



Arkansas Connections Academy

Charter Renewal Presentation

May 21, 2026

Our Mission

Arkansas Connections Academy provides K–12 students across the state with a high-quality, personalized online education.

ARCA delivers a full public school experience that supports academic growth, social-emotional development, and post-secondary readiness.

The school emphasizes rigorous, standards-aligned curriculum, strong teacher and family engagement, and data-driven accountability.

Our History

2016: The Beginning

Arkansas Connections Academy (ARCA) opened with ~200 students and 11 staff members.

2021: First Renewal

Rapid growth to 2,600 students and 46 staff members by its first charter renewal.

Today

ARCA serves approximately 6,800 students across the state.

Staffing

260 Staff Members

Reflecting continued expansion and statewide impact.

Enrollment & Retention

Sustained Growth and High Stability

Enrollment now operates near capacity, while retention consistently exceeds 83% with continued year-over-year improvement. This reflects sustained family confidence and strong student demand for a statewide virtual education option in Arkansas.

	21-22 SY	22-23 SY	23-24 SY	24-25 SY	25-26 SY
Withdrawal Rate	16%	15.5%	16.2%	16%	~14.5%
Retention Rate	84%	84.5%	83.8%	84%	~85.5%
Enrollment	3678	3673	4250	5745	6875

Enrollment Year-Over-Year

Grade	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
K-5	173	264	325	429	875	1092	1092	902	1110	1167
6-8	202	288	360	485	733	963	963	994	1391	1617
9-12	108	337	616	980	996	1473	4173	1782	3244	4091

Trends demonstrate strong family confidence and ongoing demand for a statewide virtual model.

Who We Serve

Diverse K–12 Student Population

Supporting families navigating economic hardship, language barriers, and systemic inequities through flexible, virtual learning.

17%

Special Education

Dedicated support for disabilities and unique learning needs.

9%

504 & Specialized

Equitable access for students experiencing homelessness.

3.45%

English Learners

Empowering resilient, first-generation college-bound students.



High Achievement

Accelerated learners seeking academic rigor and advanced curriculum.



Student Athletes

Flexibility for competitive training and travel schedules.



Strong Career Goals

Preparing for early career entry and professional certificate pathways.

Our model ensures every student has access to a supportive, personalized learning environment.

ARCA Parent Satisfaction

Overwhelmingly Positive Feedback

91% of families expressing satisfaction across key areas. Survey is given to parents annually.

98.1%

Teacher Support

Agree that teachers are supportive.

96%

Student Success

Report strong progress and engagement.

93%

IEP/504 Services

Satisfied with specialized student support.

These results reflect strong relationships, consistent communication, a supportive school culture, and a commitment to excellence in virtual education.

Opportunities for Students



Academic Excellence

ARCA provides a comprehensive student experience that includes:

- Dual enrollment and career pathway opportunities
- Internship and workforce readiness experiences



Student Experience

- In-person events that build connection and community
- Individualized student success planning and graduation support



Preparation for the Future

Students are prepared for both immediate success and long-term goals.

Dedicated to providing a comprehensive and supportive educational environment for all students.

Current Performance

46.6%

ELA Growth

44.4%

Math Growth

79.0%

Graduation Rate

6.4%

Merit/Distinction

Analysis of Results

- We acknowledge that our current performance does not yet reflect the potential of our students or the effort of our staff.
- Our ELA proficiency rates and math achievement gaps require immediate, sustained attention.
- Graduation rates show progress but remain below state and district benchmarks.
- We are transparent about these challenges and take full responsibility for these outcomes.
- While we see incremental improvement, these results do not yet meet state expectations.

2024 Grade: D (350.67 pts)

2025 Grade: D (363.91 pts)

Root Cause Analysis: Why It Happened



PLC & Instruction

Foundational gaps in professional collaboration and delivery.

- **We did not ensure consistent PLC implementation—only 40% of teams used data effectively.**
- Implementation lacked consistency across classrooms.
- Inconsistent Tier 1 instruction across classrooms.



Intervention Systems

Support structures lacked the speed and rigor to drive results.

- **Weak Monitoring:** Late identification of at-risk students delayed support.
- Inconsistent monitoring of intervention effectiveness.
- At-risk students were not identified early enough.



Leadership & Pathways

Structural limitations in oversight and student opportunity.

- **Limited Pathways:** Need for stronger instructional oversight.
- Oversight systems did not drive consistent accountability.
- Access to advanced pathways and rigorous coursework was limited.

Identifying these structural gaps is the first step toward the 2026–2027 strategic improvement plan.

26–27 Priorities

Priority Goal 1: Increase ELA Growth

Increase average Growth Score on ATLAS Summative Assessment by 8.35 points (46.65% to 55%) by end of 2026–2027.

Focus Area:

Grades 6–8 ELA Proficiency Growth.

Strategy:

- Strengthen Tier 1 instruction
- Consistent data-driven PLCs
- Expand targeted intervention

Priority Goal 2: Math Growth

Increase ATLAS Math growth from 44.42% to 55% (+10.58) by 2026–2027.

Focus Area:

Grades 6–8 Math Proficiency Growth.

Strategy:

- Strengthen Tier 1 instruction
- Consistent data-driven PLCs
- Expand targeted intervention

Priority Goal 3: Graduation & Diploma

Graduation rate: 78.97% to 85%

Merit/Distinction: 6.4% to 35%

Focus Area:

Grades 9–12

Strategy:

- Early identification & monitoring
- Improve credit systems
- Access to rigorous coursework

Streamlined Implementation Framework



Instructional Excellence

Goal Driver: Academic Growth

- Standards-aligned curriculum delivery.
- Targeted PD in literacy & numeracy.
- Evidence-based Tier 1 instruction.



Data-Driven Culture

Goal Driver: Rapid Intervention

- Weekly formative assessment cycles.
- 6–8 week intervention monitoring.
- Leadership data reviews (Monthly).



Student Pathways

Goal Driver: Graduation Success

- Early identification of at-risk students.
- Expanded college/career planning.
- Advanced coursework access.

Strategic Discipline: Three core systems driving academic growth through leadership and fidelity.

ARCA Commitment

Why Charter Renewal Matters

Arkansas Connections Academy provides access to high-quality education for over 6,600 students across the state. We have a clear, data-driven plan to improve academic outcomes and a strong operational foundation to support that work.



Our Promise

- Measurable progress in achievement, attendance, and readiness.
- A commitment to partnership and transparent accountability.



Key Pillars of Success

- Demand for high-quality virtual learning options.
- Strong operational and financial health.
- Clear plan for continuous academic improvement.

"We are committed to measurable progress, transparent accountability, and improved outcomes for all students."

Thank You!



Building a brighter future, together.