Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Code of Arkansas Rules.

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Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by: Arkansas Division of Higher Education

Title 6. Education

Chapter IV. Division of Higher Education, Department of Education

Subchapter A. Generally

Part 376. Arkansas Direct Admissions Program

Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 376-101. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Application requirements" means the forms, payments, or activities that are required to be completed by a student to apply to a state-supported institution of higher education as set by each participating institution;

(2) "Eligible student" means a student who resides in Arkansas and attends a public or private accredited high school that has agreed to participate in the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program;

(3) "Enrollment requirements" means the forms, payments, or activities that are required to be completed by a student to enroll in a state-supported institution of higher education as set by each participating institution;

(4) "Participating institution" means a state-supported institution of higher education, community college, or technical college within Arkansas that uses the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program;

(5) "Participating public school" means:

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(A) A public high school within a traditional public school district that is accredited by the State Board of Education;

(B) An open-enrollment public charter school organized as a high school that is authorized by the charter authorizing panel; and

(C) A private high school that is accredited by:

(i) The Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association, Inc., or its successor; or

(ii) Another accrediting association recognized by the state board;

(6) "Provisional admissions criteria" means the minimum academic requirements that a student is required to meet to receive a provisional admissions offer from a participating institution; and

(7)(A) "Provisional admissions offer" means a determination that a student meets admissions criteria.

(B) "Provisional admissions offer" does not mean acceptance to a participating institution.

6 CAR § 376-102. Implementation.

(a) There is established the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program.

(b) The program shall:

(1) Begin implementation with the high school graduating class of 2026-2027;

(2) Establish:

(A) Provisional admissions criteria, including without limitation:

(i) Grade point average;

(ii) Assessment scores; and

(iii) Course completion.

(B) Eligibility requirements for participating institutions that include without limitation:

(i) Application requirements; and

(ii) Enrollment requirements.

(C) Eligibility requirements for participating public schools;

(3) Require the collection of student academic information to determine provisional admissions offers;

(4) Include a common application portal for eligible students to participate in the program that may include without limitation:

(A) Information about participating institutions;

(B) Communication of provisional admissions offers to participating students; and

(C) Information about available financial aid; and

(5) Include a plan to conduct outreach to eligible students to provide the eligible students with information regarding the operation of the program.

(c) This section shall not prevent a student who does not qualify for a provisional admissions offer from applying for enrollment in a participating institution through the participating institution's existing admissions process.

6 CAR § 376-103. Duties of public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools.

(a) A public school district or open-enrollment public charter school may opt to participate in the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program.

(b) A participating public school shall provide student data to the Division of Higher Education that includes without limitation:

(1) Grade point average;

(2) Assessment scores; and

(3) Course completion.

(c)(1) Each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school shall inform all students about participation in the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program.

(2) A public school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall not actively discourage or prohibit an eligible student from participating in the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program.

6 CAR § 376-104. Common application portal.

(a) The common application portal for eligible students to participate in the program shall be known as the AR A.C.C.E.S.S. Portal.

(b)(1) Eligible students may utilize the application portal to apply to participating institutions.

(2) A student may submit up to five (5) applications in an academic year at no cost.