



October 2014

## Information for New Providers

This fact sheet is intended to provide information pertaining to digital learning providers seeking approval to offer courses in Arkansas beginning in 2015-2016.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### **Which form should be used to submit course alignments with the Digital Learning Provider application?**

There is not a form for course alignments. However, you can use the [sample spreadsheet](#) provided in the resource section on the Digital Learning Providers webpage. Be certain to list each course that you want to offer in 2015-2016 in the third column and provide a link in the last column that leads to the course content and corresponding [Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks](#) standards.

#### **What does the ADE mean by alignment?**

The law requires that all courses must “meet or exceed” the curriculum standards and requirements established by the State Board of Education. The expectation is for all courses to be fully aligned.

#### **How do I align my social studies and fine arts courses to Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks since, in the very near future, the State Board of Education will be reviewing and likely revising the standards for the courses in these subjects?**

List all courses that you want to offer in 2015-2016 when you submit the application. Provide a link to the course content with corresponding Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks standards for every course except those in social studies and fine arts. After the State Board of Education adopts new standards in these two areas this winter, you will be allowed time to submit alignment to the revised standards for the social studies and fine arts classes listed in the application.

#### **Is there a limit on the number of courses that can be submitted?**

Digital providers may only submit courses for which there are [Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks](#). Applicants should submit alignment for courses they wish to teach for which there is a State Board approved curriculum framework. Additional courses would have to be submitted through the established guidelines for course approval and alignment.

#### **Arkansas law does not require a digital provider to hold a teaching license to be a highly qualified. Why did one of the PowerPoint slides from the October 21 webinar state “To be highly qualified, teachers who teach core academic subjects must be licensed as an educator.”?**

Federal Law requires schools that receive federal money to have licensed teachers in core content areas, and all others must be highly qualified. [Federal definitions](#) are provided in the resource section on the Digital Learning Providers webpage.

#### **What courses are considered core?**

[Federal law defines](#) core academic subjects as English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography.

#### **I am a potential new provider and missed the webinar, what can I do to get the information?**

You can watch the recorded version at the Digital Provider webpage on the ADE website:

<http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/learning-services/digital-learning-providers>

**The Highly Qualified Teacher Designation Form has a place to indicate if a background check was conducted. Is a background check required?**

No, a background check is not required. However, the ADE recommends that districts contract with providers that conduct FBI background checks as indicated in the Safety and Welfare Issues section of the resource document titled [School District Guidance for Selecting Digital Providers](#). The [designated form](#) is a sample document to provide guidance to providers and school districts.

**Can applications be submitted now or should they be submitted closer to the deadline?**

You may submit an application at any time before the deadline, but please review the [digital learning final rules](#).

**Where can I learn more?**

For more information on this issue, visit: <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/learning-services/digital-learning-providers>