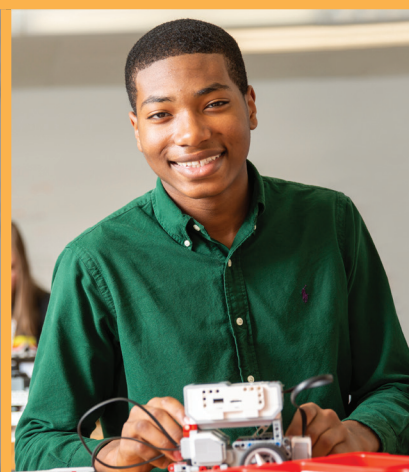




SPARKING INNOVATION, IGNITING GROWTH

ASMSA 2020-2025 Strategic Plan



ARKANSAS SCHOOL
FOR MATH, SCIENCES, + THE ARTS

On March 1, 1991, Governor Bill Clinton signed Act 305 establishing a public residential high school for students interested in advanced careers in mathematics, science, and technology. The idea wasn't new, but it was revolutionary for Arkansas. State leaders in education, public policy, economic development, and industry recognized a changing landscape within the knowledge-based economy. They looked at the successful implementation of the concept of a specialized high school first in North Carolina in 1978 and in other states across the South and Midwest throughout the 1980s.

The school quickly found a sense of purpose and its contribution to education in Arkansas: initially as a community of peers for bright, capable, and even nerdy young people and later as a leader in outreach by promoting best practices through the state's early efforts in distance education, online learning, and teacher professional development. Over time, ASMSA's reach continued to grow. The school has impacted nearly 3,000 Arkansans who were the direct beneficiaries of the residential experience and hundreds of teachers who have been aided by ASMSA's expanded mission. Along the way, a variety of organizations and publications have recognized ASMSA for its national leadership in classroom innovation, lab-based learning, and educator development.

As ASMSA enters its fourth decade of educational excellence, we are excited to renew our commitment to achieving fully the vision for the school, first set in the early 1990s and refined further at the outset of the new century as it became a campus of the University of Arkansas System. We will continue our commitment to addressing local needs, maintaining national prominence, and aspiring to a global vision for what education can be. At the core of ASMSA's 2025 Strategic Plan is the belief that both our academic and residential experiences will continue to evolve, innovate, and flourish under the care of our faculty, staff, and students. Further, we aim to expand both our reach and enrollment to ensure any student who would benefit from ASMSA's dynamic opportunities will have access to our world-class programs. Finally, we recognize that growth can only be accomplished through expanded partnerships, vocal advocates, and committed stakeholders who continue to ensure the institution's funding and facilities are equal in measure to our aspirations.



The members of ASMSA's community of learning understand the special investment the people of Arkansas make in the state's future by supporting and sustaining our school. We take exceptional pride and care in our role as stewards of ASMSA's past, present, and future. Together, we will ensure that ASMSA continues to lead the state and nation in what is possible when students and educators are provided the opportunity to imagine, experiment, and learn to their fullest potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Corey Alderdice".

Corey Alderdice
ASMSA Director

ASMSA MISSION



The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, a campus of the University of Arkansas System, is a public residential high school serving academically and artistically motivated students of all backgrounds from throughout the state. ASMSA's community of learning exemplifies excellence across disciplines while serving as a statewide center of academic equity and opportunity that ignites the full potential of Arkansas' students and educators.

A FOURTH DECADE OF EXCELLENCE

The Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences (ASMS) was established by Act 305 of 1991 and created a residential school for exceptional high school students. The initial purpose of the school was to educate students who demonstrated a gift for STEM disciplines and to develop curriculum that would improve instruction in mathematics and science for all students in Arkansas. The school was originally governed by the Arkansas Department of Education with the advice and counsel of a nine-member governing Board of Directors.

Effective January 1, 2004, the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Science was consolidated and incorporated into the University of Arkansas System. Based on Act 1305 of 2003, oversight authority was transferred to the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas, and the name was changed to the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts (ASMSA). At that time, the Board of Directors was abolished as a separate institution and converted to the current Board of Visitors who serve in an advisory role.

As one of only 17 public residential STEM schools in the United States, ASMSA specializes in the education of students with interest in advanced careers in math and science as well as passion for and creativity within studio, language, and digital arts. All classes are taught at the college level, and nearly half of faculty hold doctoral or other terminal degrees. ASMSA offers more than 60 university level courses through our Concurrent Core program in partnership with the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. On average, an ASMSA graduate acquires nearly 50 college credit hours by the time they finish high school.



Beyond the students in the residential experience, ASMSA collaborates with a variety of schools to provide quality digital instruction to fill gaps in human, technical, and instructional resources. ASMSA's distance, digital, and partnership education efforts, which began through Act 1083 of 1999, have evolved substantially as the STEM Pathways initiative over the past decade while matching innovation with a changing technological landscape as well as statewide need for advanced

coursework in science and math. Coding Arkansas' Future, established in 2015, is ASMSA's signature effort to assist districts across Arkansas in meeting Governor Asa Hutchinson's challenge for increased access to computer science coursework. Since the creation of the governor's initiative, forty percent of all licensed computer science teachers in the state have received some form of professional development from ASMSA.

