



LITTLE ROCK

7400 Scott Hamilton Drive | Little Rock, AR 72209

98 STUDENTS 14 STAFF

Information below is based on student data as of August 17, 2018



WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

The Excel Center focuses on the student’s education and what comes after graduation. Relationships with life coaches and instructors; rigor in completing credits with our accelerated curriculum; facilitated coursework and extended class periods; and relevance through hands-on work experiences set our students on a positive path for a successful future.

- Schedules are year-round with eight-week terms to help students earn their diploma faster.
- Morning and afternoon class schedules are offered Monday through Thursday, with Fridays available for extra tutoring and support.
- Free child care and transportation assistance are available.
- Highly qualified instructors facilitate learning in language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science.
- Every student is assigned a life coach. Life coaches help students overcome life-barriers and personal issues. Coaches keep students engaged and help navigate career or college preparation plans.

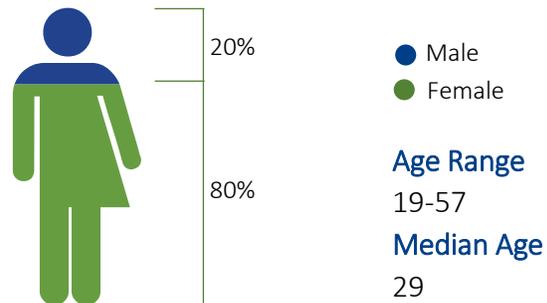
The Excel Center is fully funded and operated by Goodwill Arkansas Education Initiatives, the non-profit created by Goodwill Industries of Arkansas.

ABOUT

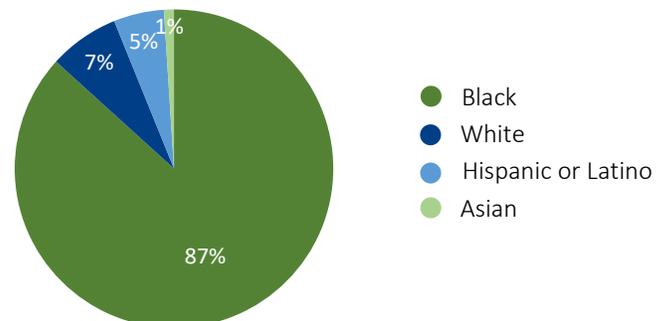
The Excel Center at Goodwill opened on October 16, 2017 and is a free public high school that provides adults the opportunity to earn an Arkansas high school diploma. In addition to a high school diploma, students may earn industry-recognized certificates and/or college credits towards undergraduate degrees at local colleges and universities at no cost to them. The Excel Center enrolls students ages 19 and over who live in Arkansas and do not have a high school diploma.

SCHOOLWIDE DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER

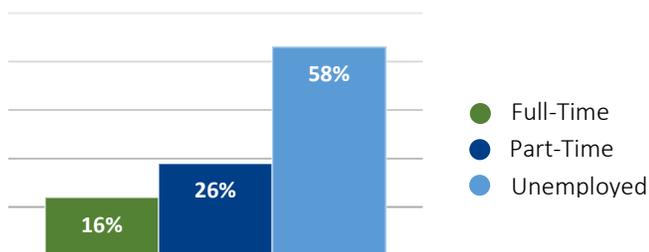


RACE

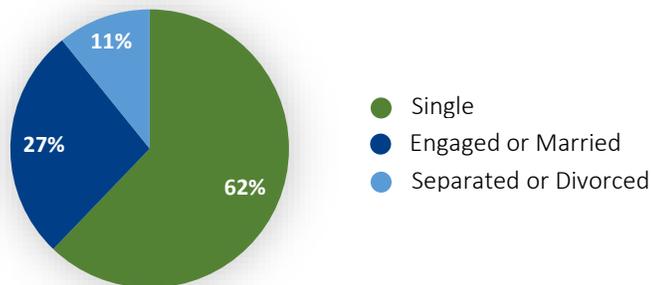


www.GoodwillAR.org/Excel
501-372-5100 | Excel@GoodwillAR.org

EMPLOYMENT STATUS AT ENROLLMENT



FAMILY LIFE



BARRIERS

55%
self-reported
a barrier

Childcare (30%) and **Transportation** (20%) are the most common barriers.

