

Title 6. Education
Chapter XIV. Office of Skills Development
Part 501. Rules for Secondary Technical Centers

Subpart 1. General Provision

6 CAR § 501-101. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Access" means an attempt for every high school student in Arkansas to have the opportunity to participate in any of a minimum of three (3) occupation-specific technical programs offered within twenty-five (25) miles or thirty (30) minutes of the home school;

(2)(A) "Concurrent credit" means credit received by high school career and technical education students who take classes offered through an institution of higher education.

(B) These classes will be transcribed by the local high school for secondary credit and by the institution of higher education for college credit;

(3) "Eligible student" means a student enrolled in grades ten through twelve (10 - 12) and who is pursuing a program of study in a secondary technical center;

(4)(A) "Full-time equivalent (FTE)" means the equivalent of one (1) student attending class for six (6) class periods per day per year, e.g., one (1) student attending a three-period class the full year would be equal to one-half (1/2) FTE.

(B) Travel time cannot be included in FTE count;

(5) "Local districts" means the districts in the locality which are eligible to participate in secondary technical center programs;

(6) "Occupation-specific programs" means technical programs which have paid employment in specific occupations as their objectives;

(7)(A) "Satellite location" means the extension of a secondary technical center located outside the boundaries of an existing center (twenty-five (25) miles or thirty (30) minutes of driving time) or to students in isolated areas.

(B) Satellite locations will be provided by an approved secondary technical center and must be shared by more than one (1) school district.

(C) All satellite locations require the approval of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board;

(8)(A) "Secondary technical center" means a public secondary or postsecondary institution organized for the specific purpose of educating high school students in specific occupational/technical programs.

(B) A center will serve students from more than one (1) participating high school.

(C) Students eligible to attend a secondary technical center will generally come from a twenty-five-mile radius or thirty-minute driving time from the local school;

(9)(A) "Sponsoring institution" is a comprehensive high school, a postsecondary technical institute, a two-year or community/technical college, an education service cooperative, or any other entity authorized by law that has been approved by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board.

(B) The sponsoring institution will function as the fiscal agent and will manage and administer the secondary technical center.

(C) Reference Arkansas Code §§ 6-51-301 - 6-51-305; and

(10) "Vocational center aid" means aid calculated and distributed by the Department of Education based upon each secondary technical center's eligible student FTE count.

Subpart 2. Application/Approval

6 CAR § 501-201. Secondary technical center approval.

(a)(1) An application for a new secondary technical center must be submitted to the Associate Director of the Office of Skills Development in the Department of Commerce on or before October 1, prior to the school year in which the center is scheduled to open.

(2) Guidelines and application for a new secondary technical center may be obtained by contacting the Office of Skills Development at (501) 683-1152.

(b)(1) Priority shall be given to the following:

(A) A region that is currently not being served by a center; and

(B) Program alignment with state and regional economic development strategies and workforce priorities.

(2) A center will not be approved within twenty-five (25) miles of an existing center unless it can be demonstrated that the creation of a new center will not adversely impact adjoining centers.

(c)(1) A sponsoring institution/entity (public high school, postsecondary technical institute, two-year college, or education service cooperative) that has been approved by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board as a secondary technical center must begin operation with three (3) occupational-specific programs.

(2) Only occupational-specific programs will be eligible for secondary technical center funding.

(d) A secondary technical center or satellite that is approved by the board must serve multiple high schools to qualify for secondary technical center funding.

(e)(1) A secondary technical center that closes and desires to resume operation must submit a new application to the board for approval.

(2) A center that is approved by the board for startup but fails to begin operation within a two-year period shall be considered null and void and must reapply.

6 CAR § 501-202. New or expanded programs.

(a)(1) For new or expanded program approval, the secondary technical center shall submit a proposal for new program startup by October 1 of the preceding year in which the program or programs is to be implemented.

(2) The application is available by contacting the Office of Skills Development at (501) 683-1152.

(b) Newly approved programs must be authorized by the Director of the Office of Skills Development to receive secondary technical center funding.

(c) Programs of study offered at the centers must be selected from a list of approved programs as defined by the Division of Career and Technical Education.

6 CAR § 501-203. Satellite programs.

(a)(1) An existing secondary technical center or proposed center approved by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board may provide satellite location or locations to school districts that are located outside the twenty-five (25) miles or thirty (30) minutes of driving time.

(2) Satellite locations must be shared by more than one (1) school district.

(3) Satellite locations will be eligible for funding in the same manner as center programs.

(b) A memorandum of understanding shall be completed, signed by cooperating parties, and on file in the secondary technical center director's office concerning the operation of satellite locations.

(c)(1) All applications for a satellite location require the approval of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board.

(2)(A) The secondary technical center must complete an application to open a satellite program or programs.

(B) The application shall be submitted to the Office of Skills Development along with all required documentation of support.

(3) All satellite locations will be approved by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board prior to startup of the satellite.

(4)(A) Documentation from the secondary technical center's administration that indicates interest and approval in opening a satellite program is required.

(B) This documentation should include at a minimum:

(i) A letter from the center director to the Office of Skills Development stating the center's intent to open the location;

(ii) Minutes from the secondary technical center's board of directors meeting showing the board's support; and

(iii) Minutes from the secondary technical center's sponsoring entity showing the sponsoring entity's support.

(5)(A) Documentation from the participating schools indicating their support of the satellite program or programs is required.

(B) This should be in the form of:

(i) Minutes from the participating school's board meetings indicating the school will support the program or programs at the satellite location; and

(ii) A letter from each school's superintendent indicating the school district's support of the program or programs.

