

Digital Learning Webinar



hosted by

Ernie Huff
Curriculum and Instruction Unit
Division of Learning Services
Arkansas Department of Education

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ADE Legal Services

**The Digital Learning Act of 2013
Ark. Code Ann. § § 6-16-1401 - 6-16-1406**



Legal Resources

- **The Digital Learning Act of 2013 (Act 1280 of 2013)**
 - Codified at Ark. Code Ann. § § 6-16-1401 through 6-16-1406
 - <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/arkcode/Default.asp>
- **ADE Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013**
 - <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/legal/rules/current>



Background and Purpose

- Act 1280 of 2013 (*effective August 2013*);
- To provide for the expansion of digital learning opportunities to Arkansas public school students; and
- Remove any impediments to the expansion of digital learning opportunities.



Key Definitions

- “Digital Learning” – a digital technology or internet-based educational delivery model that does not rely exclusively on compressed interactive video (CIV). Digital learning includes online and blended learning.
- “Blended Learning” – education in which instruction and content are delivered through supervised instruction in a classroom and online delivery instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.



Key Definitions - Continued

- “Online Learning” – education in which instruction and content are delivered primarily over the Internet. The term does not include print-based correspondence education, broadcast television or radio, videocassettes, compact disks and stand-alone educational software programs that do not have a significant Internet-based instructional component.
- “Digital Learning Provider” – an agency or entity approved by the Arkansas Department of Education that provides digital learning courses to public schools.



Approved Provider List

- Digital learning services can be procured from both in-state and out-of-state digital learning providers.
- The ADE will annually publish a list of approved digital learning providers.
- Applicable statutes and ADE rules establish the process to become an approved provider.



Becoming a Digital Learning Provider

- To become an approved digital learning provider, a digital learning provider shall submit proof that the provider:
 - Is nonsectarian and nondiscriminatory in its programs, employment practices, and operations;
 - Demonstrates or partners with an organization that demonstrates successful experience in furnishing digital learning courses to public school students;
 - Provides digital learning services that meet or exceed the minimum curriculum standards and requirements established by the State Board of Education;



Becoming a Provider - Continued

- Ensures instructional and curricular quality through a curriculum and accountability plan that addresses every subject area and grade level for which it agrees to provide digital learning courses; and
- Uses highly qualified teachers to deliver digital learning courses to public school students.

Note: A highly qualified teacher that delivers digital learning courses is not required to be licensed as a teacher or administrator by the State Board of Education.



Highly Qualified Teacher

- A teacher who holds at least a Bachelor's Degree and has demonstrated subject area competence in each of the core academic subjects in which the teacher teaches.
- Core subjects: English, reading/language arts, math, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts (art/visual art, dance, theater, and music), history and geography.



Digital Provider Application

- To become an approved digital learning provider in Arkansas, a prospective digital learning provider shall complete the application found at Attachment 1 to the ADE Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013. (available electronically)
- Public school districts and public charter schools that provide digital learning courses to their own students without the assistance of an external digital learning provider are not required to seek approval as approved digital learning providers.
- Public school districts and public charter schools that provide digital learning courses to students other than their own students are required to seek approval as digital learning providers.



Course Approval

- Each digital learning course must be approved by the Arkansas Department of Education.
- It is not necessary to seek ADE approval for courses previously approved.
- The ADE Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013 include instructions for obtaining course approval for digital learning courses not previously approved.



ADE Accountability



Accountability

ADE Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013

7.01.2 Demonstrates or partners with an organization that demonstrates successful experience in furnishing digital learning courses to public school students as demonstrated by student growth in each subject area and grade level for which it proposes to provide digital learning courses



Division of public school accountability is tasked with the evaluation of documentation provided for section 7.01.2 of Arkansas Department of Education rules governing Digital Learning Act of 2013.

As stated in this section, entities that wish to become an approved digital learning provider must demonstrate or partner with an organization that demonstrates successful experience in furnishing digital learning courses to public school students. This success will be measured by student growth in each subject area and grade level in which the applicant wishes to provide a digital learning course.

It is important that enough accurate and relevant documentation is provided that will enabling us to effectively evaluate compliance with this section.

At this point I bet your thinking, what type of documentation or data do you want? The answer is documentation data that demonstrates student growth.

Documentation or data could take several forms a nationally recognized assessment, state developed assessment, or other relevant assessments that can be used to measure student growth for the identified subject area and grade level to be taught by the applicant.

ADE Licensure



HQT

- **Utilizes highly qualified teachers to deliver digital learning courses to public school students.**
 - A highly qualified teacher that delivers digital learning courses under these rules is not required to be licensed as a teacher or administrator by the State Board of Education; however, Federal laws or regulations require teachers in certain subject areas to hold a teaching license.
- **To be Highly Qualified, teachers who teach core academic subjects must be licensed as an educator.**
- **The highly qualified teacher requirements also apply to special education teachers and teachers providing direct instruction in core academic subjects to students identified as special education students.**

*Core academic subject as defined by Title I include all of the following subject areas:

English, Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, Foreign Language, Music



HQT Requirements

- **Federal No Child Left Behind requirement**
 - teachers of core academic classes must demonstrate that they...
 - a) have a degree
 - b) have an appropriate license, and
 - c) demonstrate content knowledge **in the area(s) they teach**



Digital Provider Should Provide for Each School...

