

2026-2027 Arkansas Special Education Course Codes

This document outlines all currently available Special Education course options. It is intended as a reference for districts when building schedules, assigning teachers, and enrolling students in the appropriate courses.

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Introduction

Arkansas Special Education Course Codes are aligned to state and federal requirements for credit-bearing coursework, teacher licensure, and accurate reporting in eSchool. Districts are legally obligated to ensure that all students with disabilities have access to the full array of course options that align with their IEPs, graduation pathways, and least restrictive environment (LRE) requirements.

Statewide expectations for Meaningful Access were established in 2021, and course codes have now been updated to reflect these requirements. As part of this implementation, traditional resource and self-contained core content courses will be discontinued for credit toward a diploma according to the established [phase-out schedule](#). Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, high school course offerings will shift gradually to ensure that students earning credit toward a diploma receive instruction from a teacher holding the appropriate content-area license. This change will roll out by grade level over the next four years, according to the [Meaningful Access Implementation Timeline](#).

2026-2027: 9th grade students must have access to content-licensed teachers to earn credit on the regular pathway to graduation

2027-2028: 9th & 10th grade students must have access to content-licensed teachers to earn credit on the regular pathway to graduation

2028-2029: 9th, 10th, & 11th grade students must have access to content-licensed teachers to earn credit on the regular pathway to graduation

2029-2030: All students must have access to content-licensed teachers to earn credit on the regular pathway to graduation

For students who are IEP-eligible, choosing a graduation pathway requires careful consideration, as it determines which credits count toward earning a diploma. Students on the **Regular Pathway** will earn credits by taking courses taught by content-licensed teachers (which could be a traditional general education course or an essential course), whereas students who meet the criteria for the **Alternate Pathway** may earn credits in general education, essential, or exploration courses. Districts should consult the ADE Course Catalog, which can be found on the [AR Graduation Requirements webpage](#) and the [Course Code Management System](#) for current course descriptions and verification of course code alignment. For more information about how courses compare, visit [bit.ly/MA-coursechart](#). If you have questions, please contact [OSE's Assessment and Curriculum Section](#) or 501.682.4221.



SY2026-2027 – Essential Courses

Course Options for Students on the Regular Pathway to Graduation

The credit-bearing **Essential Courses** were created to ensure that the small number of students whose needs truly cannot be met in general education still receive instruction that is *standards-based*, delivered by *content-licensed teachers*, and aligned to the *general curriculum*. Before placing a student in an Essential Course, the IEP team must use data to determine that the course is the student's least restrictive environment. Teams should also review student data regularly to confirm that current services meet the student's needs. (Maximum enrollment: 15 students, all of whom must have IEPs.)

English	Math	Science	Social Studies
Essential English I (1 credit) 410300	Essential Algebra I (1 credit) 430400	Essential Physical Science (1 credit) 423200	Essential US History (1 credit) 470300
Essential English II (1 credit) 411300	Essential Geometry (1 credit) 431400	Essential Biology (1 credit) 420200	Essential World History (1 credit) 471300
Essential English III (1 credit) 412300	Essential Algebra II (1 credit) 432400	Essential Computer Science Flex (1 credit) 465100	Essential Civics (½ credit) 472300
Essential English IV (1 credit) 413330	Essential Quantitative Reasoning (1 credit) 439400		Essential Economics and Personal Finance (½ credit) 474310

Students graduating on the regular pathway from an Arkansas public school district or open-enrollment charter school must meet or exceed the **minimum 22 graduation credit requirements** as adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Education. Please refer to [Arkansas Graduation Requirements](#) for more information.



SY2026-2027 – Exploration Courses

Course Options for Students on the Alternate Pathway to Graduation

Exploration courses are limited to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who participate in the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment. **These course codes are only for students in the alternate graduation pathway.** By default, they are not credit-bearing at the state level; districts must add local credit through the master schedule.

