

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CAREER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING  
KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELVTH GRADE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS PILOT  
PROGRAM**

**1.00 PURPOSE**

1.01 The purpose of these rules is to establish the Agricultural Schools Pilot Program.

**2.00 AUTHORITY**

2.01 The Career Education and Workforce Development board, in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) and the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), enacts these rules pursuant to authority granted by Act 1286 of 2015.

**3.00 DEFINITIONS**

3.01 "Advisory Board" means a seven (7) member board for each agricultural school in the pilot program comprised of representatives from the following:

Local agriculture business community;

Institutions of Higher Education;

Arkansas Department of Agriculture;

Arkansas Department of Career Education; and

Arkansas Department of Education.

3.02 "Governing board" means a single seven (7) member board of directors of agriculture schools appointed by the Governor.

3.02.1 The governing board shall govern an agriculture school that is part of the pilot program.

3.02.2 The governing board shall develop standards for the agricultural program of schools participating in the pilot program including but not limited to course offerings, curriculum, and focus areas subject to regulations of the Arkansas Department of Education.

3.02.3 The State Board of Education and the Arkansas Department of Education shall be responsible for the monitoring and enforcement of its rules and regulations in the same manner it is responsible for other public schools in the state.

3.02.4 The locally elected school board or charter school board of directors shall retain control over the day-to-day operations of the school.

#### **4.00 APPLICABLE LAWS AND RULES**

- 4.01 To encourage small rural communities to participate in the pilot program, § 6-13-1501(a)(2) and § 6-13-1502 shall not apply to an agriculture school that is part of the pilot program.
- 4.02 All other laws and rules applicable to a public school are applicable to an agriculture school unless specifically exempted under these rules.

#### **5.00 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- 5.01 A mayor of a municipality, a county judge, or board of directors of a school district may apply for an agricultural school in collaboration with:
  - 5.01.1 Public Institution of Higher Education
  - 5.01.2 Governmental Entity
  - 5.01.3 An organization that is nonsectarian in its programs and operations, and is, or will be, exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. (A copy of the entity's letter from the IRS reflecting tax exempt status or a copy of the entity's application for 501(c)(3) status must be included with the application. Articles of incorporation or a letter acknowledging non-profit status from the Secretary of State will not suffice.) To be eligible, an entity must hold or have applied for 501(c)(3) status at the time this application is filed. The entity must receive formal tax exempt status under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 prior to the first day of its operation with students.
- 5.02 Priority will be given to small rural communities with strong agricultural economies and/or support.
- 5.03 The applicant must demonstrate the need for an Agriculture School Pilot Program, as evidenced by local and regional labor and economic data, documentation from local and regional business and industry, documentation of support from community, and documentation of student interest in pursuing an agricultural science and technology program of study.

- 5.04 The applicant must demonstrate the ability to meet state standards and curriculum frameworks as established by the Arkansas Department of Education and Arkansas Department of Career Education.
- 5.05 The applicant must demonstrate the ability to meet adequate staffing and local governance.
- 5.06 The applicant must demonstrate the ability to meet all state and federal laws, including, but not limited to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.
- 5.07 The applicant must demonstrate the ability to meet all policies and procedures requirements set forth in Sections 7.00 and 8.00 of these rules.

## **6.00 APPLICATION**

- 6.01 Applicants shall complete the application attached to these rules and submit the completed application to the governing board.

An application for a new Agricultural School Pilot Program must be submitted to the Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education in the Arkansas Department of Career Education on or before **February 1**, prior to the school year in which the school is scheduled to open. Guidelines and application forms for a new agricultural school may be obtained by contacting the **Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education (CTE), #3 Capitol Mall, Luther S. Hardin Bldg., Little Rock, AR 72201-1083**, or by calling **(501) 682-1043**.

- 6.02 Applicant should submit their completed applications to the **Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education (CTE), #3 Capitol Mall, Luther S. Hardin Bldg., Little Rock, AR 72201-1083**.
- 6.03 Within thirty (30) days of receipt of an application, the governing board shall review the submitted application based on the criteria set forth in Section 5.00 of the rules and the Applicant's ability to comply with the requirements set forth in Section 7.00. The governing board will submit applications recommended for approval to the Career Education and Workforce Development Board.
- 6.04 The governing board may seek input from the advisory board on each application.

- 6.05 Upon receipt an application from the governing board, the application will be placed on the next Career Education and Workforce Development Board agenda and at such time shall approve or deny an application based on recommendation from the governing board, criteria set forth in Section 5.00 of the rules and the applicant ability to comply with the requirements set forth in Section 7.00.
- 6.06 Arkansas Department of Career Education, in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education, shall offer technical assistance to the applicant and the advisory and governing boards.
- 6.07 An agricultural school that is approved by the State Board of Career Education and Workforce Development (SBCEWD) must offer core academic and career and technical education for students grades K -12 based on agricultural education frameworks and curriculum developed and approved by the Arkansas Department of Career Education and Arkansas Department of Education. This list of courses offered will be reviewed annually by ACE and ADE.
- 6.08 If the applicant seeks waivers from Arkansas law or rules not authorized by these rules or Act 1286 of 2015, the applicant shall seek approval for those waivers by applying for one of the following:
- An open-enrollment public charter school under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-301 et seq.
  - A district conversion public charter school under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-201 et seq.
  - A school of innovation under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2801 et seq.
  - Waivers granted by the State Board of Education pursuant to Act 1240 of 2015.

