



Bentonville
Schools

GATEWAY

2026 - 2027

Gateway Handbook

District Vision

**LEADING Learning through innovation,
collaboration, and dedication**

Core Beliefs

Students are THE CORE

We are committed to:

- Collaboration
- Ongoing Learning
- Relationships
- Engaged Learners

District Mission

**Bentonville Schools is committed to
excellence in all we do through
innovative, inspiring learning
experiences.**



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District Contact Information

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ESL Center

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Special Services Center

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Student Services Center

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Transportation Department

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Gateway Contact Information

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Overview of Gateway

Gateway is an educational program designed to provide additional support for students who are not experiencing academic and social success in a traditional high school setting. At Gateway, the educational experience is tailored to meet the individual needs of each student. Through individualized learning plans, students engage in goal setting that fosters personal responsibility and encourages meaningful growth.

Students at Gateway are expected to take ownership of their success by maintaining consistent attendance, actively engaging in their learning, and developing effective communication and collaboration skills. These expectations help create and sustain a positive and supportive learning environment for all.

The objectives of Gateway are to:

- Promote the development of soft skills that support success in college and career settings
- Establish a safe and secure environment for all students
- Improve student attendance
- Support credit recovery and progress toward graduation
- Empower students to recognize that success and growth are achievable
- Foster a sense of belonging within the school community

Gateway Daily Procedures

Gateway operates on a 5x5 period schedule, meeting five days a week. Students attend the same five classes each day, with each class having a maximum of 15 students per class and last 65 minutes, throughout a nine-week term. This structure allows students to earn up to 2.5 credits toward graduation requirements every nine weeks

Once a student arrives on campus, they are expected to remain at school until they are officially checked out or dismissed at the end of the school day. All Gateway classes and programs are located in the South Building; students should not be in the North Building. Students who arrive before the first bell may wait in the Gateway Commons, where breakfast is available.

Gateway follows all district policies and procedures for daily expectations, including but not limited to cell phone use, student ID requirements, dress code, and student behavior.

Gateway Mission

Mission: At Gateway, we strive to create a safe, supportive school community through personalized instruction and targeted interventions, equipping students with essential skills to achieve their post high school goals.

Absences

Under Arkansas Compulsory Attendance law, students are required to attend school regularly. At Gateway, attendance resets each 9-week quarter due to our unique instructional calendar. Students are allowed up to 11

absences per quarter. Reaching 11 absences may result in a loss of credit, and excessive absences could lead to a FINS case filed through the Benton County Juvenile Court system.

Students are expected to be in class when the bell rings. Arriving late results in a tardy, intentionally missing class or being in a location without permission will result in truancy, and missing more than half of the class period counts as an absence. We strongly encourage parents/guardians to communicate with the school regarding student absences and to reach out if challenges arise that impact attendance.

Bell Schedule

Advisory	8:55-9:30
1st Period	9:33-10:40
2nd Period	10:43-11:13
Lunch	11:13-11:43
2nd Period	11:43-12:25
3rd Period	12:28-1:35
4th Period	1:38-2:45
5th Period	2:48-3:55

Check In/Out

Any time a student arrives to school after the 8:55 tardy bell, they are required to go to the front office to check in. If a student has early out or a class off campus they must go to the front office to check out prior to leaving campus.

Parents are required to checkout students at the Gateway office. Please provide documentation of the absences so that attendance accurately reflects the absence. Students cannot check themselves out without a parent speaking to an administrator to verify the absence of the student. A student who is over 18 is required to have a form on file that allows them to check out without parent consent.

Discipline

Gateway follows Bentonville Schools High School Disciplinary Rubric.

Early Graduation

Early graduation is a possibility at the end of any quarter if a student has earned all credits required for graduation from Bentonville Schools. This decision will be made following a meeting with the student, parents/guardians, school administration, and the school counselor. There is no guarantee of early graduation simply by attending Gateway, and no exceptions will be made regarding the completion of required coursework for credit. While each student is provided with a personalized graduation plan, it is the student's responsibility to complete all requirements. Regardless of when a student fulfills all graduation requirements, they will participate in the commencement ceremony at their home school and will receive their official diploma.

Enrollment and Entry Criteria

Acceptance into Gateway is based on both student need and program availability. The Gateway referral process begins at the student's home campus, where school staff partner with families to submit a referral. The Gateway Placement Committee then reviews each application to determine if the program is an appropriate fit.

If accepted, a meeting with the family is scheduled for a required in-person entry meeting. During this meeting, a student action plan is created with at least two goals, a credit check is completed, and course selections are made. Gateway staff also use this time to better understand how to support the student's success. Following the entry meeting, the student is officially enrolled in Gateway.

To be eligible for acceptance into Gateway, students must meet at least two identified risk factors.