English	Math	Science	Social Studies	Additional Requirements
English Exploration I (1 credit) 910000	Math Exploration I (1 credit) 939000	Science Exploration I (1 credit) 929000	US History Exploration (1 credit) 970000	Health & Safety Exploration (1 credit) 980000
English Exploration II (1 credit) 911000	Math Exploration II (1 credit) 939010	Science Exploration II (1 credit) 929010	World History Exploration (1 credit) 971000	Visual Art Exploration (½ credit) (Virtual Arkansas course) 950000
English Exploration III (1 credit) 912000	Math Exploration III (1 credit) 939020	Science Exploration III (1 credit) 929020	Civics Exploration (½ credit) 972000	Oral Communication Exploration (½ credit) 914000
English Exploration IV (1 credit) 913000	Math Exploration IV (1 credit) 939030		Economics, Personal Finance, & Financial Literacy Exploration (½ credit) 974000	

For more information about this pathway, visit the [OSE Alternate Pathway to Graduation webpage](#). Detailed guidance on course options is available in the [Alternate Achievement Courses & Standards](#) document. To ensure accurate reporting, **students participating in the Alternate Pathway must be coded accordingly in eSchool** on the *SIS/Misc Items* screen; this data pulls in Cycles 2-7.

Alternate Assessment Field in eSchool (labeled “Alternate Portfolio”)

NA = Not Applicable or Null (**default**)

ALMS = Alternate Literacy, Math (**Grades 3-10**), and Science (**Grades 3-8 and 10**)

AELP = Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment (**Grades K-2 and Grades 11-12**)

ABOTH = Alternate Literacy, Math (**Grades 3-10**), and Science (**Grades 3-8 and 10**) AND Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessments (**Grades 3-10**)

PAAHS = Non-ELs who participated in DLM in grade 10 but are now in **Grade 11 or 12**. (DLM is not given in Grades 11 or 12.)



SY2026-2027 - Discontinuing Course Codes for Credit Toward a Diploma

Resource and Self-Contained Courses Being Phased Out for Diploma Credit

These courses will be discontinued for credit eligibility toward a diploma over the next several years, per the [Meaningful Access Implementation Timeline](#). Districts should plan now for appropriate placement and scheduling alternatives. By default, these special education course codes are not credit-bearing at the state level. Districts may award credit toward a diploma for 10th through 12th grade students through the master schedule if the classes are aligned to grade level standards and as students meet requirements. Beginning in 2026–27, 9th grade students may be scheduled into these courses for support; however, they will not earn credit toward a diploma through these course codes.

SpEd Resource Classes Grades K-12 (class-size limit of 8)	Course Code	SpEd Self-Contained Classes K-12	Course Code
Resource ELA K-12	972100	Self-Contained ELA K-12	972120
Resource Reading K-12	972110	Self-Contained Math K-12	972350
Resource Math K-12	972300	Self-Contained Science K-12	973910
Resource Science K-12	972200	Generic Self-Contained 1:15 or 1:10 (other content areas)	971540
Resource Social Studies K-12	972700		
Generic Resource (other content areas, but do not use for core instruction in ELA, math, science, or social studies)	971530	Generic Self-Contained 1:6 (class size limit 6 - other content areas)	971550

Please Note: These courses must be renamed locally so that the transcript does not reveal the student's disability status.



SY2026-2027 – Transition Courses

Course Options for Students Preparing for Life After High School

The **Special Education Transition** course is a credit-bearing special education elective taught by a licensed special education teacher. As a noncore academic course, it may also count toward Career Focus requirements. Components will include provision of transition assessments, exploration and preparation for employment and postsecondary education options, independent living skills (including self-determination), resource assistance, transition or learning strategies, and are designed to fulfill activities as they relate to postsecondary goals in the transition plan of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or in the Course of Study.

Special Education Transition
(1 credit)

971560

Arkansas Transition Services encourages districts to include **work experience** courses as a natural progression within the transition program. A work experience program is an extension of a transition class and is an educational practice that uses the workplace or real work to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will help them connect school experiences to real-life work activities and future career opportunities.

Transition Work Experience I
(1 credit)

971570

Transition Work Experience III
(1 credit)

971590

Transition Work Experience II
(1 credit)

971580

Transition Work Experience IV
(1 credit)

971610

For more information about these courses, see the more detailed [Facts Sheet for Transition Class and Work Experience Course Codes](#). For additional support, contact [Arkansas Transition Services](#).

Grading and Transcript Guidance

- [Grading Practices for Students with Disabilities](#) - Arkansas Guidance on Grading Practices for Students with Disabilities
- [Federal Guidance](#) - Questions and Answers on Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities

