

Arkansas Educator Licensure — Pathways at a Glance

Many entry routes · one shared set of progress points · one Standard License

Office of Educator Preparation & Licensure
Arkansas Department of Education

1 · CHOOSE A PATHWAY

Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-402, 6-17-409, 6-17-403

Traditional preparation

IHE bachelor's-level educator prep program.

6 CAR § 180-302

Alternative preparation

Degree-holders entering teaching (ARPEP, MAT, TFA, AR Teacher Corps).

A.C.A. § 6-17-409

Registered Apprenticeship

Work-based, mentored route to licensure.

A.C.A. § 6-17-409(c)

Work experience (PPTL / HQP)

Experienced professionals & higher-ed faculty; 3 yrs verified content experience.

A.C.A. § 6-17-409(c)(8)

Reciprocity

Educators already licensed in another state.

A.C.A. § 6-17-403

2 · MOVE THROUGH THE PROGRESS POINTS

Every candidate clears these, in order

1

Entry

Admitted to an approved program/pathway; provisional license issued.

6 CAR § 180-301, 180-203; A.C.A. § 6-17-409

2

Background clearance

Criminal records + Child Maltreatment Central Registry checks; must clear before license issues.

A.C.A. § 6-17-410; 6 CAR pt. 194

3

Testing milestones

Content, pedagogy, and science-of-reading assessment (K-6 / SpEd K-12).

A.C.A. § 6-17-402(c)(2); § 6-17-429

4

Clinical practice / Teacher of Record

Supervised classroom practice, culminating in the year-long residency with a trained mentor.

A.C.A. §§ 6-17-2901, 6-17-2902

5

EPP recommendation

Educator preparation program recommends for full licensure. (Alt. programs)

A.C.A. § 6-17-409

3 · REACH FULL LICENSURE

STANDARD LICENSE

Five-year renewable license. Provisional converts to standard once all requirements — including the science-of-reading assessment — are met.

6 CAR §§ 180-206, 180-501; A.C.A. § 6-17-402

Bridges while completing a pathway

TLP

Teacher Licensure Plan — unlicensed teachers (replaces waivers/ETPs under Act 304). Max 3 yrs; district-monitored.

ALP

Additional Licensure Plan — licensed teachers adding a new content area.

ALCP

Administrator Licensure Completion Plan — completing administrator licensure.

ATP

Aspiring Teacher Permit — teacher of record during a year-long university residency; up to one academic year.

PPTL / HQP

Provisional Professional Teaching License / Highly Qualified Professor — work-experience routes (3 yrs verified).

The model in one line: Whatever the entry route or bridge plan, every candidate clears the same progress points and arrives at one five-year renewable Standard License.

Legal landscape: Arkansas LEARNS Act (Acts 2023, No. 237) established year-long residencies; Act 304 of 2025 ended licensure waivers, replaced by Teacher Licensure Plans (Commissioner's Memo LIC-25-011); tiered licensure under A.C.A. § 6-17-402(c) and 6 CAR pt. 180.