

LEARNS

Career Ready Pathways

Work Group

Meeting 2

LEARNS Act

LEARNS stands for Literacy, Empowerment, Accountability, Readiness, Networking, and Safety. On Jan. 11, 2023, Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed the LEARNS Executive Order, which calls for the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) to conduct an analysis of key aspects of the state's education system and produce corresponding reports.

On March 8, 2023, the LEARNS Act was signed into law, signaling the start of the largest overhaul of education in the state's history.

After completing these analyses called for in the LEARNS Executive Order, **ADE is eager to engage stakeholders as implementation of the LEARNS commitments begins.**



LEARN S

Roughly six in 10 jobs in Arkansas require advanced credentials beyond a high school diploma, but less than half of the state's workers meet these requirements.

Every Arkansas student deserves opportunities to graduate on a path toward prosperity.

READINESS

Ensure students in Arkansas have a strong pathway to the workforce.

- Build career-ready pathways to a diploma:** Develop processes and requirements for career-ready pathways to ensure they lead to high-wage, high-growth careers for all graduates.
- Ensure Student Success Plans are aligned with career-ready pathways:** Create a template for Student Success Plans—a personalized education plan intended to assist students with achieving readiness for college, career, and community engagement—that aligns with career-ready pathways and provide guidance and support for districts on how to implement them.
- Conduct an annual audit of the state's career pathways:** Engage third-party experts to conduct an annual audit of the state's career pathways to ensure they reflect high skill, high wage, high demand jobs in Arkansas. The first of these audits is due July 10, 2023.

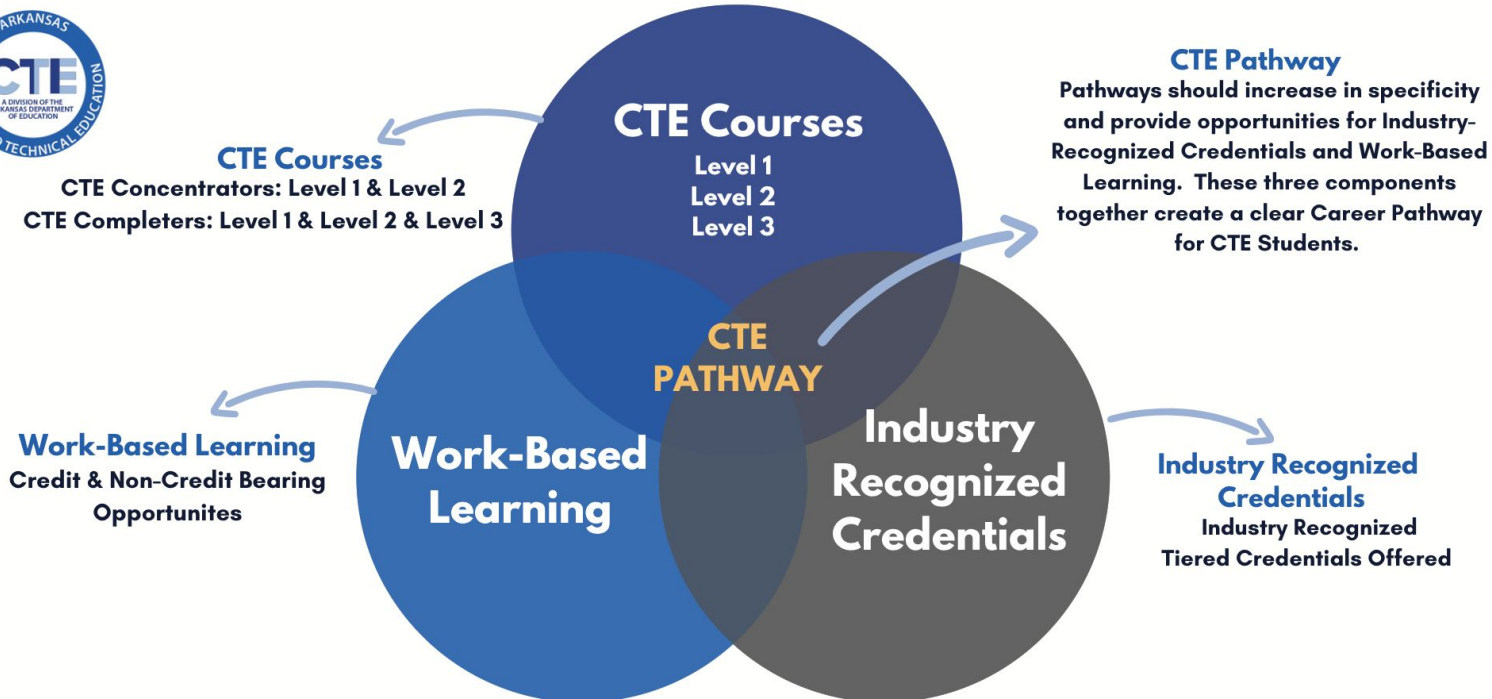


CTE Audit Review

Dr. Josh McGee
University of Arkansas
Office of Education Policy



Current CTE Pathway Model



6-16-1801

6-16-1801. Career-ready pathways description.

(a) Beginning with the ninth grade class of 2024-2025, a public high school student shall have the option to earn a high school diploma through a career-ready pathway.

(b) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with other relevant state agencies and subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, shall develop a career-ready pathway to a high school diploma in Arkansas's high schools, which shall include:

(1) Challenging academic courses; and

(2) Modern career and technical studies aligned with high-wage, high-growth jobs in Arkansas.

(c) A career-ready pathway shall be informed by the division's annual audit of the state's career pathways.

(d) The state board shall adopt course and curriculum requirements for career-ready pathways offered by public school district boards of directors and open-enrollment public charter schools that are aligned with the requirements of this subchapter.

(e)(1) A public school district shall issue a diploma to a student who successfully completes the requirements established by the state board for a career-ready pathway.

(2)(A) A diploma issued to a student under subdivision (d)(1)(B) of this section shall be given the same status and recognition for purposes of the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-2901 et seq., as is given a standard diploma issued by a public school district.

(B) A public school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall not be penalized in any manner for students who are issued a diploma through a career-ready pathway.



Arkansas Career Pathways

Next Steps

- Next meeting will be in conjunction with the Career Diploma Work Group
- Watch for a Doodle poll for an October meeting.
- Review drafted guidance document and rules prior to October meeting.