

**SMART CORE INFORMED CONSENT FORM  
(GRADUATING CLASS OF 2010, 2011, 2012, AND 2013)**

**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 unforeseen situations. Smart Core *is the foundation* for college- and career-readiness. All students should supplement with 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 to instead participate in the Core curriculum. The parent must sign the separate Smart Core Waiver Form to do so.

**SMART CORE CURRICULUM**

**English – 4 units**

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

**Mathematics – 4 units**

- Algebra I or Algebra A & B (Grades 7-8 or 8-9)
- Geometry or Investigating Geometry or Geometry A & B (Grades 8-9 or 9-10)
- Algebra II
- Fourth Math--Choice of: Transitions to College Math, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Trigonometry, Statistics, Computer Math, Algebra III or an Advanced Placement mathematics  
(Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.)

**Natural Science – 3 units with lab experience chosen from:**

- Physical Science
- Biology or Applied Biology/Chemistry
- Chemistry
- Physics or Principles of Technology I & II or PIC Physics

**Social Studies – 3 units**

- Civics or Civics/American Government – 1 unit
- World History – 1 unit
- U.S. History – 1 unit

**Oral Communications – ½ unit**

**Physical Education – ½ unit**

**Health and Safety – ½ unit**

**Fine Arts – ½ unit**

**Career Focus – 6 units**

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have been informed of the requirements and implementation of the Smart Core curriculum and am choosing the Smart Core curriculum for my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**School Official Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

their identified Individualized Education Program and shall receive services in the least restrictive environment that meets their needs.

**12.04 SCHOOL REPORTING OF STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE**

- D/C** 12.04.1 Each local district shall adopt a written policy requiring teachers to communicate with the parent(s) or guardian(s) of each student during the school year to discuss the student's academic progress and requiring more frequent communication with the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students not performing at the level expected for their grade.
- S/C** 12.04.2 Each school shall schedule no fewer than two (2) parent-teacher conferences per school year to encourage communication with parents.
- S/C** 12.04.3 All grade level conferences with parent(s) and or guardian(s) shall be scheduled at a time and place to best accommodate those participating in the conference. The school shall document participation or nonparticipation in required conferences. If a student is to be retained at any grade level, notice of retention and the reasons for retention shall be communicated promptly in a personal conference.

**12.05 TRANSFER BETWEEN SCHOOLS**

- D/C** 12.05.1 Any student transferring from a school accredited by the Department to another school accredited by the Department shall be placed into the same grade the student would have been in had the student remained at the former school.
- D/C** 12.05.2 Any student transferring from home school or a school that is not accredited by the Department to a school that is accredited by the Department shall be evaluated by the staff of that accredited school to determine that student's proper placement in the accredited school.

**13.0 STANDARD VIII SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

Data from the performance indicators shall be used by the Department and schools in establishing goals and objectives for school improvement.

**14.0 STANDARD IX GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

- D/S/P** 14.01 Specifically, for the graduating classes of 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, the required twenty-two (22) units, at a minimum, shall be taken from the "Smart Core" curriculum or from the "Core" curriculum. Only one (1) of the required units may be in a physical education course. All students will participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless the parent or guardian waives the student's right to participate. In such case of a waiver, the student will be required to participate in Core. The required twenty-two (22) units, at a minimum, are to be taken from the Smart Core or Core as follows:

SMART CORE - Sixteen (16) units

English - four (4) units - 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Mathematics - four (4) units [All students must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or grade 12 and complete Algebra II.]

Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.

Algebra I or Algebra A & B (Grades 7-8 or 8-9)

Geometry or Investigating Geometry or Geometry A & B  
(Grades 8-9 or 9-10)

Algebra II

Fourth math unit range of options: (choice of: Transitions to College Math, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Trigonometry, Statistics, Computer Math, Algebra III, or an Advanced Placement math)

Natural Science - three (3) units with lab experience chosen from Physical Science, Biology or Applied Biology/Chemistry, Chemistry, Physics or Principles of Technology I & II or PIC Physics

Social Studies - three (3) units

Civics or Civics/American Government

World History

American History

Oral Communications - one half (½) unit

Physical Education - one half (½) unit

Health and Safety - one half (½) unit

Fine Arts - one half (½) unit

D/C

CAREER FOCUS - Six (6) units

All units in the career focus requirement shall be established through guidance and counseling at the local school district based on the students' contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to local district policy and reflect state frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

Local school districts may require additional units for graduation beyond the sixteen (16) Smart Core and the six (6) career focus units. These may be in academic and/or technical areas. All the Smart Core and career focus units must total at least twenty-two (22) units to graduate.

D/S/P

CORE - Sixteen (16) units

English - four (4) units

Oral Communications - one half (½) unit

Social Studies - three (3) units [one (1) unit of world history, one (1) unit of U. S. history, one half (½) unit of civics or government]

Mathematics - four (4) units [one (1) unit of algebra or its equivalent\* and one (1) unit of geometry or its equivalent.\* All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.]

Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.

Science - three (3) units [at least one (1) unit of biology or its equivalent and one (1) unit of a physical science]

Physical Education - one half (½) unit

Health and Safety - one half (½) unit

Fine Arts - one half (½) unit

\* A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be

counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

D/C

**CAREER FOCUS - Six (6) units**

All units in the career focus requirement shall be established through guidance and counseling at the local school district based on the students' contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to local district policy and reflect state frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

Local school districts may require additional units for graduation beyond the sixteen (16) Core and the six (6) career focus units. These may be in academic and/or technical areas. All the Core and career focus units must total at least twenty-two (22) units to graduate.

