



GRADUATE ARKANSAS

Charter High School

Charter Renewal Presentation

Presented to the Arkansas Charter Authorizing Panel | June 18, 2026

Katie Hatley, Ed.S. - Superintendent

Our Mission & Values

OUR MISSION Graduate Arkansas Charter School provides personalized learning opportunities to re-engage disconnected students and empower them to earn a high school diploma that unlocks pathways for lifelong success.



Student Centered

Every decision puts students first



Perseverance

We instill hope and resilience



Respect

Mutual trust and positivity



Accountability

Ownership through data-driven decisions



Community

Holistically supports student needs through partnerships

The Students We Serve

Graduate Arkansas refers to its students as "At-Promise" - not "At-Risk."

1



Opted Out

Youth who left traditional high school and have no clear path back

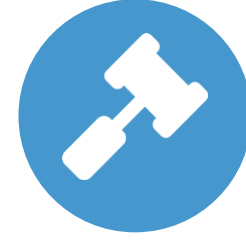
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Over-Age, Under-Credit

e.g., 17 years old with only 6 credits earned toward graduation

3



Re-entering Society

Returning from incarceration or the juvenile justice system

4



Young Parents

Students balancing the demands of parenting alongside their education

5



Working to Support Family

Need flexible scheduling built around employment obligations

Our model is built to serve every profile - no waiting list, no student turned away.

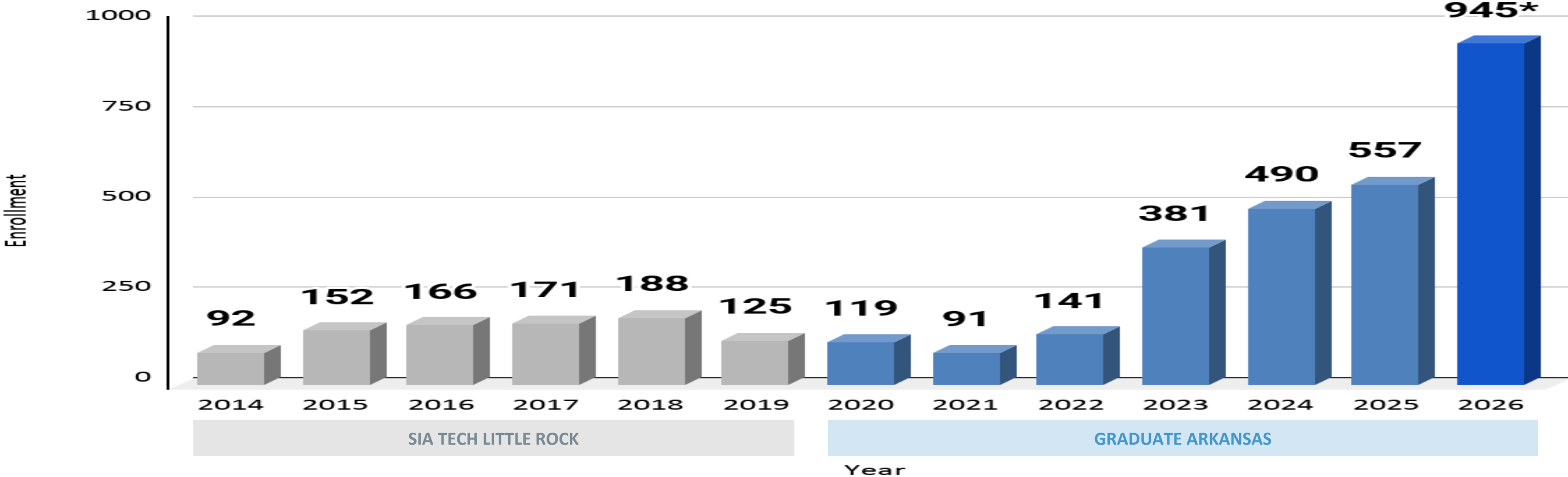
Sustained Institutional Impact

945
Highest Reported Enrollment
2025–2026

50+
Arkansas Counties
Reached

10x
Enrollment Growth
Since 2021

347
Total Graduates
as of May 4, 2026



*2025–26 highest reported enrollment as of Feb 2026 | Source: Arkansas LEA Insights / eSchool

How the Model Works

Flexible. Mastery-Based. Wraparound.



