Learning Expectations
FOR ARKANSAS STUDENTS
2020 ADEQUACY STUDY / JAN. 7, 2020
Report covers...

- Theories about learning
- Learning barriers
- The development of Academic Standards in Arkansas
- Smart Core and Core graduation requirements
- Advanced educational courses
- Computer Science focus
- New recess requirement
- RISE/Right to Read Act
- Student-focused learning
Today’s presentation...

- The development of Academic Standards in Arkansas
- Advanced educational courses
- Learning barriers
- Student-focused learning
1983

- A Nation at Risk
- Dupree v. Alma
- Course accessibility
1983: 363 High Schools offered...

**Access to Courses**

- **Physics**: 147 Offered, 216 Didn't Offer
- **Chemistry**: 268 Offered, 95 Didn't Offer
- **Art**: 159 Offered, 204 Didn't Offer
- **Music**: 194 Offered, 169 Didn't Offer
- **Foreign Language**: 176 Offered, 187 Didn't Offer
Arkansas responds...

- Act 445 of 1983

- The Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools
  - Must teach 38 courses (at least every other year for some)
  - Must have 20 required course credits to graduate

- More stringent through the years
P = Probation
2015

- Act 1240
- Act 853
- “Offer” instead of “teach”
Adequacy Definition

- The standards included in the state’s curriculum framework, which define what Arkansas students are to be taught, including specific grade level curriculum, **a mandatory thirty-eight (38) Carnegie units defined by the Arkansas Standards of Accreditation to be taught at the high school level**, and opportunities for students to develop career readiness skills;

- The standards included in the state’s testing system. The goal is to have all, or all but the most severely disabled, students perform at or above proficiency on these tests; and

- Sufficient funding to provide adequate resources as identified by the General Assembly
Adequacy in High School Courses

- 294 high schools in 2018-19
- Included courses taught at feeder schools (9th grade & above)
- Excluded charter schools that did not include 9-12 grades
- Included stand-alone ALE schools (though not all consortium programs like Arch Ford Hub programs)
2018-19 Chemistry

27,544 students

Districts/Charter Systems

- Teach: 251
- Not Teach: 1

High Schools

- Teach: 289
- Not Teach: 5
2018-19 Vocal Music

18,422 students

Districts/Charter Systems:
- 8 teach
- 244 total

High Schools:
- 19 teach
- 275 total

Teach  Not Teach
2018-19 Instrumental Music

20,201 students

Districts/Charter Systems
- Teach: 243
- Not Teach: 9

High Schools
- Teach: 275
- Not Teach: 19
2018-19 Foreign Language

44,967 students

Districts/Charter Systems
9 Teach
246 Teach
9 Not Teach

High Schools
14 Teach
280 Teach
14 Not Teach
Physics

2016-17
Districts/Charter Systems
6,995 students

220 Teach
30 Not Teach

2018-19
Districts/Charter Systems
5,525 students

188 Teach
64 Not Teach
Physics

2016-17
High Schools

Teach: 246
Not Teach: 42

2018-19
High Schools

Teach: 211
Not Teach: 83
Journalism

2016-17
Districts/Charter Systems
5,623 students

224 Teach
26 Not Teach

2018-19
Districts/Charter Systems
5,255 students

207 Teach
44 Not Teach
Journalism

2016-17
High Schools

- Teach: 248
- Not Teach: 42

2018-19
High Schools

- Teach: 239
- Not Teach: 55
2018-19 Drama

2,744 students

Districts/Charter Systems
- Teach: 187
- Not Teach: 65

High Schools
- Teach: 206
- Not Teach: 88
2018-19 Advanced Placement

13,882 students

Districts/Charter Systems
- Teach: 239
- Not Teach: 14

High Schools
- Teach: 264
- Not Teach: 30
Graduation requirements
(subset of required 38)

Smart Core (96%)
- 22 credits
- 4 math, 4 English, 3 science, 3 social studies
- Math includes Algebra II and another higher level course

Core (4%)
- 22 credits
- 4 math, 4 English, 3 science, 3 social studies
- Math must include Algebra I and geometry
Grad Requirements: How Do We Compare?

- Arkansas - 22 required credits to graduate
- National range: 13 to 24 credits in the 47 states and DC with requirements*:
  - Ohio - 20
  - California - 13
  - District of Columbia - 24
  - Maryland - 21

* Colorado, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania allow local school districts to set graduation requirements.
Grad Requirements: How Do We Compare?

COURSE-TAKING REQUIREMENTS IN THE SREB REGION
Standard Diploma Option

- 4 English / 3 Math / 3 Science
- 4 English / 4 Math / 3 Science
- 4 English / 4 Math / 4 Science

Source: SREB analysis of state documents
K-12 EDUCATION

Public High Schools with More Students in Poverty and Smaller Schools Provide Fewer Academic Offerings to Prepare for College
School size disparities

Average Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>School Teaches</th>
<th>School Doesn't Teach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal Music</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instr. Music</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>190</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- School Teaches
- School Doesn't Teach
Poverty disparities

Average Percent ESL Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>School Teaches</th>
<th>School Doesn't Teach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>75.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>56.8</td>
<td>64.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal Music</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>66.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>57.8</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instr. Music</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>60.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>56.5</td>
<td>65.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>72.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>64.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Racial/ethnic disparities

Average Percent White Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>School Teaches</th>
<th>School Doesn’t Teach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>48.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>48.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal Music</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>67.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instr. Music</td>
<td>70.3</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>67.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>70.2</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>68.6</td>
<td>63.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Geographic disparity: chemistry
Geographic disparity: vocal music
Geographic disparity: instrumental music
Geographic disparity: foreign language
Geographic disparity: physics
Geographic disparity: journalism
Geographic disparity: drama
Geographic Disparity: AP
School governance disparities

Traditional and conversion charter
MOST likely to teach courses (depending on course):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Not Teaching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALEs</td>
<td>37.5% to 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Schools</td>
<td>25% to 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open enrollment charter schools</td>
<td>5% to 45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional &amp; conversion high schools</td>
<td>0% to 27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barriers to learning

“A very small portion of my job has anything to do with curriculum. I'm busy with students who may not have electricity, who are involved in drugs or already in the juvenile system, whose parents are getting a divorce, who may not have eaten the previous night, who may have been abused...I could go on.” – Middle school teacher
Barriers to learning

Poverty

“There’s a hidden population in this state. Most legislation is not passed for the 82% of [this school’s] students who live in poverty. It’s passed for the 18% who live in a house that looks like the legislators’.”

- Arkansas superintendent
Barriers to learning

- Mental health/public health
Barriers to learning

“These kids have seen and heard and done things in 16 years that in 48 years, I’ve never seen. They’ve been traumatized at home…They’ve experienced things that I can’t even relate to. Some have scars.”

- Arkansas high school principal
Personalized Learning

Superintendent survey responses:

- **98%** say student success planning process beneficial for students
- **93%** say student success planning process beneficial for schools
- **Less than half** said 100% of their 9th-12th graders had a plan in place by fall
- **About half** involve all of these personnel in student success planning process: student, teacher, counselor, administrator & parent
- **About a third** address all these things while planning: courses to take in high school, internships, civic volunteer roles, college planning, post-high school jobs & post-high school military service.
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Questions?
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