

Hall of the House of Representatives
95th General Assembly - Fiscal Session, 2026
Amendment Form

JBC 04/21/26 (1.c)

Subtitle of House Bill 1005

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027
FISCAL YEAR.

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 1005

Amend House Bill 1005 as originally introduced:

Page 4, delete lines 26 and 27 in their entirety and substitute:

" ~~(13) PQA04P QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR/EXP 2 GRADE SCS08~~
~~(14) FCM03C GRANTS MANAGER 1 GRADE SCS07~~"

AND

Page 4, line 29, delete "27" and substitute "26"

AND

Page 4, delete line 35 in its entirety and substitute:

" ~~(22) PQA01P QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR 9 GRADE SCS07~~"

AND

Page 5, delete line 2 in its entirety and substitute:

" ~~(25) EEP05P EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST 1 GRADE SCS06~~"

AND

Page 5, line 3, delete "12" and substitute "9"

AND

Page 5, line 8, delete "28" and substitute "23"

AND

Page 5, line 14, delete "24" and substitute "22"



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AND

Page 5, delete line 23 in its entirety and substitute:

" ~~(46) EEPO6P EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR/EXPERT~~ ~~3~~ ~~GRADE SCS10~~"

AND

Page 5, line 27, delete "335" and substitute "308"

AND

Page 5, line 33, delete "eight (8)" and substitute "seven (7)"

AND

Page 6, line 11, delete "\$13,840,817" and substitute "\$13,520,917"

AND

Page 6, line 13, delete "4,879,844" and substitute "4,756,796"

AND

Page 6, line 15, delete "3,411,057" and substitute "3,399,057"

AND

Page 6, line 16, delete "60,000" and substitute "56,500"

AND

Page 6, line 20, delete "\$22,476,718" and substitute "\$22,018,270"

AND

Page 8, delete SECTION 10 in its entirety

AND

Page 14, line 30, delete "\$277,487,318" and substitute "\$309,487,318"

AND

Page 21, immediately following SECTION 31, insert the following:

" SECTION 32. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 6-18-722 is amended to read as follows:

6-18-722. Free and reduced-price meals – Definitions.

(a) Federal funds appropriated to the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture for a child nutrition program shall be used to provide school breakfasts and lunches at no cost to each qualifying student.

(b)(1) A public school that serves a school breakfast or a school lunch as part of a child nutrition program shall not charge a qualifying student a reduced-price copayment for a school breakfast or a school lunch.

(2)(A) If necessary to comply with the requirements of this section, the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture shall provide funds that have been disbursed to the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture from the United States Government for purposes of funding child nutrition programs to each public school that serves a school breakfast or a school lunch as part of a child nutrition program to cover the cost of eliminating reduced-price copayments as required by subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

(B) If federal funds appropriated to the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture for a child nutrition program are insufficient to provide a school breakfast or a school lunch at no cost under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section, the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture shall use funds as authorized by law to provide a school breakfast or a school lunch not initially covered by federal funds under subsection (a) of this section or other funds as authorized by law.

(c)(1) Annually by November 15, the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture shall report on and provide to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education an overview of each child nutrition program offered in public schools.

(2) The report required under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall include without limitation:

(A) The procedure for applying for free or reduced-price meals in public schools; and

(B) The number of students who:

(i) Apply for free or reduced-price meals;

(ii) Are accepted to receive free or reduced-price meals;

(iii) Are denied from receiving free or reduced-

price meals; and

(iv) Automatically qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on federal eligibility requirements.

(d)(1) Arkansas Legislative Audit shall audit the Department of Education Child Nutrition Unit by December 15, 2023, and report the audit findings to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education.

(2) The audit required under subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall determine whether each public school's participation in a child nutrition program effectively:

(A) Serves the intent of the General Assembly to expand students' access to free meals in public schools; and

(B) Complies with federal and state law and rules.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) "Child nutrition program" includes the following as established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2023:

(A) The National School Lunch Program; or

(B) The School Breakfast Program; and

(2) "Qualifying student" means a kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) student enrolled in a public school who is eligible for receipt of a reduced-price meal in a child nutrition program.

(f)(1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each school year thereafter, a public school student who is not a qualifying student under this section and does not receive a free breakfast through any local, state, or federal program shall be provided one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day upon his or her request without consideration of his or her eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal.

(2)(A) If necessary to comply with the requirements of subdivision (f)(1) of this section, the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture shall provide funds that have been disbursed to the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture from the United States Government for purposes of funding child nutrition programs to each public school to cover the cost of providing one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day to each public school student who is not a qualifying student under this section.

(B) If federal funds appropriated to the ~~department~~

Department of Agriculture for a child nutrition program are insufficient to cover the cost of providing one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day to each public school student who is not a qualifying student, the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture shall use funds as authorized by law to cover the cost of providing one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day to each public school student who is not a qualifying student.

(C) The cost of providing one (1) breakfast shall not exceed the rate of reimbursement to public schools established by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq., and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. § 1771 et seq., for a free school breakfast.

(g) The ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture may promulgate rules to implement this section.

SECTION 33. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 19-27-341(c)-(f), concerning the Food Insecurity Fund, are amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) By July 31 each fiscal year:

(A) The Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture shall submit a certification to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State of the amount expensed by the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture the prior fiscal year to comply with § 6-18-722(b) to eliminate a charge to students for a reduced-price copayment for a school breakfast or a school lunch, which shall be reviewed by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State; and

(B) The Department of Human Services shall submit a certification to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State of the estimated amount required to fund the state matching funds requirement for the federal Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children, commonly known as "Summer EBT", for the current fiscal year, which shall be reviewed by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

(2) After reviewing the certifications submitted under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may deny, modify, or approve the certifications based on the:

- (A) Estimated amount of funding needed and available;
- (B) Purpose; and
- (C) Preferred spending priority.

(3) Based on the certifications from the Department of ~~Education~~

Agriculture and the Department of Human Services in subdivision (c)(1) of this section, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall instruct the Treasurer of State to transfer those amounts on a pro rata basis to the fund or fund accounts designated by the Secretary of the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture and the Secretary of the Department of Human Services.

(d) Any unexpended balance of moneys in the fund accounts designated by the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture and the Department of Human Services to be allocated for the purposes under subsection (c) of this section that are remaining at the end of each fiscal year shall be designated and retained for the purposes under subsection (c) of this section for the following fiscal year, and certifications required under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall be adjusted to reflect the remaining balances.

(e) After making the transfers under subdivision (c)(3) of this section, the Treasurer of State shall then transfer the remainder of the balance of the Food Insecurity Fund to the fund account designated by the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture to be used by the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture to comply with § 6-18-722(f).

(f) Any unexpended balance of moneys in the fund account designated by the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture allocated for the purposes under subsection (e) of this section that are remaining at the end of each fiscal year shall be designated and retained for the purposes outlined under subsection (e) of this section for the following fiscal year."

AND

Appropriately renumber all SECTION numbers of the bill.

The Amendment was read _____
By: Joint Budget Committee
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Chief Clerk