



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge

Memo Information**Memo Number**

LS-16-017

Memo Date

9/3/2015

Memo Type

Administrative

Unit

Learning Services

Regulatory Authority

Learning Services

Response Required

NO

Attention

Superintendents; Principals;

Primary Contact Information

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Memo Text

Act 1260 of 2015, designed to increase high school completion through reengagement programs, recognizes Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge as one pathway toward a high school diploma. The Youth Challenge program is a 22-week residential program with a military foundation that provides students 16-19 years of age a chance to earn their High School Equivalency Diploma (formerly GED) and/or earn credits to return to school to graduate with a high school diploma.

This program teaches students self-discipline, life-coping skills, and provides an alternative school and living environment in order to graduate and move into a career, the military, or higher education. Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge is located on the Camp Joseph T. Robinson campus, and students may apply here: <http://www.aryouthchallenge.org/>.

Pursuant to Commissioner Memo FIN-15-038, a student who is age 16-19 may enroll in the Arkansas National Guard youth Challenge Program and may be counted on the district's Average Daily Membership (ADM). In order to count the student, the student must be currently enrolled in the resident school district at the time he/she is accepted into the Youth Challenge program and must have ended the prior school year at the home district. The student should be carried as active on the roll. No schedule has to be entered and the student is not marked absent. Once the student completes the program, he/she may return to the district even if the student earned his/her GED while in the program. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-202 provides that schools shall be open and free through completion of the secondary program to all persons in the state between the ages of five (5) and twenty-one (21) years of age.

The attachment provides guidance for school counselors and principals for awarding credit upon successful completion of the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge program. The School District still retains the right to award credit as defined in the district policy; however, the list provided includes guidance from ADE for the minimum amount of credit that should be awarded completion of the program.



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The following are recommendations from Arkansas Department of Education for high school graduation credit upon successful completion of the Arkansas National Guard: Youth Challenge. The program is an intense 22-week program that includes academic courses offered by certified teachers.

Mathematics (one of the following)

- .5 unit of Algebra I #430000
- 1 unit of Algebra I Part 1 #430100
- .5 unit of ADE approved elective Math I

Language Arts (one of the following)

- .5 unit of English 9 #410000
- .5 unit of English 10 #411000
- .5 unit of ADE approved Language Arts

Social Studies (one of the following)

- .5 unit of Civics #472000
- .5 unit of Economics #474300
- .5 ADE of ADE approved Social Studies

Science (one of the following)

- .5 unit Physical Science #423000
- .5 unit Environmental Science #424020
- .5 unit ADE approved Science

Health and Safety

- .5 unit JROTC Health #480950

Physical Education

- .5 unit JROTC Physical Education #485950

Career Focus (one of the following)

- .5 unit Leadership & Service Learning #493169
- .5 unit Leadership & Communications #491300
- .5 unit Financial Literacy #491990
- .5 unit of ADE Approved Miscellaneous Credit

The district may grant credit as defined in their local policy and is not limited to the courses listed in this memo.

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