In 2020, ASMSA undertook a new strategic planning process in anticipation of the school's 30th anniversary. Building on the success of our previous plans developed in 1994, 2004, and 2012, we weave together the past, present, and future to create an intentional and

sustainable plan. This document provides a roadmap to align our daily activities to achieve set objectives while being mindful of decision-making that increases operational efficiency. The 2025 Plan is the result of the boundless passion, commitment, and insights of ASMSA's faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, and friends. Hundreds of advocates gave generously of their time through surveys, focus groups, discussions, and debates that have produced the objectives and strategies that will define ASMSA's work over the next decade.

By 2025, ASMSA will create greater educational access, promote statewide equity, and expand academic vigor that benefits all Arkansans through our residential, out-of-school enrichment, digital learning, and educator development programs. Using novel curricula, meaningful student development experiences, expanded partnership networks, and stronger relationships with our most dedicated advocates, ASMSA will further affirm our state and national leadership in science, mathematics, arts, humanities, and entrepreneurship education.



1 TEACHING + LEARNING

Cultivate a culture of dynamic teaching and learning that empowers young people to identify their passions for research, inquiry, and creative expression, develop the self-discipline necessary for success, as well as grow in their identity as emerging practitioners and professionals.

2 STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Maximize the full potential of the on-campus experience by affirming the centrality of residential life in creating a living-learning community that connects students beyond the classroom, assists in developing them as a whole person, and prepares these future leaders for successful and fulfilling lives through building sustainable skills and mindsets.

3 ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Expand enrollment to serve more students statewide through targeted growth models that reflect our commitment to stewardship of the public investment in ASMSA.

4 PARTNERSHIPS + ADVOCACY

Strengthen internal and external partnerships with local, state, and national stakeholders that create committed and vocal advocates for the essential leadership role that ASMSA plays within Arkansas education as well as economic and community development.

5 FACILITIES EXPANSION

Grow facilities and implement long-range strategies to meet the needs of expanded enrollment, academic experiences, student life, recreation, and community engagement.

TEACHING + LEARNING

Cultivate a culture of dynamic teaching and learning that empowers young people to identify their passions for research, inquiry, and creative expression, develop the self-discipline necessary for success, as well as grow in their identity as emerging practitioners and professionals.

STRATEGY 1

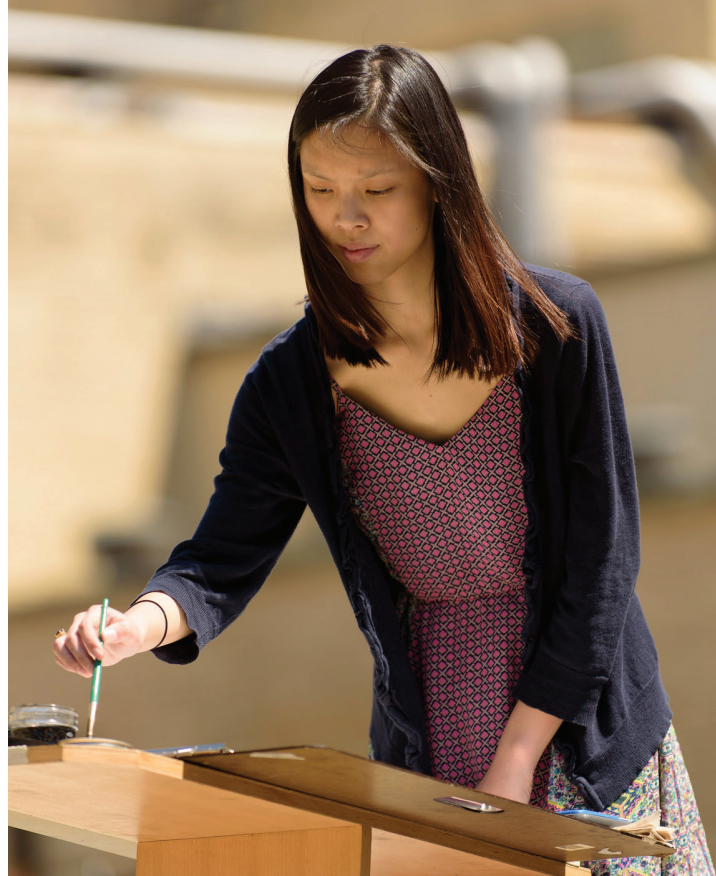
Continue to build on ASMSA's faculty-supported model for student research, inquiry, and creative expression while seeking out expanded partnerships that engage talented young people with leading scholars, professionals, and organizations.

STRATEGY 2

Fully embrace ASMSA's arts mission by expanding an institutional culture of visual and performing arts through encouraging student talents, abilities, and creativity.