(6) The secondary technical center must show a need for the satellite program or programs through documentation including surveys of area business and industry, job outlook forecasts, projected enrollment, etc.

(7) The host school agrees to provide the following:

(A) Facilities including a classroom or classrooms, a lab or labs, utilities, maintenance, and janitorial services;

(B) Handling of immediate issues involving discipline until the center director can address the situation; and

(C) Statement allowing the participation of other school districts.

(8) The secondary technical center agrees to:

(A) Furnish the classroom or classrooms and a lab or labs with equipment, furniture, etc.;

(B) Furnish supplies for the program;

(C) Handle discipline matters under the center's guidelines in a timely fashion; and

(D) Employ an instructor or instructors for approved center programs of study.

(9)(A) Each participating high school shall be guaranteed seats at the satellite program.

(B) The individual school's percentage of tenth grade enrollment calculated from the total tenth grade enrollment of all participating high schools shall be the method used to determine available seats.

6 CAR § 501-204. Existing satellite programs.

(a) All existing satellite programs shall be required to submit an MOU identifying the program, location, participating schools, and projected enrollment from participating schools.

(b) Host schools will be required to submit a letter of support for the satellite program.

(c) Existing satellite programs will be subject to the same guidelines as new satellite programs to be reviewed at the end of a five-year period.

6 CAR § 501-205. Consolidation.

All satellite programs affected by school consolidation that are reduced to single school status will be reevaluated as to the status of a satellite program or programs.

Subpart 3. Finance

6 CAR § 501-301. Funding.

(a)(1) Vocational center aid shall be calculated by the Office of Skills Development and distributed by the Department of Education based upon each secondary technical center's eligible student FTE count, once verified by the office.

(2) The department will distribute one (1) payment, during the fall and spring semesters, to each secondary center.

(b)(1) A three-tiered funding system shall be established by the office and approved by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board to determine the amount of vocational center aid for each program of study.

(2) Program of study tier placement shall take into account the different funding needs and costs of individual programs of study, along with the workforce needs of the State of Arkansas.

(c)(1) The amount of vocational center aid, determined by multiplying the verified FTE enrollment by the applicable tiers, may be greater than the funding available in a given fiscal year.

(2) In this scenario, the board may adjust the tiered funding rates as necessary to accommodate the funding shortfall.

(d)(1) The funding available in a given fiscal year may be greater than the amount of vocational center aid, determined by multiplying the verified FTE enrollment by the applicable tiers.

(2) The office, in coordination with the department, would then recommend that the board take one (1) of two (2) actions:

(A) Disperse the excess funding based on need; or

(B) Carry forward the excess to the next fiscal year.

(e)(1) Beginning with fiscal year 2022, and at the close of each fiscal year thereafter, any secondary career center that has a fund balance which exceeds twenty percent (20%) of the current year tiered revenue shall have its fall vocational center aid (VCA) payment reduced by the amount of carryover exceeding twenty percent (20%).

(2) VCA received by a secondary center not expended in accordance with Arkansas Code § 6-51-305 shall be carried forward into the succeeding year for the purpose of conducting summer programs and community-based education centers or supporting secondary technical center operations in succeeding years.

6 CAR § 501-302. Supplemental funds.

- (a)(1) Secondary technical centers may from time to time be eligible for federal funds.
- (2) The Division of Career and Technical Education will inform secondary center directors of these as they become available.
- (b)(1) Secondary technical centers may apply for and receive on their own merit any special grant funds from other agencies.
- (2) All revenue shall be disclosed on the revenue page of the annual expenditure report.
- (3) Funding of secondary centers is not limited to state funding as described above.

Subpart 4. Reports

6 CAR § 501-401. Semester reports.

- (a)(1) The Course/Instructor Reporting Form shall be submitted to the Office of Skills Development each fall and spring.
- (2) The Course Instructor/Reporting Form is available at www.arkansasosd.com.
- (b)(1) Enrollment reports shall be submitted to the office each semester.
- (2) Enrollment will then be verified by using Department of Education eSchool enrollment data.
- (3) The office will distribute the enrollment report forms to each center director annually.

6 CAR § 501-402. Yearly reports.

- (a)(1) The Annual Expenditure Report shall be completed and sent to the Office of Skills Development.
- (2) The Annual Expenditure Report is available at www.arkansasosd.com.
- (b)(1) The Annual Concurrent Credit and Industry Credentials Report shall be completed and sent to the office.
- (2) The Annual Concurrent Credit and Industry Credentials Report is available at www.arkansasosd.com.
- (c)(1) The Annual Proposed Budget shall be completed and sent to the office.
- (2) The budget template is available at www.arkansasosd.com.

Subpart 5. Operations

6 CAR § 501-501. Secondary technical center responsibility.

- (a)(1) The management, maintenance, and operation of a secondary technical center shall be the financial responsibility of the sponsoring institution or entity in accordance with the policies established by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board.
- (2)(A) Expenses associated with the maintenance and operations of a secondary technical center/satellite shall not be paid with vocational center aid funding.
- (B) However, a secondary technical center/satellite that is physically detached from a public school district or state-supported institution of higher education may use vocational center aid funding for the management, maintenance, and operation of the secondary technical center/satellite.

(3) Failure to comply with this policy may result in a reduction of vocational center aid to the secondary technical center.

(b) Failure to properly maintain and operate a secondary center may result in, by recommendation to the board, closure of the center.

(c)(1) Each participating high school shall be guaranteed seats in each program.

(2) The individual school's percentage of tenth grade enrollment calculated from the total tenth grade enrollment of all participating high schools shall be the method used to determine available seats.

(3) Any school not fulfilling its quota shall relinquish the unfilled seats to other schools.