

**Arkansas Connections Academy
Charter Renewal
CAP Action**

Recommendation and Motion Summary: Arkansas Connections Academy

Arkansas Connections Academy is recommended for renewal based on the Charter Authorizing Panel's approval of the Department's recommendation for renewal with conditions, inclusive of the Charter Support Unit (CSU) recommendations.

The Panel considered the school's performance and renewal submission, including a revised motion presented for clarity. Dr. Beshears-Duncan moved to affirm the Department's **recommendation for renewal with conditions, including approval of the charter contract for Arkansas Connections Academy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tina Moore and passed unanimously (6–0).**

The Panel's approval includes the following conditions:

1. Renewal Plan and Monitoring

Approval of Arkansas Connections Academy's comprehensive renewal plan, submitted May 1, with the condition that the school participate in quarterly CSU check-ins to monitor implementation and progress.

2. Charter Renewal Term

Approval of a five-year renewal of the charter contract.

3. Assessment and Reporting Requirement

Requirement that Arkansas Connections Academy administer the Atlas Interim Assessment as a mandatory measure to ensure consistent data analysis and provide timely reporting to CSU in support of accountability.

Rationale and School Summary

Arkansas Connections Academy (ARCA) is a statewide virtual charter school serving K–12 students. The school's charter term is set to expire on June 30, 2026, and it has undergone a comprehensive renewal review process. Throughout the current charter term, the school has focused on implementing targeted improvement actions aligned to its root cause analysis, with an emphasis on strengthening instructional practices, refining organizational systems, and improving school culture.

The school's improvement efforts reflect a clear and structured approach. Evidence from site visits and stakeholder engagement indicates alignment among staff regarding instructional priorities, strategic planning, and implementation of schoolwide initiatives. Observed practices demonstrate consistency between the school's identified priorities and day-to-day operations, suggesting that improvement strategies are being operationalized effectively across the organization.

The comprehensive renewal plan submitted on May 1 presents a coherent and aligned framework for continued progress. The plan includes targeted, evidence-based strategies designed to improve student outcomes and address identified needs. The alignment between the root cause analysis, improvement actions, and proposed strategies reflects a deliberate and thoughtful planning process.

Organizationally, the school demonstrates stability and capacity to continue implementation. Systems supporting instruction, monitoring, and school culture appear to be in place and functioning with increasing effectiveness. Continued focus on implementation fidelity and monitoring will be important to ensure that gains are sustained over time and that the school continues progressing toward long-term performance goals.

A key consideration moving forward is maintaining momentum and ensuring consistent execution of the renewal plan. While progress has been observed, structured oversight will support the school in sustaining improvements and addressing any emerging challenges. Quarterly check-ins with the Charter Support Unit will provide an opportunity to monitor progress, offer guidance, and reinforce accountability.

Bottom line: Arkansas Connections Academy demonstrates meaningful progress, a coherent improvement strategy, and readiness for renewal. The school is positioned to continue its trajectory of growth; however, ongoing monitoring is necessary to ensure sustained implementation and long-term success. Approval is appropriate with the condition of quarterly CSU engagement to support continued progress and accountability.