From Eligibility to Enrollment: Navigating AR Course Choice with Confidence

ADE Summit 2026

dese.link/CourseChoice

Program Overview

What is Course Choice?

- New program launching in 2026–2027 under the LEARNS Act
- Expands access to high-quality courses for Arkansas students, grades 6–12
- Supports personalized pathways: Enrolled, Employed, or Enlisted

Student Eligibility

- Students in grades 6–12: May take courses not offered at their resident school
- Students in “D” or “F” rated schools: May take any course required for graduation in addition to courses not offered locally

Course Providers

- Postsecondary education institutions
- Businesses (authorized vocational/technical)
- Approved digital learning providers
- Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts
- Other State Board-authorized educational entities
- Public schools rated A, B, or C

Enrollment Process

Annual Course Enrollment

- Course Choice enrollment is intended to be integrated into your school's annual course enrollment process and follow the same timeline
- Course Choice Enrollment window will be open until **August 31**
  - Districts are encouraged to set their own earlier enrollment deadlines

Enrollment Process

1. **Share Info with Students & Families**
   Schools should share information about Course Choice with expected timelines.
2. **Generate Student Access**
   Once a student expresses interest in Course Choice, the School Approver can generate an access code for the student.
3. **Student Requests Enrollment**
   Student must login to the catalog to submit an enrollment request.
4. **School Reviews Enrollment Request**
   School Approver reviews the request and approves or denies.
5. **Provider is Notified**
   If the enrollment request is approved by the school, the provider will be notified to enroll the student.

Student and Family Communication

- Share information with students and families about the availability of Course Choice courses
- Provide students with access to the Course Choice Catalog during course selection
- Use local communication channels (email, website, parent portals, etc.) to ensure broad awareness
- To support schools in meeting statutory communication requirements, DESE has created a set of ready-to-use communication resources.

Scheduling

- Students must remain enrolled in at least one course offered by their resident school
- Students cannot use Course Choice to exceed a standard schedule or more than 1.0 ADM
- Continue current practice for entering courses into master schedule (ie. digital provider, concurrent credit)
- DESE will release technical coding guidance with additional information provided through APSCN eSchool trainings

Academic Calendar

- **Fall Term**: August 12 - December 18, 2026
- **Spring Term**: January 5 - May 20, 2027

**In-person courses and concurrent credit courses will follow the academic calendar of the course provider.*

When a student's resident school calendar does not align with the Course Choice academic calendar, providers must allow reasonable flexibility.

Course Requests

Reasons a course request can be **DENIED**:

- Course is offered locally (A, B, C rated schools)
- Missing prerequisites
- Lack of transportation
- Unavoidable scheduling conflicts
- Other

Program Details

Course Choice Catalog

- The Course Choice Catalog is the central location where students, families, and schools can explore Course Choice offerings and view approved providers, course descriptions, and program information.
- Principals, Assistant Principals, and Counselors have access to approve enrollment requests within the catalog.
    - These roles can also create additional users to approve course requests

Grade Reporting

- Providers will submit course grades through the Course Choice Catalog
- Grades are due in the catalog **two business days** prior to the end of each term established by the Course Choice Academic Calendar

Accommodations

- Schools are responsible for ensuring that students with disabilities and English learners receive the accommodations and supports required by their individual plans.
- The catalog will indicate students with IEPs, 504 plans, or English Learner plans using data pulled directly from student records in Triand.
- Schools must coordinate with the provider to share any relevant and appropriate accommodations.

Existing Agreements

Concurrent Credit & Approved Digital Providers

- Districts that already offer digital courses and concurrent credit through their own agreements should continue doing so. These district-provided options operate outside of Course Choice.
- A2A Scholarship does not apply to concurrent credit courses offered through Course Choice.

Assessments

- The resident school is responsible for administering all state assessments and ensuring compliance with the 95% tested rate requirement.
- The test scores of Course Choice students are included in their resident school's annual school rating.
- If the student is taking a course from another public school, the assessment results are credited to the teacher of the Course Choice course for roster verification and teacher VAM score purposes.

Accelerated Learning

- The resident school is responsible to administer all accelerated learning exams for courses taken through Course Choice.
    - When placing AP exam orders with College Board, AP coordinators will include AP exams for course choice courses completed by their students in an Exam Only section in AP Registration and Ordering.
    - Ensure the AP coordinator for your school is aware of any students who are taking AP courses through course choice so that all ordering deadlines are met.

Coding

Demographics

What's New in eSchool

SIS/Misc Items

- CC Participant
  - (ND) Enrolled with Non-District Provider
  - (SD) Sending to Provider District
  - (RD) Receiving from Resident District
  - (NA) Not Applicable
- CC Resident LEA

Demographics

What's New in eSchool

Programs

- Residence Code
  - P2 - Non-Resident Course Choice
- Partial ADM

Scheduling

What's New in eSchool

Course SIS Data

- Course Choice Course
  - Checkbox to indicate the course is Course Choice
- Course Choice Provider
  - Select state approved provider from dropdown menu

Coding - Non-District Provider

Student Enrolled with Non-District Provider

Demographics

- Residence Code: DO NOT USE P2
- SIS/Misc Items
  - CC Participant - Select “ND - Enrolled with Non-District Provider”
  - CC Resident LEA - NULL

Scheduling

- Master Schedule - SIS Course Data
  - Course Choice Course
  - Course Choice Provider

Coding - Resident District

Resident District Sending to Provider District

Demographics

- Residence Code: DO NOT USE P2
- SIS/Misc Items
  - ADM Part-Time Percentage
  - CC Participant - Select “SD - Sending to Provider District”
  - CC Resident LEA - NULL

Scheduling

- Master Schedule - SIS Course Data
  - Course Choice Course
  - Course Choice Provider

Coding - Provider District

Provider District Receiving CC Student

Demographics

- Residence Code: P2 - Non-Resident Course Choice
- SIS/Misc Items
  - ADM Part-Time Percentage
  - CC Participant - Select “RD - Receiving from Resident District”
  - CC Resident LEA - Select resident district LEA

Scheduling

- Master Schedule - SIS Course Data
  - Course Choice Course
  - Course Choice Provider

Coding - Provider District

Provider District Receiving CC Student

For the 2026-2027 school year, this coding applies only to Arkansas Arts Academy and Valley Springs School District since they are the only approved Provider Districts for Course Choice.

Payment & Funding

Payment

- Per-course amount = standard market rate (provider reports)
- Up to 8% of annual per-pupil foundation funding
  - **$642.96** for the 2026-2027 school year for courses that result in 1.0 HS credit
    - Courses that result in .5 credit is eligible to receive one half of the per-course amount
- Payment
  - 50% at enrollment verification
  - 50% after course completion & credit awarded
- Enrollment verification
  - Oct 1 (for courses that begin in the fall semester)
  - February 1 (for courses that begin in the spring semester)

Funding

- DESE will pay providers on behalf of the resident school district. Funds will not be withheld from the resident school district until the following school year.
- If a student enrolls in a Course Choice course offered by an approved public school, partial ADM will be calculated for both the resident district and provider district.

Support

Support

Questions can be emailed to:
Course.Choice@ade.arkansas.gov

Visit our webpage:
dese.link/CourseChoice

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