Risk Factors	Risk Factors
Not enrolled/Dropout risk	Transitioning from an ALE
Recurring absenteeism	Family Issues
Homeless	Receiving mental health services
Teen Parent	Abuse: Physical, mental, sexual
Highly mobile	Disruptive behavior
Credit Deficient	Deficient math and literacy levels

Lunches

Breakfast and lunch are provided at Gateway. Students use their same lunch identification numbers as used at their home school. Since Gateway is a closed campus, students are not allowed to leave for lunch. In addition, students are not allowed to check out for lunch. Repeated permission to check out at lunch will result in a conference with the family to reexamine the enrollment contract and student goals for placement at Gateway. Students can bring their lunch from home.

Mental Health

We recognize that a change in educational setting is often influenced by unmet social, emotional, or mental health needs. Upon enrollment at Gateway, students are required to complete an enrollment assessment to help identify areas of support.

If students and families are interested in receiving mental health services, the school counselor can provide a referral to a school-based agency. Students who participate in school-based therapy will meet with their therapist during the school day, eliminating the need to be checked out for off-campus appointments. Please note that the cost of school-based therapy is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. If you are interested in a referral or would like more information, please contact the school counselor.

Programs Offered at Gateway

Night School

- High levels of independent learning skills to success courseware on the Edmentum platform.
- Ability to provide their own transportation to and from night school.

- Students must attend in person on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00-6:00.
- Night School is recommended for students with 17 or more credits, a parent meeting with the principal will be required for any student with less than 17 credits and will be on a 1 quarter trial.

Advisory

Students will spend 35 minutes each morning with their assigned advisory teacher. During this time, students will receive daily announcements, address any immediate needs, and participate in health and wellness activities and discussions. Advisory provides an important opportunity for students to build meaningful connections with Gateway staff and is designed to foster a supportive mentoring relationship between each student and their teacher.

Gateway follows the district-approved advisory curriculum, which includes all state-required lessons. Advisory time is essential to each student's success, as it provides structured support in understanding graduation requirements while also helping equip students with the skills needed for post-high school readiness. Throughout the year, advisory is also used to support individual student success by reviewing goals, monitoring graduation progress, addressing GPA concerns, and making adjustments to class schedules as needed.

RTI

RTI (Response to Intervention) is a structured support time that takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Advisory. This time is dedicated to remediation and academic support within the school day. During RTI, teachers identify students who need additional assistance with missing assignments, skill development, or content remediation. Students are then directed to work with those specific teachers to receive targeted support.

Transportation/Parking

Bentonville High School (BHS) students will ride their regular bus to and from Gateway. Bentonville West High School (BWHS) students will be transported daily via a shuttle service. West students will ride their regular bus route from home to their main campus, where they will then board a shuttle to Gateway. At the end of the school day, BWHS students will be transported from Gateway back to their home via bus.

For specific shuttle times and pick-up locations at the main campus, please refer to the BusQuest system. Gateway also offers designated student parking on the BHS campus. To purchase a parking pass, students should see Ms. Tadda in the Gateway office. Students who drive to school without a valid parking pass are required to park in the baseball lot.

Transition and Exit from Gateway

Gateway is a choice program for students. While student choice is an important component of the program, there are circumstances in which administration may determine that transitioning a student back to their home campus is appropriate.

When a student meets their established goals, a transition meeting will be scheduled to review progress and determine next steps. This may include setting new goals within Gateway or planning a transition back to the student's home campus.

Students who consistently choose not to attend school or refuse to actively participate in their education may be transitioned back to their home campus. Gateway is an intervention program and may not be the correct placement for all students. We want to find the best placement so each student can thrive.

Disclaimer

These policies, regulations, and procedures are subject to change without notice by the administration. Every attempt has been made to include every detail of the student's educational experience at Gateway.

Student Handbook Purpose

Annual Consent and Agreement

The Student Handbook answers questions regarding policies, practices, and procedures of the Bentonville School District. The information contained in the handbook is a valuable guide to both parents and students. A committee of parents, teachers, and administrators reviews the handbook each year to be sure appropriate information is included. Changes in law or board policy may occur during the school year; the most current school board policies can always be found online at [Bentonville Schools](#)>Leadership>Board of Education>Policies.

We encourage parents to call a school administrator if they have questions. Bentonville Schools provides a School-Parent Compact for parental involvement outlining the responsibilities of parents, students, and school staff in raising academic achievement and in building partnerships enabling students to meet state academic standards. A copy of this document is available at Parent/Teacher Conferences, the Back-to-School Event, and on our website.

After reviewing the handbook please complete, sign and submit the “Annual Consent and Agreement” form in your parent [Etrieve](#) account.

Bentonville Schools Student Policies

Gateway follows the Bentonville Schools High School Student Handbook. All student policies can be found online in the student handbook.