4-C.4	At least once every four years, the district shall report in the state approved platform a <b>summative rating</b> for each building and district level <b>administrator</b> , with the exception of the superintendent. (D/C) (SOA)	
<b>Standard 4-D Teachers</b>		
4-D.1	Each public school district shall employ <b>classroom teachers</b> that meet the <b>licensure requirements</b> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division or are teaching under an approved waiver in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-15-1004</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-302</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-309</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-401</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-902</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-919</a></li> <li>* <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure</a> (Section 7)</li> </ul> <p>*Evidence of letters sent to parents regarding long-term subs or non-certified teachers</p>
4-D.2	Each public school district shall not employ an individual, including as a substitute teacher whether directly employed by the school or through a teaching services contract, whose <b>license has been suspended or revoked</b> by the State Board of Education for a disqualifying offense or those, licensed or unlicensed individuals, who have been sanctioned for an ethical violation in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division	<p><b>NO WAIVERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-309</a></li> </ul>
4-D.3	Each public school district must comply with the <b>Right to Read Act</b> , codified in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-429, regarding the hiring of a teachers who demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction. (D/P) (SOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-429</a></li> </ul>
4-D.4	Each public school district shall register with the Division any <b>teacher</b> that is in his or her first year of employment as a teacher and ensure these teachers receive <b>mentoring</b> support for their first three years. (D/C) (SOA)	
4-D.5	At least once every four years, the district all report in the state approved platform a <b>summative rating</b> for each <b>teacher</b> . (D/C)	
<b>Standard 4-E Guidance Counselors</b>		
4-E.1	Each public school district shall employ <b>school counselors</b> that meet the <b>licensure requirement</b> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division or are working under a licensure exception in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. (D/C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-18-2003</a></li> </ul>
4-E.2	Each public school district shall have a student/school <b>counselor ratio</b> of no more than one to 450 students. (D/P)	<p><b>STANDARD ONLY</b></p> <p>* District ratio of 450:1</p>

4-E.3	Each public school district shall allot <b>sufficient time</b> for each school counselor to <b>carry out duties</b> stated in the comprehensive school counseling plan, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-19-2004. (D/P) (SOA)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-18-2004</a>
<b>Standard 4-F Library Media Specialists</b>		
4-F.1	Each public school district shall employ <b>library media specialists</b> that meet the <b>licensure</b> requirements in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division or are working under a licensure exception in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. (D/C)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-25-104</a>
4-F.2	Public schools with fewer than three hundred (300) students shall employ at least one half-time <b>library media specialist</b> . Public schools with three hundred (300) or more students shall employ at least one full-time library media specialist. Schools enrolling fifteen hundred (1,500) or more students shall employ at least two full-time library media specialists. (S/P)	<b>STANDARD ONLY</b>
<b>Standard 4-G Professional Development</b>		
4-G.1	Teachers and administrators must comply with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division regarding <b>professional development</b> . (D/C) (SOP)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-15-1703</a> * <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-701</a> * <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-710</a>  * <a href="#">DESE Rules Governing Professional Development</a>  * Report 221 from Cycle 8
4-G.2	Each public school district shall provide <b>professional development in scientific reading instruction</b> in compliance with the Right to Read Act, codified in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-429. (D/P) (SOP)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-17-429</a>

**Standard 5: Stakeholder Communication**

**Standard 5-A Stakeholder Communication**

5-A.1

Each public school district shall have a **written plan for parent, family, and community engagement**, including the scheduling of at least two (2) parent-teacher conferences each year, in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division. By August 1, the plan shall be posted on the district website under State Required Information. (D/C) (WCL)

\* [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702](#)

## Standard 6: Facilities and Equipment

### Standard 6-A Facilities and Transportation

6-A.1	Each public school district shall plan, construct, and <b>maintain school facilities</b> in accordance with federal laws, the laws of the State of Arkansas, and the rules of the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation. (D/C) (SOP)	* <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-21-112</a>
6-A.2	Each public school district shall adopt and implement school <b>safety policies and procedures</b> in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and e rules of the Division. (D/P)	<b>NO WAIVERS</b> * <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-10-121</a> (Tornado) * <a href="#">A.C.A. § 12-13-109</a> (Fire) * <a href="#">A.C.A. § 6-15-1302</a> (Emergency Plan/Alert Button)

