



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF
LEARNING SERVICES

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Subject: Message #13: Course Approval Reminders for the 2015-2016 School Year

Date: April 16, 2015

To: adecurriculum@lists.state.ar.us

From: Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction Unit

Dear Arkansas Curriculum Leaders,

This is a reminder that Course Approvals for the 2015-2016 school year are due by May 1, 2015. Previously issued Fine Arts and Social Studies course approvals will become invalid at the end of June 2015. Schools that wish to continue teaching courses granted previous approval must resubmit course approval requests aligned to the new frameworks. Notwithstanding, please visit the framework pages (linked below) as there are new Fine Arts documents for many courses that required approval in the past.

Schools that teach a high school (Grades 9-12) course below 9th grade **must have a course approval aligned to the most current frameworks**, unless the school has the same LEA number as the high school and the majority of the class is 9-12 grade. Not having an appropriate course approval for a high school course offered to students below the 9th grade is one of the most common violations of the Standards for Accreditation. Schools may contact the Curriculum and Instruction Unit for assistance in determining if an approval is valid.

- Fine Arts Frameworks and Course Lists (<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-framework-documents/fine-arts-new-courses-valid-july-1-2015>)
- Social Studies Frameworks and Course Lists (<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-framework-documents/social-studies-new-courses-valid-july-1-2015>)
- Course Approval Information (<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/course-approvals>)

As an additional reminder, embedded courses require annual approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education (SBE). Districts wanting to teach embedded courses, not approved for the 2014-2015 school year, must seek approval by May 1st. Districts that had an approval for an embedded course for the 2014-2015 school year do not need to resubmit an approval request for 2015-2016, your district's 2014-2015 embedded course request will be resubmitted to the SBE for approval for the 2015-2016 school year.

Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.

