

GOVERNORS' EDUCATION PROFILE SERIES

CLASS OF 2018



NGA is boldly nonpartisan. Through NGA, governors share best practices, speak with an informed voice on national policy and develop innovative solutions that improve state government and support the principles of federalism.



ACT is a mission-driven, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people achieve education and workplace success. Headquartered in Iowa City, Iowa, ACT is trusted as a leader in college and career readiness, providing high-quality assessments grounded in nearly 60 years of research. ACT offers a uniquely integrated set of solutions designed to provide personalized insights that help individuals succeed from elementary school through career.

¹ https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d17/tables/dt17_203.40.asp?current=yes; https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d16/tables/dt16_203.20.asp?current=yes; https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d17/tables/dt17_304.10.asp?current=yes

² <http://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/State-of-Preschool-2017-Full-7-16-18.pdf>; <https://stats.bls.gov/oes/special.requests/oesm17st.zip>

³ <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/ndecore/landing>. Analysis done by ACT.

⁴ https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d17/tables/dt17_219.46.asp

⁵ http://www.sheeo.org/sites/default/files/project-files/SHEEO_SHEF_FY2017_FINAL.pdf; https://www.nassgapsurvey.com/survey_reports/2016-2017-48th.pdf

⁶ https://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub_files/classof2017.pdf; https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/17_5YR/DP02/0100000US|0100000US.04000.001. Analysis done by ACT. Reflects adults, residing in the state, aged 25 and older.



GOVERNOR ASA HUTCHINSON

Major Education Priorities: ★ Computer Science ★ Broadband ★ Free College ★ Higher Education Accountability

BACKGROUND: Governor Hutchinson was raised in Arkansas and graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Law. Prior to running for office he worked in business, law and the private sector, was appointed by President Reagan as United States Attorney for Western Arkansas at 31, served as a U.S. congressman, Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency and as the first Under Secretary of Homeland Security. The governor is the former chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board. Hutchinson is married and has 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican

“Education is key to a strong economy. And we’re taking a universal approach in preparing our students and future workforce”
- Gov. Hutchinson

Early Education and K-12 Educational Priorities

Computer Science: Devoted considerable time and energy to expanding K-12 computer science, including allocating additional resources for computer science-specific teacher development and increasing the number of students enrolling in and completing computer science courses. Under Governor Hutchinson, Arkansas became the first state in the country to require computer science be taught in every high school. Arkansas is the only state to achieve all 9 policy standards set by Code.org.

Expanding Broadband: Invested in a high-speed broadband upgrade for all of Arkansas’ K-12 schools. Arkansas is the only state in the country with the capacity to connect 98% of schools to 1MB/per student—the fastest in the nation. In October of 2018, Education Superhighway released a report crediting Arkansas for leading the nation in this category.

Additional Priorities: School safety, early grade reading, online education and pre-k education.

Student Enrollment¹



Higher Education and Workforce Priorities

Higher Education Accountability: Secured an additional \$10 million for state higher education institutions, which will be distributed under the state’s new Productivity Funding Formula covering both 2- and 4-year institutions, designed to increase Arkansas’ postsecondary degree attainment. The new formula will take into account student success and program completion, whereas the previous formula based funding on student enrollment.

ArFuture Grant College Program: Championed legislation creating the ArFuture Grant program, which pays all tuition and mandatory fees through a two-year college program or technical school for students enrolled in a high-demand or STEM program that do not have a bachelor’s degree.

Additional Priorities: Career and Technical Education (CTE) and high school-to-college transitions. Under Governor Hutchinson, Arkansas has reduced the number of school districts without access to a secondary career center from 54 down to 17 and has plans to reduce that number to less than 15 by the end of the next fiscal year.

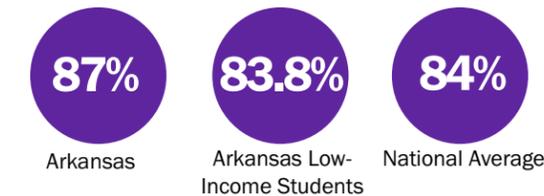
“National publications continue to proclaim Arkansas as the leader among states in computer science education.”