D/S/P

14.02

Specifically, for the graduating class of 2013-2014, and all graduating classes thereafter, the required twenty-two (22) units, at a minimum, shall be taken from the "Smart Core" curriculum or from the "Core" curriculum. Only one (1) of the required units may be in a physical education course. All students will participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless the parent or guardian waives the student's right to participate. In such case of a waiver, the student will be required to participate in Core. The required twenty-two (22) units, at a minimum, are to be taken from the Smart Core or Core as follows:

**SMART CORE - Sixteen (16) units**

English - four (4) units - 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Mathematics - four (4) units [All students must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or grade 12 and complete Algebra II.]  
Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.

Algebra I or Algebra A & B (Grades 7-8 or 8-9)

Geometry or Investigating Geometry or Geometry A & B  
(Grades 8-9 or 9-10)

Algebra II

Fourth math unit range of options: (choice of: Transitions to College Math, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Trigonometry, Statistics, Computer Math, Algebra III, or an Advanced Placement math)

Natural Science - three (3) units with lab experience chosen from Physical Science, Biology or Applied Biology/Chemistry, Chemistry, Physics or Principles of Technology I & II or PIC Physics

Social Studies - three (3) units [one (1) unit of world history, one (1) unit of U. S. history, one half (½) unit of civics]

Oral Communications - one half (½) unit

Physical Education - one half (½) unit

Health and Safety - one half (½) unit

Economics - one half (½) unit

A one-half (½) unit of Economics is required for graduation and may be counted toward the required three (3) social studies credits or toward the six (6) required career focus elective credits.

If the course is taught by an appropriately licensed social studies teacher, credit may be applied to meet graduation requirements in social studies or toward the career focus electives. If the course is

taught by an appropriately licensed business education teacher, graduation credit can only be applied toward career focus requirements.

The appropriate course code must be used to differentiate the application of credit for graduation to either the area of social studies or the area of career focus elective credit.

Fine Arts - one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit

D/C

CAREER FOCUS - Six (6) units

All units in the career focus requirement shall be established through guidance and counseling at the local school district based on the students' contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to local district policy and reflect state frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

Local school districts may require additional units for graduation beyond the sixteen (16) Smart Core and the six (6) career focus units. These may be in academic and/or technical areas. All the Smart Core and career focus units must total at least twenty-two (22) units to graduate.

D/S/P

CORE - Sixteen (16) units

English - four (4) units

Oral Communications - one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit

Social Studies - three (3) units [one (1) unit of world history, one (1) unit of U. S. history, one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit of civics]

Mathematics - four (4) units [one (1) unit of algebra or its equivalent\* and one (1) unit of geometry or its equivalent.\* All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.] Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.

Science - three (3) units [at least one (1) unit of biology or its equivalent and one (1) unit of a physical science]

Physical Education - one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit

Health and Safety - one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit

Economics - one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit

A one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit of Economics is required for graduation and may be counted toward the required three (3) social studies credits or toward the six (6) required career focus elective credits.

If the course is taught by an appropriately licensed social studies teacher, credit may be applied to meet graduation requirements in social studies or toward the career focus electives. If the course is taught by an appropriately licensed business education teacher, graduation credit can only be applied toward career focus requirements.

The appropriate course code must be used to differentiate the application of credit for graduation to either the area of social studies or the area of career focus elective credit.

Fine Arts - one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit

\* A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be

counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

D/C

CAREER FOCUS - Six (6) units

All units in the career focus requirement shall be established through guidance and counseling at the local school district based on the students' contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to local district policy and reflect state frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

Local school districts may require additional units for graduation beyond the sixteen (16) Core and the six (6) career focus units. These may be in academic and/or technical areas. All the Core and career focus units must total at least twenty-two (22) units to graduate.

S/P

14.03 A unit of credit shall be defined as the credit given for a course which meets for a minimum of 120 clock hours. A minimum average six-hour day or minimum thirty (30) hour week is required.

S/P

14.04 SPECIAL EDUCATION

14.04.1 For a student with disabilities, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) serves as the student's "graduation plan."

14.04.2 Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by a student's IEP Team, transition planning must be initiated to prepare a student for exit from a secondary education program to post-secondary life. This includes planning for the student's exit from school due to graduation. For a student with disabilities, fulfillment of the requirements set forth in the student's IEP constitutes the basis for graduation from high school.

15.0

STANDARD X

PERSONNEL

D/P

15.01 SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Each school district shall employ a full-time superintendent when enrollment exceeds three hundred (300). A full-time superintendent may, at the discretion of the local school district, teach no more than two (2) classes per day.

S/P

15.02 PRINCIPALS

Each school shall employ at least a half-time principal. A full-time principal shall be employed when a school's enrollment reaches three hundred (300). A school district superintendent may be permitted to serve as a half-time principal when district enrollment is less than 300 providing the superintendent is appropriately certified and is not already teaching classes. Schools with an enrollment exceeding five hundred (500) shall employ at least one full-time principal and a half-time assistant principal, instructional supervisor, or curriculum specialist.

15.03 LICENSURE AND RENEWAL

D/S/P

15.03.1 All administrative, teaching, and other personnel shall hold a current, valid

D (District) S (School) C (Cited) P (Probation) Policy (Policy required)

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