- **Documentation of:**
 - Each teachers' HQT status (using the [HQT form for digital providers](#))
 - License, if required
 - Credentials showing a Bachelor's Degree in area teaching *or*
 - Demonstration of Content Knowledge
 - Praxis Content Knowledge Assessment *or*
 - Licensure content Test in another state *or*
 - Major or Coursework equivalent to a major of 24 credit hours or graduate degree *or*
 - National Board Certification in the area
 - **Background Check for licensed teachers**



ADE Curriculum and Instruction

Digital Course Approval Process



Digital Providers: Not Yet Approved

- **Please submit your course catalog for review.**
- **The Office of Curriculum and Instruction will review the content alignment to existing Arkansas State Board of Education Approved curriculum frameworks.**
 - **Example: If a provider wishes to teach Algebra I, they should provide an alignment to the Arkansas Algebra I Curriculum Framework.**



Digital Providers: Not Yet Approved

- **Courses for which there is no corresponding curriculum framework will be marked as “Course Approval Required.”**
- **These course approval requests would need to be submitted by districts wishing to offer a specific course.**
- **Once approved for a single district, the course would be added to the approved list for all districts.**



Digital Providers: Not Yet Approved

- **Providers making application should have at least one course approved in order to be listed as an approved provider.**
- **The Arkansas Department of Education will provide, to each applicant, a spreadsheet which indicates courses that are approved to be offered in Arkansas schools.**



Digital Providers: Already Approved

- **Providers already approved may add courses to their existing offerings by submitting a course approval form and an appropriate alignment to an existing Arkansas State Board approved curriculum framework.**
- **You may only submit courses for which there is a framework, courses that are AP or IB, or courses that are offered for concurrent credit through an institute of higher education.**



Digital Providers: Already Approved

- **If there are courses in your course catalog for which there is no curriculum framework in Arkansas, providers must work with a school district in order to gain approval.**
- **Once an individual district obtains course approval to teach a course, the approval would be granted to all districts in the state.**



Digital Providers: Already Approved

- **Some examples of courses that would need district level approval include: Mythology, Trigonometry, Earth Science, African-American History.**
- **Please do not submit any Social Studies courses or Fine Arts courses until the new standards are approved by the State Board of Education and released to the public.**



ADE Curriculum and Instruction

Arkansas K-12 Science Instruction



Arkansas K-12 Science Instruction

- A **minimum of 20% of instructional time** in science must be spent in inquiry and conducting hands-on laboratory investigations.
- **Field studies** should be an integral part of the courses as well as the process of collecting and analyzing data.
- Instruction and assessment should include both appropriate technology and the **safe use of laboratory equipment**.

**To meet these requirements,
science courses have to be Blended Instruction.**



ADE Curriculum and Instruction CPR Graduation Requirement

**Established by Arkansas Act 1016 of 2013
(A.C.A. § 6-16-143)**



Who Must Be Trained?

- All students graduating in 2014-15 or later
- Students who have already had health class ***must still be trained unless:***
 - The class included hands-on CPR training **AND**
 - The training has been documented



Students who have already had CPR instruction at any time during high school do NOT have to receive the training again, as long as there is documentation that the training was done and that it was hands-on instruction.

Who Can Conduct the Training?

- **Any Arkansas educator **IF****
 - His/her license is current **AND**
 - He/she uses the standards of the American Heart Association (AHA) or American Red Cross (ARC)
- **The school nurse**
- **Any person with current certification by the ARC as a CPR instructor**



It isn't necessary to get anybody certified to teach CPR through the Red Cross or Heart Association, although districts may do this if they wish to. Any currently licensed Arkansas educator can conduct the training, as long as it is hands-on instruction and is done using the standards of the Red Cross and Heart Association. The standards for the two organization are actually the same – the Heart Association creates them and gives them to the Red Cross. They are available on my health and PE wiki or through the local Red Cross or Heart Association office.

When and How is Training to Be Done?

- During grades 9 to 12
- Ideally, though not necessarily, during health class
- Hands-only CPR is acceptable – rescue breathing is not required
- **MUST** include hands-on practice
- **MUST** include AED training



This can be done during health class, but it really isn't necessary to do it then – it could be an after school program. It is possible to instruct a class of 25 or so students in CPR in about one hour.

Where Can You Get the Equipment?

- **Equipment may be borrowed from**
 - Hospitals
 - Health clinics
 - Red Cross Training Centers
 - Fire Departments

- **Districts may purchase equipment if they wish**
 - Purchasing equipment is NOT required
 - Funding from ADE is NOT available to buy equipment



How Is the Training to Be Documented?

- **Precise method is up to the district**
- **Lesson plans are acceptable documentation**
- **If a memorandum is used, it should include:**
 - Student's name
 - Date when training was conducted
 - Name of the trainer
 - A statement that the training included psychomotor skills and the use of an AED
- **Documentation is subject to inspection by ADE Standards Unit**



There is no standard way to document the training. A simple memorandum signed by the principal will do. It is up to the district exactly how to do this or whether to annotate it on the student's transcript. It doesn't matter, as long as the documentation is there.

Questions and Answers

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Contact Information

Ernie Huff
Information Systems Coordinator
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Learning Services
Phone: 501-683-4228
Email: ernie.huff@arkansas.gov