## **7.00 PROGRAM DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, AND EVALUATION**

### 7.01 Program of Study Structure

- 7.01.1 Reference the latest version of ACE Policies and Procedures for guidelines on program of study structure.
- 7.01.2 For questions concerning specific programs of study, reference the latest version of ACE Operational Guide.

## 7.02 Career Planning

7.02.1 Upon completion of the eighth grade, each student shall have on file a six-year Career Development Portfolio at the school, either hardcopy or electronic format, which includes secondary courses to be taken. At least two years of postsecondary education planning is recommended. The career plan shall be revisited each year for any necessary adjustments. Parents/guardians shall be involved in the education and career planning process, with signatures documenting involvement each year. Work-based learning opportunities (such as summer internships, job shadowing, service learning projects, etc.) are required in the students' junior and senior years.

## 7.03 Work-Based Learning

7.03.1 Work based learning combines classroom instruction with alternating periods of on-the-job training occupational training related to the student's career goal. Training sponsors are selected by the school to coordinate the learning experiences provided on the job. Training plans are developed cooperatively by the teacher/coordinator and the training sponsor (employer) to ensure the development of required competencies. Students may be paid and shall be given academic credit.

Students shall be sixteen (16) years of age to meet labor law requirements.

7.03.1.1 For off campus paid work based programs, coordinators will be assigned:

One supervision period for 1-25 students,

Two supervision periods for 26-50 students, and

Three supervision periods for 51 or more students.

The conference period may count as one of the three (3) supervision periods.

## 7.04 Curriculum Content Frameworks

Each teacher shall follow State Agriculture Science and Technology curriculum/content frameworks for each course approved by ACE.

All core academic courses offered for grades K – 12 will integrate and reinforce Agriculture Science and Technology concepts.

#### 7.05 Facilities

Facility requirements must meet ADE guidelines which can be referenced at (<http://arkansasfacilities.arkansas.gov>).

#### 7.06 CTE Skill Attainment

ACE provides end-of-course assessments for the core required courses of the Agriculture Science and Technology program of study. Agriculture School Pilot Programs with students enrolled in courses are required to test students through the web-based assessment system. The assessment results shall be used to guide program improvement. Along with industry-credentials or certifications, the end-of-course assessment data is used to determine achievement for the technical skill attainment performance indicator required by the federal Perkins Act. These results are published annually on the CTE School Report Card.

#### 7.07 Work Equity

ACE will continue to inform school administration of current policies regarding gender equity, non-discrimination, and nontraditional training with the intention that these policies will be infused into the agricultural science and technology curriculum and instruction.

### **8.00 EVALUATION**

8.01 The Agriculture School Pilot Program will be expected to meet or exceed the following performance-based goals and measurable objectives that are designed to result in improvement of student achievement:

8.01.1 CTE Academic Achievement: Each of the Agriculture Schools in the Pilot Program is accountable for the full performance of each of the academic goals listed below. The requirements of each goal are independent of and do not supersede any requirements set forth by law or the ADE. Agriculture School Pilot Programs will be evaluated utilizing the latest version of policies and procedures established by ADE and ACE. An Agriculture School Pilot Program determined not meeting expected outcomes and goals will be held to the latest version of policies and procedures established by ADE and ACE.

8.01.1.1: Students at the Agriculture School Pilot Program will demonstrate high academic achievement.

Measure 1: Student performance levels will meet or exceed state average on the state required assessment.

Measure 2: During the pilot, the proficiency rate for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology End of Course Assessment (EOC) will meet or exceed that of the other schools located within the educational cooperative in which the school is located.

8.01.1.2: Students at the Agriculture School Pilot Program will demonstrate career readiness.

Measure 1: The Agriculture School Pilot Program will provide to all students, grades K – 12, career exploration for occupations in the field of Agriculture Science and Technology.

Measure 2: The Agriculture School Pilot Program will ensure that 100% of students have completed by the end of grade 8 career plans through the on-line college and career planning system.

Measure 2: The Agriculture School Pilot Program will create and implement pathway identification forms to be completed by students in grades 7 and 8 with 100% completion by the end of grade 8.

Measure 3: The Agriculture School Pilot Program by year two will provide an opportunity for all (junior and senior) students involved in work place experiences include, but are not limited to: work-based learning, internships, job shadowing, week-long internship, summer internships, service learning projects.

Measure 4: The Agriculture School Pilot Program by year two will provide students with dual enrollment opportunities.

Measure 5: The Agriculture School Pilot Program by year two will provide all students with the

opportunity to graduate with Industry Certifications.

## **9.00 FINANCE**

- 9.01 Agriculture School Pilot Programs may be eligible for new program start-up funds as outlined in the latest version of the **ACE Policies and Procedures**.
- 9.02 Agriculture School Pilot Programs may from time-to-time may be eligible for Perkins funds. ACE will inform the pilot programs board of directors of these funds as soon as they become available.
- 9.03 Agriculture School Pilot Programs may apply for and receive on their own merit any special grant funds from other agencies, business or industry.

## **10.00 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### 10.01 Financial Reporting Requirements

- 10.01.1 The Agricultural School Pilot Program will follow the financial requirements applicable to public schools. Including, but not limited to, the submission of required information, audits, and financial reporting.
- 10.01.2 The Agriculture School Pilot Program shall use the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN) for student and financial reporting to ADE.

### 10.02 Yearly Reports

- 10.02.1 An annual expenditure report is to be completed and sent to the Department of Career Education.
- 10.02.2 The Agriculture School Pilot Program will submit an annual report by August 1 of each year to the Arkansas Department of Career Education, including but not limited to an indication of the Agriculture School Pilot Program's progress towards the goals and objectives and all state-mandated assessment and accountability.