



A minimum of 26 units is required for graduation based on the eStem curriculum. In addition to the Smart Core requirements listed below, students must earn the following credits in order to be awarded the full eStem diploma:

eStem focus – 2 units beyond Smart Core requirements selected from the courses offered in any of the fields of economics, science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

Foreign language – 2 units in consecutive years of the same language; Foreign language is required for all ninth grade students.

****English and math must be taken every school year, and the eStem science progression must include Physical Science (or Physics), Biology and Chemistry. Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, seniors are not required to take a science course, provided they have already met the eStem diploma requirements. However, it is recommended that seniors take a science course, especially if they are pursuing a career in STEM.**

SMART 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 unit of Computer Science*) At least one MATH unit must be taken in Grade 11 or Grade 12. **

- Algebra I (or Algebra A & Algebra B - Grades 7-8 or 8-9)
- Geometry (or Geometry A & Geometry B - Grades 8-9 or 9-10)
- Algebra II
- Fourth math - Advanced Topics and Modeling in Mathematics, Algebra III, Calculus, Computer Science and Mathematics, Linear Systems and Statistics, Transitional Math Ready, Mathematical Applications and Algorithms, Pre-Calculus, or an Advanced Placement mathematics - Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.

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

- Biology – 1 unit (All students must have 1 unit in Biology, IB Biology, ADE Biology,

ADE Approved Biology Honors, or Concurrent Credit Biology.)

- Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics – 2 units

Social Studies – 3 units

- Civics - ½ unit
- World History - 1 unit
- U.S. History - 1 unit
- 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 – (optional)** A flex unit of Computer Science and Mathematics, Essentials of Computer Programming, AP Computer Science, or IB Computer Science may replace the 4th math requirement or the 3rd science requirement. Two distinct units of the computer science courses listed above may replace the 4th math requirement and the 3rd science requirement. If the 4th math requirement and the 3rd science requirement have been met through other coursework, any of the computer science courses listed above may be used for career focus credit.

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, students in grades 9-12 shall be trained in CPR before graduation. (A.C.A. § 6-16-143)

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

Beginning with the entering 9th grade class of 2017-2018, each high school student shall be required to take a course that includes specific personal finance standards in either grades 10,11, or 12. (Act 480 of 2017)

Beginning with the entering 12th grade class of 2018-2019, each high school student must pass the Arkansas Civics Exam with a score of 60% or higher to earn a diploma. (Act 478 of 2017)

Students will meet the digital learning requirement through an eStem blended learning class, a Virtual Arkansas class, or by taking an online class offered through an ADE approved vendor.

Beginning with students enrolling on or after 7/19/2016, a student may not receive graduation credit for a course taken through an online vendor if that course is taught in-house at eStem. Exceptions may be

approved if a student needs to take a course for credit recovery, or if a student is a senior and a graduation requirement will not otherwise fit into the student's schedule.