

Arkansas Department Of Education
Rules Governing Comprehensive Plan For
Consistency And Rigor In Course Work

January 10, 2005

1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- 1.01 These rules are promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-11-105, § 6-15-1506, and § 25-15-201 et seq.

2.00 PURPOSE

- 2.01 The purpose of these rules is to establish a comprehensive plan and process for establishing consistency and rigor in course work.

3.00 DEFINITIONS - for purposes of these rules, each term below shall be defined as follows:

- 3.01 “Comprehensive Plan” means that plan developed and approved by the State Board of Education that set out the process and the time cycle of the external and internal review and revision of content standards and curriculum frameworks in each core academic subject area.
- 3.02 “Content Standards” means those curriculum course content standards identified and set out in the Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum Frameworks.
- 3.03 “Core Academic Areas” means those subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, geography, civics, and other courses identified by the State Board of Education as state mandated graduation requirements.
- 3.04 “Curriculum Frameworks” means those content-specific standards per subject area identified and set out in the course content frameworks required pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-407 and Section 9.00 of the Arkansas Standards of Accreditation.
- 3.05 “End-of Course Exam” means that exam specified in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-419 (7)(F) and (14).
- 3.06 “Low-Level General Education Tracts” means those courses offered by Arkansas public schools which fail to meet the required content standards and curriculum frameworks as required by Arkansas law or rule.

- 3.07 “State Board of Education Revision Cycle” means that time frame by which the Arkansas Department of Education shall conduct a review and revision of content standards and curriculum frameworks for each core academic subject area as required in the comprehensive plan.
- 3.08 “Statement of Assurance” means that written statement (provided using the attached form marked Exhibit A which is hereby incorporated in this rule by reference) required of a school district superintendent ensuring course content standard and curriculum framework compliance pursuant to Ark. Code Ann.§ 6-15-1505.

4.00 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- 4.01 The State Board of Education shall develop, through the Arkansas Department of Education, a comprehensive plan and process to review and revise the Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Frameworks.
- 4.02 The comprehensive plan shall:
 - 4.02.01 Provide for an external review of content standards and curriculum frameworks;
 - 4.02.02 When possible require a full review of available and relevant content standards and curriculum frameworks that are rigorous, specific, sequenced, clear, focused, and measurable;
 - 4.02.03 Include a process for the review of curriculum offerings to ensure that low-level general education tracts offered by districts are eliminated; and
 - 4.02.04 Require that high school course content standards and curriculum frameworks set forth in the plan include the knowledge and skills necessary to enter the work force and also be aligned with the course work required for admission to the state’s institutions of post-secondary education.
- 4.03 The State Board of Education shall, on an ongoing basis, revise all curriculum frameworks and supplemental material that are recommended as a result of the review.
- 4.04 The State Board of Education shall work in collaboration with the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Executive Council to ensure that teacher and school administrative degree programs, ongoing professional development, and other university activity in the state’s public schools are aligned with the revised content standards and curriculum framework process.

- 4.05 The State Board of Education shall ensure that any revisions to content standards and curriculum frameworks process is aligned with the state assessment system for core academic areas, end-of-course tests, and all other components of the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program.

5.00 REVIEW

- 5.01 The Arkansas Department of Education shall review the content standards and curriculum frameworks process plan on the State Board of Education approved revision cycle and report to the State Board of Education annually.
- 5.02 Upon completion of the review/revision cycle, the State Board of Education shall:
 - 5.02.01 Align state programs and support material with the revised academic content standards and curriculum frameworks for each academic core area.
 - 5.02.02 Revise and align textbook criteria, support materials, state tests, teacher and school administrator preparation, and ongoing professional development programs to be compatible with content standards and curriculum frameworks; and
 - 5.02.03 Revise and make available to teachers and parents support materials, including teacher and parent guides, for academic content standards and curriculum frameworks.

6.00 DISTRICT ASSURANCE

- 6.01 Each local school district shall establish procedures and a monitoring process to ensure that the content of each course offered by the school district is consistent and in compliance with the latest content standards and curriculum frameworks developed and approved by the State Board of Education.
- 6.02 The superintendent of each school district shall, using the assurance attachment form herein attached as Exhibit A, provide to the Department of Education by October 1 of each school year, a written statement of assurance that the content of each class and subject area course is aligned to the content standards and curriculum frameworks developed and approved by the State Board of Education as required by the Arkansas Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools regardless of grade or course level.
- 6.03 The Arkansas Department of Education shall monitor any and all necessary documentation related to the district plan and statement of

assurance to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule or Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1502-1506.

- 6.04 No low-level general education tract course shall be utilized or taught by a school district to meet or satisfy the content or curriculum framework standards in those course and graduation requirements set forth in the Arkansas Standards for Accreditation.
- 6.05 If the Arkansas Department of Education determines that a school district has failed to align the content of each class or course and subject area as required by the State Board of Education approved content standards and curriculum frameworks, the Department shall:
 - 6.05.01 Note the failure to comply in the annual school performance report pursuant to Ark. Code Ann.§ 6-15-402; and
 - 6.05.02 Cite the failure to comply of each school on the Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools Annual Report.

Exhibit A

Statement of Assurance

I, _____, Superintendent of the
_____ School District, do hereby certify by my
signature below and by this written Statement of Assurance that the content of each class
and subject area, as required by the Arkansas Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas
Public Schools regardless of grade level, is aligned to the latest approved content
standards and curriculum frameworks developed by the Arkansas State Board of
Education. This Statement of Assurance is given in compliance with Ark. Code Ann. §
6-15-1505.

Superintendent

School District

Date