

# Arkansas State Profile

**Virtual Arkansas, a DLC State Affiliate, was instrumental in conducting the research for this profile.**

*Updated September 2023*

Arkansas has a state virtual school, [Virtual Arkansas](#), two multi-district fully online schools, and a consortium. Virtual Arkansas served 14,921 students in over 34,000 course enrollments in SY 2022-23 after logging 35,856 course enrollments and 14,319 students in SY 2021-22. There are 28 [approved](#) digital learning providers.

Two multi-district fully online schools serve students in grades K-12. Arkansas Virtual Academy served 3,733 students during the 2022-23 SY while Arkansas Connections Academy served 3,231 students during the period. The multi-district schools have seen only a minimal decrease in post-pandemic student enrollment.

- 4,071 students in SY 2019-20
- 7,262 students in SY 2020-21
- 7,421 students in SY 2021-22
- 6,964 students in SY 2022-23

Virtual Arkansas partners with the Arkansas Department of Education's Division of Career and Technical Education (DCTE) and the Arkansas Education Service Cooperatives to provide supplemental online courses and services to more than 94% of the districts in the state, including 97% of all rural districts.

Virtual Arkansas also offers districts a Content Partnership option, often referred to as a franchise model, where Virtual Arkansas provides the course and technology infrastructure, and the local district provides their own teachers. Virtual Arkansas served 7,501 student enrollments in the program during the 2022-23 SY.

State virtual school?	YES
Multi-district fully online schools?	YES
State approval process for online providers?	YES
State approval process for online courses?	YES

The [Arkansas Public School Resource Center](#) (APSRC) is a nonprofit membership organization that offers technical assistance and training to charter schools, rural districts, educational cooperatives, businesses, and other organizations across Arkansas. The APSRC acts as a clearinghouse for members and non-members to find and purchase online courses from multiple providers.

District activity includes some full-time and hybrid online options.

- [Bentonville Schools Virtual](#), and the Van Buren School District operate the [River Valley Virtual Academy](#), a fully online school for district students.
- [Don Tyson School of Innovation](#) is a charter school within the Springdale School District, which houses the [Virtual Innovation Academy](#). The Virtual Innovation Academy at Don Tyson School of Innovation offers full time options for K-12 students, as well as hybrid and supplemental options for 6-12 students.
- [Rogers Public Schools](#) offers a K-12 program for in-district students and out-of-district students who have completed a school choice application. K-5 utilizes district curriculum to create synchronous and asynchronous lessons. 6-12 offers fully online and hybrid models.
- Little Rock School District's [Ignite Digital Academy](#) offers fully online options for K-12 district students. Students choose whether they will be learning in a synchronous or asynchronous online model during registration.
- Siloam Springs School District's [Siloam Springs Virtual Academy](#) is a hybrid academy launched in 2020 with over 500 students.

Arkansas law permits school districts to apply to the State Board of Education to open conversion charter schools once a district receives approval from its governing board. A number of the conversion charters offer online and hybrid options.

- [Adventure Online Academy](#)
- [Driven Virtual Academy Online](#)
- [Fayetteville Virtual Academy](#)
- [Fort Smith Virtual Academy](#)
- [River Valley Virtual Academy](#)
- [Vilonia Pathways Academy](#) (hybrid format)

## State Policies

The LEARNS Act ([ACT 237](#)) of the 2023 repealed the requirement in the Digital Learning Act of 2013 that every high school student to take at least one digital learning course to graduate. The LEARNS Act also establishes a “Course Choice Program” in Arkansas by 2025-26. A statewide course catalog, also to be created by the 2025-26 SY, will outline which courses shall be offered by all districts. Any courses not able to be provided by the local public school district must be provided as an option to students through a course provider, defined as any “entity that offers individual courses in person or online.”

All digital providers in Arkansas have been required to be approved through a digital learning provider application with the Arkansas Department of Education. Arkansas currently has 28 approved digital providers. These approved providers typically serve as supplemental online course providers to Arkansas schools and students, with the majority offering both the digital content and a certified teacher. The LEARNS Act changes the approval process for digital learning providers and outlines course provider accountability measures. The rules and regulations that will accompany much of the LEARNS Act are currently under development.

The [Digital Learning Act](#) (2013) requires that online course and instruction providers must complete an application process to be approved by the Arkansas Department of Education. [Digital Learning Provider](#) approvals are valid for five years or until the Arkansas Academic Standards are revised.

*[DLC State Profile Key Terms](#)*