Open Entry & Open Exit

Students enroll daily. No waiting period. No semester start requirements.



Mastery-Based Learning

Students advance by demonstrating proficiency - not seat time.



Accelerated Pathway

Students earn a diploma on their own timeline by demonstrating readiness.



Success Coaches & Advisors

A success coach and advisor is assigned on day one to carefully guide each student on their educational journey.



Virtual + Hybrid + Onsite

57% virtual · 43% hybrid. Students choose the modality that fits their lives.



Wraparound Support

Partnerships with juvenile justice agencies, employers, libraries, and community partners.

Operational Health

15 years of strong operational performance heading into the renewal term.



Zero Audit Findings

Graduate Arkansas has maintained clean financial and compliance audits with zero findings



Cognia Accredited

An independent, nationally recognized external validation of academic quality and continuous improvement - affirming that Graduate Arkansas meets rigorous standards beyond state requirements



Best Growth Scores

Recognized by University of Arkansas Office for Education Policy for best growth scores in ELA in 2021 and Math in 2018



Statewide Partnerships

Active relationships with juvenile justice agencies, and community organizations across Arkansas that support our mission in serving students



Stable and Specialized Leadership

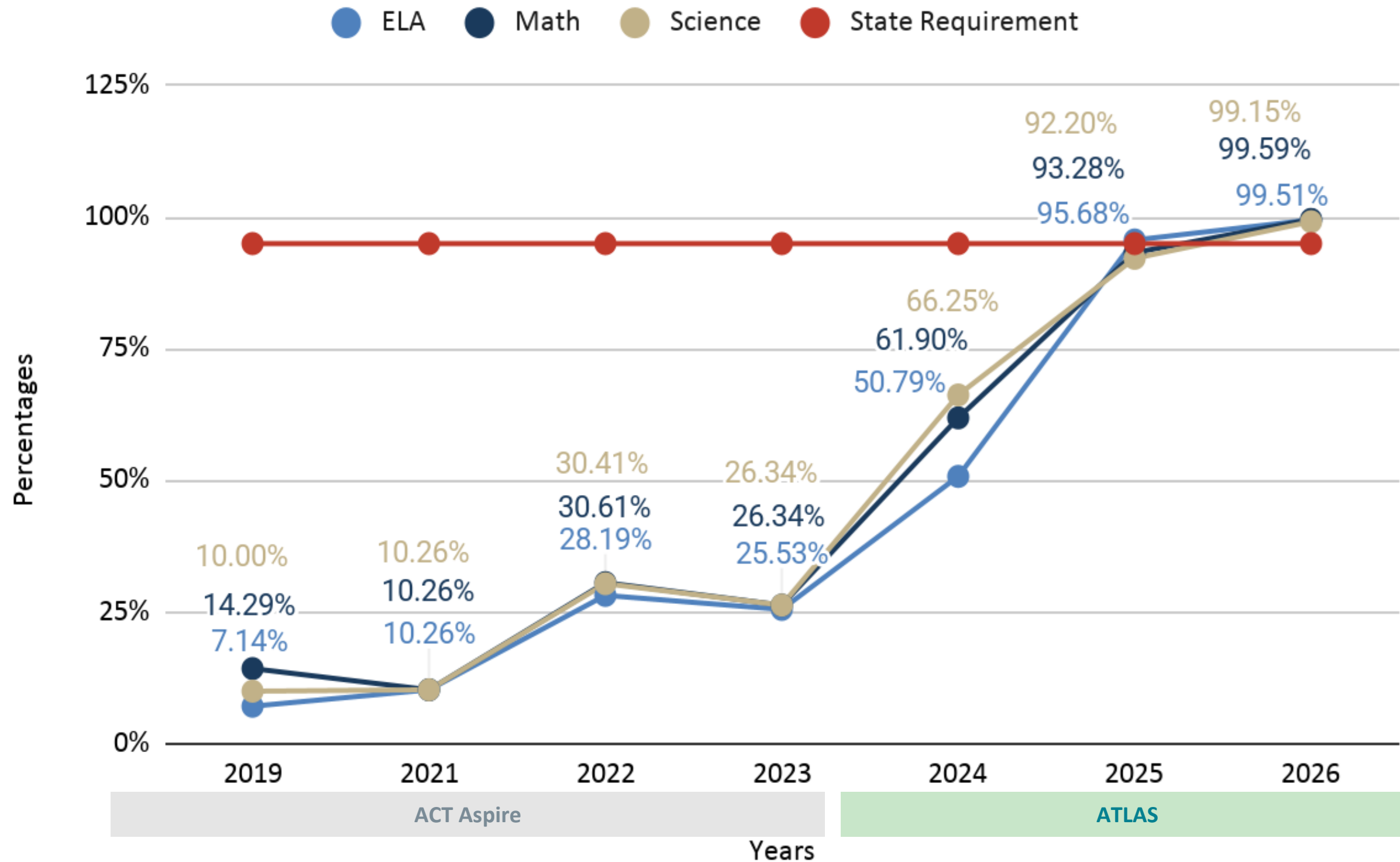
Founding Principal to foundational Superintendent - Acquired Dropout Prevention Specialist (2025) and Trauma Skills Specialist (2026) certifications. Continuity of vision drives continuity of outcomes



"Beating the Odds" Recognition

Recognized by the University of Arkansas Office for Education Policy for academic growth in ELA (2021) and Math (2018 & 2025) on the state assessment

Testing Participation: A Turnaround Story



ELA

99.5%

up from 7.1%

MATH

99.6%

up from 14.3%

SCIENCE

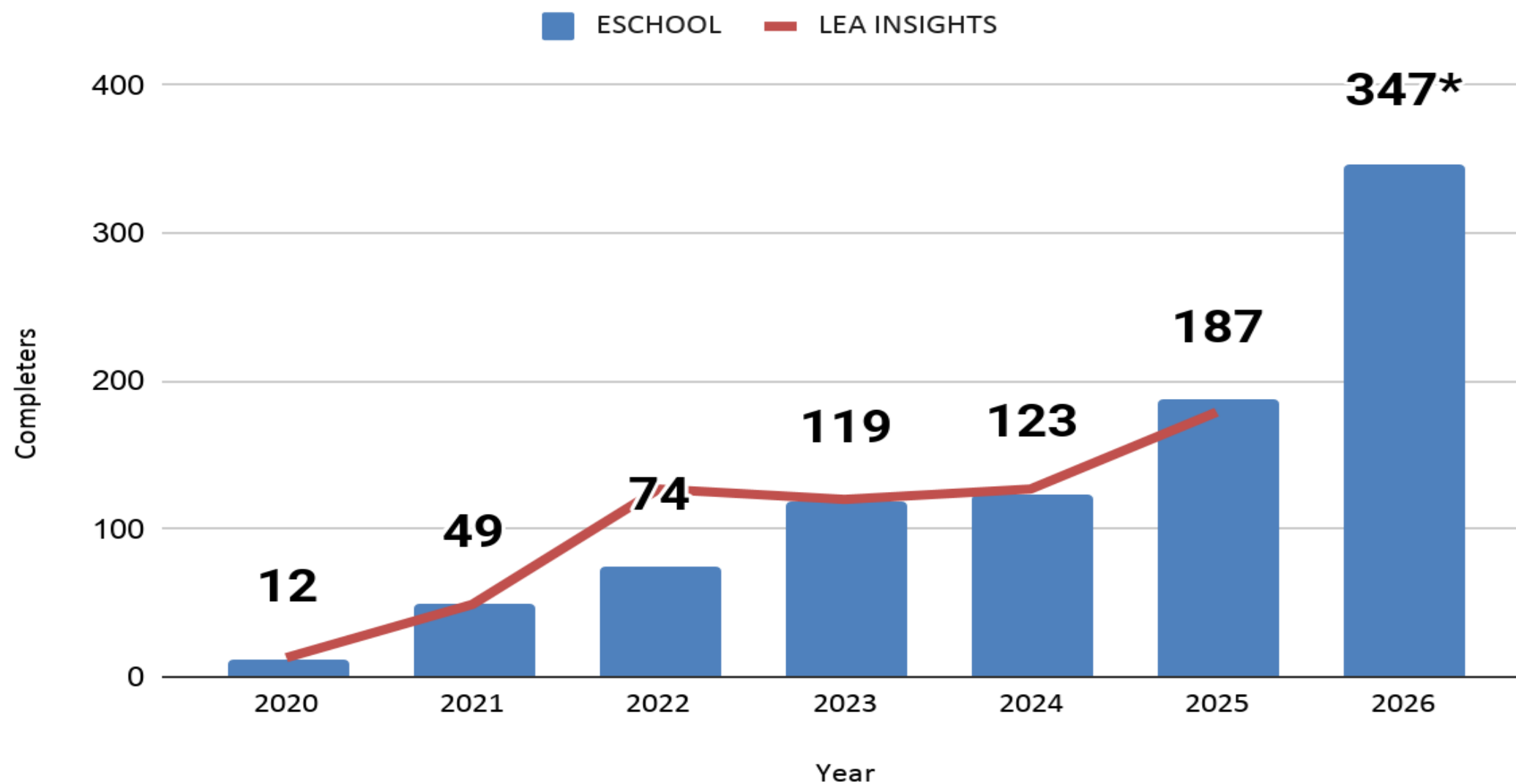
99.2%

up from 10.0%

— State requirement: 95% of eligible students must be tested

Graduate Performance in Context

Graduates (2021–2026)



7x Graduate growth since 2021

Why We Measure All Graduates

Arkansas's graduation rate formula credits the district where a student **started high school** - not the school from which they graduate and it only tracks a four-year period.

We track ALL students that complete our program regardless of age or cohort. Graduate Arkansas finishes what others could not.

This methodology more accurately measures our actual impact.

*2025–26 projected from May 22, 2026 ceremony. Data pulled from eSchool.

2026–2027 Improvement Plan



Already in Motion — 2025–26 Evidence

- ✓ Testing participation — exceeds 95% state requirement
- ✓ 347 graduates — record high, 7× growth since 2021

1 Accelerate Literacy Growth

- › Reduce Level 1 ELA from 53% toward Level 2+
- › 75% of identified students receiving documented weekly intervention
- › ATLAS writing readiness instruction for 60+ affected students

2 Increase Math Proficiency

- › Increase Level 3/4 math from 19% to 22%
- › 60% of math students progressing at or above expected pace
- › Formalized Tier 2 & Tier 3 intervention for Level 1–2 students

3 Strengthen Student Engagement

- › Reduce dropped-student rate from 10% to 5%
- › Increase weekly assignment completion by 15% over baseline
- › Expand Success Hub access in high-need regions

4 Expand Postsecondary Transition

- › 80% of graduates exit with a documented post-graduation plan (up from 20%)
- › Grow student participation in workforce, military & credential pathways
- › Align with Arkansas LEARNS college and career readiness framework

Why Graduate Arkansas Matters

Traditional educational models are built for students who never leave. **Graduate Arkansas** is built for the ones who did.

Recovery is not just a **second chance**, it is an opportunity to **finish what is started**. Our students do not lack potential, they lack access to a **school designed for them**.

Our **wraparound support, open entry/open exit model,** and **one-on-one coaching** gives every student, regardless of what interrupted their academic journey, **a real, structured pathway** back to a **obtaining a high school diploma**.

Closing this gap is our passion.
We were built for this.



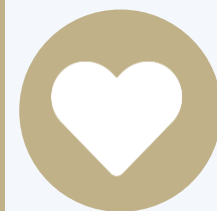
Demand

10× enrollment growth since 2021. Families across 50+ counties choose Graduate Arkansas because nothing else serves their children.



Operational strength

Zero audit findings. Cognia accredited. Stable leadership. Clean financial and governance record.



Built for the Long Term

Every structure, partnership, and commitment we have made is designed to serve students not just today, but for the decade ahead.

Community Voice

Speaking in Support of Charter Renewal — June 18, 2026



Attorney Brenda Stallings

Public Defender

In Person



Mireya Reith

Founding CEO, Arkansas United

Virtual



Gary Bartlett

Parent

In Person



Sherley Perez

Former Graduate

In Person



John Morrill Gray

Parent

In Person



Rubi Ponce Lugo

Current Student

Virtual



Sherry Bailey

Parent

In Person



Jonathan Boykin

Parent

In Person

Our Commitment

Graduate Arkansas Charter High School | Charter Renewal 2026



Continued measurable progress in literacy, mathematics, science, and postsecondary transition



Continued investment in the students, staff, and community partnerships that make Graduate Arkansas the only school of its kind in Arkansas



Continued record of growth and accountability that earns, year by year, the confidence this panel has placed in us