65%
receiving public
assistance

Medicaid (47%) and **SNAP** (36%) are the most common type of assistance.

34%
without reliable
internet access

34% of students do not have home internet or WiFi.



70%
of students
have children



39%
of students are
single parents



3
Average
Household Size

HISTORY

The Excel Center at Little Rock was the eighteenth school opened using this model by Goodwill organizations across the nation. In 2010, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana saw a need for an alternative high school – a place where adults could go to obtain a full high school diploma, not a general education equivalent (GED) certificate.

There are currently schools in Arkansas, Indiana, Tennessee, Texas and Washington, DC. Schools are being planned in Missouri and Maryland, and legislation has been passed in Illinois. There will be 26 operating Excel Centers throughout the United States during the 2018-2019 school year.

The Arkansas Legislature passed Act 1200 of 2015, which allowed the implementation of an adult high school in the State. Goodwill Industries of Arkansas, Inc. is currently fully funding the Little Rock school at an annual cost of \$1.6M per year. The Excel Center at the Goodwill Resource Center in Little Rock expects the first graduates in December 2018.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Standards for Accreditation provide service and general support designed to assist and ensure that an essential educational foundation is established and maintained in each public school district, charter school, and special population school within the state of Arkansas. The Excel Center opened its doors on October 16, 2017, and, as of the date of this report The Excel Center has not achieved accreditation. Goodwill Arkansas Education Initiatives is committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure a quality education for all students. Accreditation is expected in the 2018-2019 school year. The Excel Center policies, programs, and goals may be found online at www.GoodwillAR.org.

OUTCOMES FOR 2017-2018

The Excel Center had seven major goals for the first year of school. Outcomes of efforts to achieve these goals is below.

- 1. Meet State Accreditation Standards for The Excel Center.** The Excel Center opened in October 2017 and was only able to provide four terms of instruction in the school year instead of the planned five. While accreditation was not awarded in 2017-2018, it is anticipated in 2018-2019.
- 2. Develop an advisory council to provide input from the community and students.** An advisory council was formed with members from the community, including employers and service providers. The first meeting was held in May 2018 and will meet on a quarterly basis.
- 3. Establish agreements with two- and four-year institutions of higher education for concurrent enrollment opportunities for students.** Meetings have been held with UA Pulaski Technical College to establish an agreement for concurrent credit. Issues related to alignment of the eight-week term used by The Excel Center with the traditional college semester term at UA Pulaski Technical College has presented some logistical issues that are being resolved. Eligible Excel Center instructor staff have been identified to teach the courses.
- 4. Expand short-term training offerings which lead to industry-recognized credentials.** The Academy at Goodwill has expanded course offerings from two to eleven and will be made available to Excel Center students. Course offerings include Forklift Safety Certification; Certified Business Professional with certification focus in customer service, business communication, business etiquette and professionalism, leadership, and sales; Mental Health Paraprofessional, OSHA 30, CPR/AED, Environmental Service Technician, and Hospitality and Tourism.
- 5. Develop a community outreach plan to inform the public about the educational opportunities at The Excel Center.** The Family and Community Engagement plan is available at www.GoodwillAR.org/Excel
- 6. With supports, students will achieve an 80 percent mastery of coursework to advance to the next course level.** This benchmark has been implemented and during the 2017-2018 school year, students earned 259 credits towards graduation requirements.
- 7. 60 percent of graduates will have earned either an industry-recognized credential or college credit.** All students will be enrolled in a credential program within the last two terms of their education at The Excel Center. Students will also take a senior seminar class that will assist them with their career and education goals after leaving The Excel Center.

GOALS FOR 2018-2019

1. Meet State Accreditation Standards for The Excel Center
2. Improve technology use within the classroom to provide inclusive instruction that engages every student in authentic learning experiences.
3. Monitor student progress diagnostically and plan instruction after thorough and thoughtful data analysis to ensure each student reaches proficiency.
4. Establish agreements with two-and four-year institutions of higher education for concurrent enrollment opportunities.
5. Develop a community outreach plan to inform the public about the educational opportunities at The Excel Center