October 2025 | VOLUME 2 ISSUE 8

In the Know *with APSRC*

TOP NEWS

APSRSC Secures $61 Million Federal Grant

We are excited to announce that APSRC has been awarded a $61 million grant over five (5) years from the U.S. Department of Education!

APSRC Math and Science Specialists Host First Official Professional Learning Days

Sherry Washington, APSRC Science Specialist, and Justin Warner, APSRC Math Specialist, hosted their first professional learning days since joining the APSRC staff!

Upcoming Training Sessions

Preparing Students for Success on the Math ATLAS
October 14, 2025
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
APSRC Little Rock Office

The ABCs of IEPs: Achievement, Belonging, and Compliance
October 14th, 2025
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
APSRC Little Rock Office

Leveling Up Learning: Using ALDs to Drive Success for All Students
October 15, 2025
8:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
APSRC Little Rock Office

DOK & Rigor
October 16, 2025
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
APSRC Little Rock Office

Designing for Success: UDL Supports for the Lowest 25%
October 23, 2025
8:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
APSRC Little Rock Office

SEE MORE UPCOMING EVENTS





APSRC
Arkansas Public School Resource Center

APSRC Secures $61 Million Federal Grant to Expand High-Quality Charter School Access



The Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC) is proud to announce it has been awarded a $61 million grant over five (5) years from the U.S. Department of Education under the Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program – Grants to State Entities. Funding will be available on a competitive basis to support both planning and implementation with a maximum subgrant period lasting up to three (3) years.

Of the total award, $55,000,000 will be distributed as subgrants to eligible charter schools and developers across Arkansas to support the launch, expansion, and replication of high-quality charter schools that serve diverse student populations. This funding represents a transformative opportunity to empower parents and schools by increasing access to quality public school educational choice and innovation statewide.

“This grant is a powerful endorsement of APSRC and the broader work of education statewide,” said Scott Smith, Executive Director of APSRC. “We are honored to partner with the U.S. Department of Education to expand access to high-quality open enrollment and district conversion charter schools.”

To read the full press release, click here.

From Points to Proof, From Passion to Practice: Elevating Math and Science Instruction with Justin Warner and Sherry Washington



This summer, Arkansas Public School Resource Center introduced two dynamic additions to our instructional team—Justin Warner, our math specialist, and Sherry Washington, our science specialist. Both educators bring deep expertise and a passion for empowering teachers, and they’ve already made a powerful impact with their first official professional learning days.

Justin Warner: From Points to Proof
On Wednesday, October 1, Justin Warner led a transformative session titled “From Points to Proof: A Complete Journey in Geometry Instruction.” Designed for junior high and high school geometry educators, the event explored transformations inside the geometry curriculum—from the ALDs to the foundational concepts and teaching strategies.

With 33 educators in attendance, the session featured hands-on activities, collaborative problem-solving, and discussions around best practices for building geometric reasoning. Justin’s approach emphasized conceptual clarity, visual modeling, and the importance of connecting geometry to real-world contexts. Teachers left with fresh strategies, renewed confidence, and a toolkit of resources to elevate their classrooms.

Sherry Washington: Preparing Students for Success on the Science ATLAS
Just two days later, on October 2, Sherry Washington hosted her first professional learning day: “Preparing Students for Success on the Science Atlas.” This session focused on equipping educators with the tools and strategies needed to guide students through the Science Atlas assessment—a key benchmark in science proficiency.
An impressive 72 educators participated in the session, which blended data analysis, instructional planning, and content review with a strong emphasis on inquiry-based learning. Teachers explored how to scaffold complex scientific concepts, integrate cross-cutting themes, and foster critical thinking. Sherry’s energy and clarity made the day both informative and inspiring, setting a high bar for science instruction moving forward.

One particularly meaningful moment came when Brennan Price, one of Sherry’s former students, attended the session as a fellow educator. Now a 7th grade science teacher at eStem, Brennan shared, “Thank you for being a light in my life, and being one of the best representations of what an amazing teacher is.” After the session, he added, “I got the chance to be a 7th grade student again. Ms. Washington, you were PHENOMenal—thank you for pouring into all of us today! Being in a room with over 118 years of teaching experience can be overwhelming in a good way.” His words were a powerful testament to Sherry’s lasting impact as both a teacher and mentor.

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Scott Smith
APSRC Executive Director



Kaitlyn Tolleson
Director of Communications

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Have any insights, stories, or updates you'd like us to feature on our social media, newsletter, or blog?

We’d love to hear from you! Send your submissions to comms@apsrc.net.