State of Arkansas Education

Early Childhood Facts²

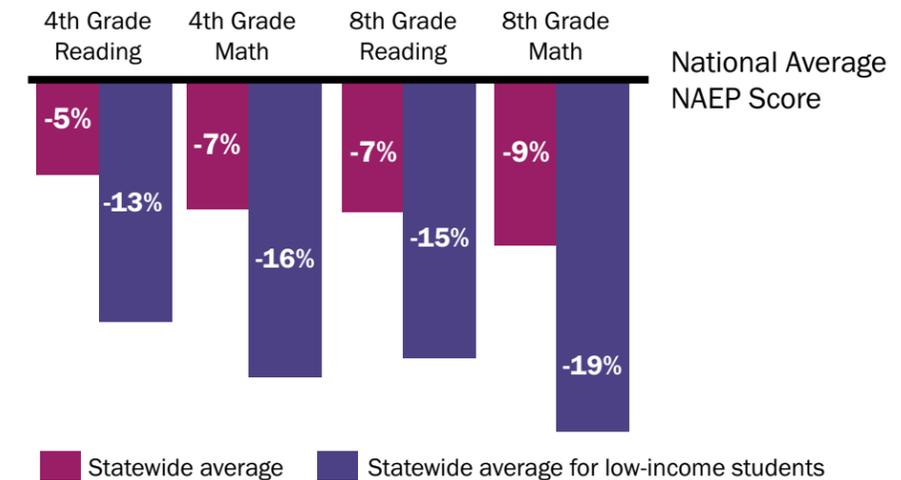


High School Graduation Rate⁴



Arkansas National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Scores³

Percentage of students performing at or above proficient level



Are Arkansas Students Ready for College?

The ACT test is the most frequently taken college entrance exam in the U.S. The chart below shows the ACT Composite score distribution for students in Arkansas and the U.S.

ACT COMPOSITE	ARKANSAS	NATION
1-18	49.3%	39.9%
19-23	29.5%	29.1%
24-36	21.2%	31%

STEM Careers: Are Arkansas Students Interested and Ready?

In Arkansas, **44.3 percent** of ACT-tested students from the class of 2018 had aspirations to pursue a future in STEM. Of those students, **15.9 percent** are prepared for first-year college coursework related to STEM fields.

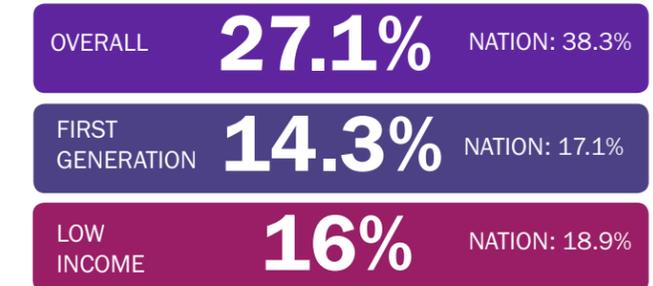
Higher Education Stats⁵

	ARKANSAS	NATIONAL AVERAGE
Educational Appropriations per Full-Time Equivalent	\$7,885	\$7,642
Total State Grant Expenditures as Percentage of State Fiscal Support for Higher Education	12.1%	12.7%
Percent Change in Total Spending Since 2008	-13.3%	-11.6%
State Grant Aid per Full-Time Undergraduate Student	\$948.47	\$816.79
Need-based State Grant Aid per Full-Time Undergraduate Student	\$78.05	\$623.66

College Readiness is More than ONE Number

Along with their ACT Composite score, students also receive scores in four subject areas – Math, Science, English and Reading – along with target (or “Benchmark”) scores that will help them gauge their likelihood of earning a B or C in credit-bearing first-year college courses. The percentages of students who met at least three of these four Benchmark scores are provided below.

Students in Arkansas Who Met at Least 3 of 4 College-Ready Benchmark Scores



Higher Education Outcomes⁶

Percent of Residents with an Associate’s Degree or Higher:



Percent of Residents with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher:



Average Student Debt:

