



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Act 478 AR Civics Exam Policy Document

General Guidance for the AR Civics Exam

[A.C.A. § 6-16-149](#) Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, in order to receive a high school diploma from a public school or a high school equivalency diploma from a state entity, a student shall:

- A. Take a test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; and
- B. Correctly answer at least sixty (60) of the one hundred (100) test questions.

A student may retake the test as many times as necessary to achieve a passing score.*

The Arkansas State Board of Education has approved the Arkansas Civics Exam to be delivered as an online multiple choice exam taken through the Triand test delivery system (TDS).

The requirement to test will not apply to a student who:

- 1. Is exempted in accordance with the student's individualized education program (IEP)**;
- 2. Attends school in the Arkansas Correctional School District under [§ 12-29-301 et seq](#); or
- 3. Is over eighteen (18) years of age and seeking a high school equivalency diploma.

* Districts must request a failing score be deleted before a student can retest.

** For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, the IEP team may determine, as guided by data, that there are “not supports available to allow the student access to the Arkansas Civics Exam.” Requests to exempt should be made primarily for students that are, or have been, participating in the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) online assessment, Arkansas’ alternate assessment based on alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) in grades 3-10.

Who must test?

Students enrolled in Arkansas public schools or state entities who are seeking an Arkansas high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma or GED Candidates under eighteen years of age.

- **Do students enrolled in home or private school have to take the exam?** No. Students in a home or private school are not subject to Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) graduation requirements. If a home or private school student transfers to a public school prior to graduation, they will be required to have a passing score on the Arkansas Civics Exam to receive an Arkansas public high school diploma. (The district in which the student enrolls will provide students with a study guide and administer the exam prior to the graduation date.)
- **When can a student take the exam?** Students in grades 9-12 who are currently enrolled or have taken Civics may take the exam. The exam cannot be administered in grades lower than nine.
- **How long does it take to administer the Arkansas Civics Exam?** The exam should take approximately 60-90 minutes to complete if taken in one sitting. A district may choose to administer the exam in one or multiple sittings – whatever is most convenient for the student and the school class schedule.
 - **NOTE:** Students may take the test over multiple days. The test will not automatically score when a student reaches a 60%, rather students will complete the test and submit before a score is reported.

Exam Design and Format

The Arkansas Civics Exam is an online multiple choice exam taken through the Triand test delivery system (TDS). State reporting and transcript updates will be completed daily via Triand.

- **Are districts required to utilize the online assessment provided by ADE?**

Yes - beginning August 2023 districts must utilize the Triand TDS to access and complete the Arkansas Civics Assessment.
- **What should a district do if a student has already completed the civics exam prior to the release of the fall of 2023?**

Scores and completion status from the previous online test delivery system implemented in fall 2018 through spring 2023 will be reflected in Triand under the Completion Status section.

- **How do schools indicate a student has completed the assessment with a score of 60% or better thus meeting the graduation requirement outlined in the law?**

Students who used a test delivery system other than Triand (prior to Fall of 2023) will not have a score reflected in Triand. However, the student's completion status (Pass or Fail) will be updated directly in Triand – meaning that students' transcripts will update with their Met Civics Requirement completion status.

For students who have tested in fall of 2023 to present within the Triand test delivery system, schools will be able to view a percentile report as well as see the student's completions status (Pass or Fail) in Triand - meaning that students' transcripts will update their Met Civics Requirement completion status daily.

Procedures for AR Civics Exam Test Administration

The AR Civics Exam is an individual exam to be administered during the school day. It is a district decision as to when (date, time, specific course) and where (e.g., classroom, computer lab, off-site) the exam will be administered.

The exam is to be administered in the order in which it is organized on the Triand platform, items 1 -100. Once students log in they will be taken through an introductory section and key for symbols used to identify different sections of the exam. If an incorrect response is recorded, students will be taken to a detour. Detours consist of texts providing additional information related to the topic in order to further students' content knowledge. Students will then be able to return to the incorrectly answered question and select another answer. If the correct answer is selected they will proceed to the next question. If an incorrect response is selected after the detour that item will be scored as incorrect. If a student does not receive a passing score (60%), they will be able to retake the exam as many times as necessary until they pass.

- **Can students utilize scratch paper during the exam?** Yes, any used scratch paper should be collected and disposed/destroyed after the exam is complete.
- **Can a teacher help the students answer questions during the exam?** No, the exam is to be taken independently by the student. Teachers may not help or assist students with answering questions. **Under no circumstances should a student have access to a study guide, textbook, or an answer document during the exam.**
- **Does the exam have to be taken during the school day?** Yes, typically the exam will be taken during the school day; however, the school will decide when and where the exam is taken. Students who are attaining a high school equivalency diploma may test at night in their program of study. State policy can also be followed for testing homebound students. For any other questions regarding testing, please contact the Assessment Office.

- **Who can serve as a test administrator?** Any district employee may serve as the test administrator in Triand. Administrators can sign up for a free Triand account but districts are responsible for getting them access to the appropriate affiliation(s) and permissions.
- Test administrators are responsible for understanding and following the information provided in this Civics Policy document and being trained in test security by the district or building test coordinator, and having signed the appropriate ADE Test Security Agreement (for licensed or additional personnel).

AR Civics Exam Accommodations and Accessibility Supports

Test accommodations listed in a student's IEP, LPAC, or 504 plan and which are used regularly in the classroom may be utilized during the civics exam.

The universal supports in the following table are available within the Triand TDS for the Arkansas Civics Exam and can be utilized at the student's discretion:

UNIVERSAL SUPPORT	DETAILS / INFORMATION
Browser Zoom magnification	Integrated part of the local computer browser to enlarge or reduce size of everything on the page.
Increase/Decrease Size of Text/Graphics	Computers, laptops, and tablets provide zoom-in and zoom-out functions. Projection systems, video magnifiers, and smart boards may be used to increase the size of text and graphics. The zoom feature found in web browsers may also be used to reduce the size of text or graphics in order to view more item information on one page.
Text-to-Speech	The words on the screen are read by the device.

If a student requires the following accommodations they may be provided locally.

- Read aloud – the exam questions and responses could be read if students were tested with other students receiving the same accommodation.
 - The test administrator must sign the Reader's Agreement located on the [Assessment LiveBinder](#).
 - Additional information on Human Reader can be found in the [AR PATH manual](#).
- Small group testing –ADE does not determine what constitutes a small group. This is an individual exam and can be administered to a class, partial class, during a course, in sections, over a number of days, weeks, or a semester.
- Extended time is not necessary since the AR Civics Exam exam is not timed and can be administered in sections during more than one sitting. A student has at least two

chances to answer each question correctly and may retake the test as many times as necessary* to receive a passing score.

- Offline - Paper/Pencil - The Arkansas Civics Exam paper booklet must be downloaded from the state [Civics Exam webpage](#) and printed. A study guide, similar document, or otherwise edited assessment will not suffice as a paper exam.
 - Students who take the assessment via paper/pencil will have to have the administrator manually enter the answers into the online platform as a scribe.
 - The person acting as a scribe must sign the Scribe's Agreement located on the [Assessment LiveBinder](#).
 - Additional information on Scribe can be found in the [AR PATH manual](#).
- Any other accommodations regularly used in the classroom setting may be utilized on the AR Civics Exam and may be provided locally.

*If a student does not pass the civics exam, the Office of Student Assessment must be contacted to delete the existing scoresheet before the student can test again. This process can be repeated as many times as necessary.

Revision Log

Changes to this document made after 9/10/2024 are noted in the table below.

Date	Page(s) Affected	Revision Description
12/12/2024	4	Changed section header from <u>AR Civics Exam Accommodations</u> to <u>AR Civics Exam Accommodations and Accessibility Supports</u> 2nd paragraph under section header changed to: The universal supports in the following table are available within the Triand TDS for the AR Civics Exam and can be utilized at the student's discretion: Changed the left column header in the table from ACCOMMODATION to UNIVERSAL SUPPORT.
7/22/2025	N/A	Updated document title to <i>Civics Exam Policy Document 2025-26</i>
7/29/2025	1	Updated Corrections School System to Arkansas Correctional School District per Act 493 of 2021
7/29/2025	4, 5	Updated AR PATH manual link