

Common Core System

1.00 Common Core System

1.01 These regulations shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education Regulations Governing the Common Core System.

1.02 The State Board of Education enacted these regulations pursuant to its authority under Arkansas Code 6-15-1001.

2.00 Purpose of Regulations

2.01 The purpose of these regulations is to insure that all students in Arkansas public schools receive instruction and demonstrate proficiency in a common rigorous core of learning as defined by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

2.02 The purpose of these regulations is to define the common core system required for graduation from Arkansas public schools.

3.00 Definitions

3.01 Career Focus: an area of emphasis based on student career interests

4.00 Common Core System Requirements for Graduation from High School

4.01 All students shall successfully complete the following requirements to be eligible for graduation from a public school in Arkansas:

A. COMMON CORE --15 UNITS

English--4 units

Oral Communication--1/2 unit

Social Studies-- 3 units (1 unit of world history, 1 unit of U.S. history, ½ unit of civics or government)

Mathematics--3 units (1 unit of algebra or its equivalent* and 1 unit of geometry or its equivalent.* All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.)

Science--3 units (at least 1 unit of biology or its equivalent and 1 unit of a physical science)

Physical Education--1/2 unit

Health and Safety--1/2 unit

Fine Arts--1/2 unit

*A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may be counted as two units of the three-unit requirement

B. CAREER FOCUS

All units in the career focus requirement shall be established through guidance and counseling at the local school district based on the students' contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to local district policy and reflect state frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

C. OTHER ELECTIVES--AS DEFINED BY LOCAL DISTRICTS

Local school districts may require additional units for graduation beyond the 15 common core and the career focus units. These may be in academic and/or technical areas. All common core, career focus and elective units must total at least 21.

5.00 Content Standards and Curriculum

5.01 For students to achieve proficiency in the common core required for high school graduation, a rigorous common core curriculum shall be established in kindergarten through grade 8 to establish the learning foundation needed for success in a challenging high school curriculum. The Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks shall define the content standards and student learning expectations in the core curriculum, K-12.

5.02 Students will achieve competency at the local level in the use of computer science and other technologies. Computer science and other technologies shall be tools for learning within the core curriculum system, K-12.

5.03 State assessment of the common core required by law shall be based on the content standards and student learning expectations in the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks. Instruction at the local district shall insure that content coverage and levels of rigor prepare students to perform at established acceptable levels on state assessments.

6.00 Effective Date for Graduation Requirements

The first graduating class who must meet the graduation requirements established in these rules and regulations is the graduating class of the year 2002.

7.00 Authority of Rules and Regulations

These Rules and Regulations shall replace any other regulatory document on the core curriculum.