

**SMART CORE WAIVER FORM
(GRADUATING CLASS OF 2016 AND AFTER)**

Name of Student: _____
Name of Parent/Guardian: _____
Name of District: _____
Name of School: _____

Smart Core is Arkansas's college- and career- ready curriculum for high school students. College and career readiness in Arkansas means that students are prepared for success in entry-level, credit-bearing courses at two-year and four-year colleges and universities, in technical postsecondary training, and in well-paid jobs that support families and have pathways to advancement. To be college and career ready, students need to be adept problem solvers and critical thinkers who can contribute and apply their knowledge in novel contexts and a variety of situations. Smart Core is the foundation for college and career-readiness. All students should supplement additional rigorous coursework within their career focus.

Successful completion of the Smart Core Curriculum is one of the eligibility requirements for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship. Failure to complete the Smart Core Curriculum for graduation *may* result in negative consequences such as conditional admission to college and ineligibility for scholarship programs.

Parents or guardians may waive the right for a student to participate in Smart Core and instead to participate in the Core curriculum. By signing this Smart Core Waiver Form, you are waiving your student's right to Smart Core and are placing him or her in the Core Curriculum.

CORE CURRICULUM

English – 4 units

- English 9th grade
- English 10th grade
- English 11th grade
- English 12th grade

Mathematics – 4 units (or 3 units of math and 1 flex unit of Computer Science*)

- Algebra I (or Algebra A & Algebra B - each may be counted as one unit of the 4 unit requirement)
- Geometry (or Geometry A & Geometry B - each may be counted as one unit of the 4 unit requirement)
(All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.)

Science – 3 units (or 2 units with lab experience and 1 flex unit of Computer Science*)

- At least 1 unit of Biology
- At least 1 unit of Physical Science, Chemistry, and/or Physics
(All students must have 1 unit in Biology, IB Biology, ADE Biology, ADE Approved Biology Honors, or Concurrent Credit Biology.)

Social Studies – 3 units

- Civics - ½ unit
- World History - 1 unit
- U.S. History - 1 unit
- Economics or other social studies – ½ unit

Oral Communications – ½ unit

Physical Education – ½ unit

Health and Safety – ½ unit

Economics – ½ unit (may be counted toward Social Studies or Career Focus)

Fine Arts – ½ unit

Career Focus – 6 units

***Computer Science – (flex unit)** A unit of Computer Science and Mathematics, Essentials of Computer Programming, AP Computer Science, or IB Computer Science may replace the 4th math unit requirement or the 3rd Natural Science Requirement. Two distinct units of the computer science courses listed above may replace the 4th math unit requirement and the 3rd Natural Science Requirement. If the 4th Math requirement and the 3rd Natural Science requirement have been met through other coursework, any of the computer science courses listed above may be used for career focus credit.

(Comparable concurrent credit may be substituted where applicable.)

Beginning with the entering 9th grade class of 2014 – 2015 school year, each high school student shall be required to take at least one digital learning course for credit to graduate. (Act 1280 of 2013)

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have been informed of the requirements and implementation of the Smart Core Curriculum and am choosing to waive the Smart Core curriculum for my child. I understand the potential negative consequences of this action as outlined on this form.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

School Official Signature

Date