STRATEGY 3

Foster inclusive and diverse learning environments through ASMSA's hiring practices, instructional strategies, and student support systems that remove systemic barriers to equity within our community of learning.



STRATEGY 4

Focus on faculty growth and continuous improvement by offering expanded professional development, asserting leadership in instructional strategies, identifying contact points to interact with fellow educators, and sharing our best practices with national audiences.

STRATEGY 5

Provide valuable and engaging learning opportunities to students, educators, and districts across the state through a diverse portfolio of outreach, enrichment, digital learning, and educator development programs that involve all members of the ASMSA community.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Maximize the full potential of the on-campus experience by affirming the centrality of residential life in creating a living-learning community that connects students beyond the classroom, assists in developing them as a whole person, and prepares these future leaders for successful and fulfilling lives through building sustainable skills and mindsets.



STRATEGY 1

Implement a Student Development Curriculum that focuses on social-emotional learning, leadership development, digital citizenship, healthy relationships, and other topics that recognize students' needs as maturing young adults and engaged members of a community.

STRATEGY 2

Ensure that diversity, equity, inclusion, and mutual respect for all characterize our campus culture and climate.

STRATEGY 3

Emphasize healthy habits as important components of physical well-being through campus programming and activities that support play, physical development, and balanced nutrition.

STRATEGY 4

Create an atmosphere conducive to healthy conversations about mental and emotional well-being by providing student-centered services and programs that address the natural challenges of both adolescence and the rigors of the ASMSA experience.

STRATEGY 5

Invest in staffing models and resources that reinforce the professionalism of and essential role played by Student Life Staff who employ best practices in fostering an inclusive and engaging residential community.

STRATEGY 6

Continue to involve students as full stakeholders in discussions on institutional policy and campus planning so that decision making is student-centered.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Expand enrollment to serve more students statewide through targeted growth models that reflect our commitment to stewardship of the public investment in ASMSA.



STRATEGY 1

Work with members of the Arkansas General Assembly, University of Arkansas System, and other ASMSA stakeholders to develop and implement a sustainable funding formula that enables the school to increase enrollment.

STRATEGY 2

Strengthen curricular options, methods of engagement, and unique experiences for students in the arts while developing recruitment and admissions procedures directed toward students with specific arts interests.

STRATEGY 3

Explore alternative enrollment models such as commuter options and online programs that recognize students' and families' individual needs, thereby increasing access to ASMSA's quality programs.

STRATEGY 4

Continue the sophomore early entrance pilot program to determine its overall effectiveness and potential for future expansion as a means of supporting students in need of academic acceleration and intellectual peers.

STRATEGY 5

Continue to ensure equity in access for geographically, economically, and racially diverse students who face opportunity gaps and do not share the same level of preparatory experiences and support as some of their peers.

PARTNERSHIPS + ADVOCACY

Strengthen internal and external partnerships with local, state, and national stakeholders that create committed and vocal advocates for the essential leadership role that ASMSA plays within Arkansas education as well as economic and community development.

STRATEGY 1

Develop a framework for alumni to share perspective and experience that supports students' personal and professional development in addition to institutional advancement.

STRATEGY 2

Reinforce to legislators and other leaders the value of the state's commitment to talented young people so that the decision-makers understand their return on investment in ASMSA.

STRATEGY 3

Utilize the ASMSA Parents Association and Parents Advisory Council to promote direct communication, gain insights on family needs, and represent ASMSA daily in communities across the state.

STRATEGY 4

Expand ASMSA's position in the Hot Springs community as a hub for educational discussions, cultural enhancement, intellectual debate, and economic development.

STRATEGY 5

Prioritize fundraising efforts to reflect the ASMSA Foundation's commitment to direct student support, faculty innovation, programmatic development, and facilities needs.

STRATEGY 6

Explore methods to reach varied audiences by using traditional and evolving media to provide a snapshot of daily life and learning on campus, celebrate achievement, and articulate a full narrative of the unique opportunities and experiences available exclusively at ASMSA.





FACILITIES EXPANSION

Grow facilities and implement long-range strategies to meet the needs of expanded enrollment, academic experiences, student life, recreation, and community engagement.



STRATEGY 1

Review and update the Campus Master Plan to redevelop a facilities growth pathway in accordance with institutional needs.



STRATEGY 2

Initiate efforts to expand ASMSA's dedicated arts facilities in collaboration with community partners that lead to the full realization of the school's legislated arts mission.



STRATEGY 3

Formalize steps that will lead to vacating the former hospital complex by creating a plan to transfer teacher offices, maintenance, and other programs to permanent locations using new or existing facilities.

STRATEGY 4

Expand and create student residences as well as shared and recreational spaces to fully support the emotional, social, physical, and academic needs of students.

STRATEGY 5

Advocate for the creation of a Public Residential Schools Facilities Fund by the Arkansas General Assembly that brings ASMSA into parity with other public high schools.

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ARKANSAS SCHOOL

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