



Arkansas Department of Education

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Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

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Participation in Arkansas Teacher Cadets Program Increases Significantly

LITTLE ROCK — The number of high school students, schools and universities participating in the Arkansas Teacher Cadets Program has increased significantly this school year, as education partners work to strengthen the teacher pipeline.

In addition to the numerous teaching vacancies at schools around the state, the number of teachers entering the profession continues to decline at a steady rate. Over the last six years, enrollment in first-time educator preparation licensure programs has decreased by 58 percent.

To address this critical need, the Arkansas Department of Education has implemented multiple programs, including the Teach Again campaign that encourages teachers who have left the profession to return. The Teacher Cadets program, which began in Arkansas in the 2014-2015 school year, focuses on encouraging high school students to consider a teaching career.

“It’s a given that we are at a crossroads with our teacher workforce,” said Jeff Dyer, ADE’s Teacher Recruitment and Retention program advisor. “With the Arkansas Teacher Cadets Program, we are providing opportunities for students to learn more about the teaching profession and the positive experiences they can have as teachers. This program also gives schools the opportunity to build their future teacher pipeline by encouraging students to enter the teaching profession.”

The Teacher Cadets Program originated in South Carolina more than 30 years ago, with 38 states now participating in the program. Schools that participate in the program offer high school juniors and seniors with a minimum 3.0 grade point average and who meet other qualifications the opportunity to participate in the program. Students who participate learn about the requirements to become a successful teacher and have the opportunity to put that knowledge into practice through a classroom internship. Districts who participate in the program partner with a college or university to offer concurrent credit for the college-level course.

For the 2016-2017 school year, a total of 38 Arkansas schools and more than 450 students are participating in the program, compared to eight schools and approximately 115 students participating during the 2015-2016 school year.

In addition to a dramatic increase in public school participation, the number of university partners has increased as well. For the 2016-2017 school year, 13 universities and colleges are partnering to offer concurrent credit. During the 2015-2016 school year, five colleges and universities participated.

More than 500 students participating in the Arkansas Teacher Cadets Program and the Arkansas Department of Career Education's Orientation to Teaching Program are scheduled to attend ADE's Impacting Tomorrow Summit Dec. 6 at the Benton Event Center. Students will have the opportunity to interact with teachers, education majors, colleges and universities, and ADE and ACE program experts. To learn more about the event, go to <http://www.arkansased.gov/events/483/impacting-tomorrow-summit-teacher-recruitment-event-for-high-school-students>.

The Arkansas Teacher Cadets Program is open to any Arkansas public school and career and technology center. To learn more, visit <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/human-resources-educator-effectiveness-and-licensure/office-of-educator-effectiveness/recruitment-and-retention/teacher-cadets-program>.

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