

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2025-085

REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY
CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES WITHIN THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, during the course of each biennial adequacy study, the House
Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Education have consistently
found that instructional aides in public schools are the items accounting for
the most expenditures from foundation funds that is not part of the
foundation funding matrix proposed in the biennial 2024 Adequacy Study Final
Report; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Adequacy Study Final Report revealed that
instructional aides accounted for the highest percentage (38%) of non-matrix
item spending from foundation funds, with schools having spent two hundred
thirty-one million, nine hundred forty-nine thousand, one hundred eighty-
seven dollars (\$231,949,187) on instructional aides during 2023; and

WHEREAS, during the 2014 biennial adequacy study, the House Committee
on Education and Senate Committee on Education were presented with a report
by consultants Odden and Picus discussing two (2) studies that demonstrated
the increased effectiveness of instructional aides if the instructional aides
provide individual tutoring services to students,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE NINETY-FIFTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee on Education study instructional aides in this
state, including without limitation:

(1) The impact of raising salaries for instructional aides to
increase retention, fill open positions, and establish an additional means to
ensure adequacy;

(2) The student benefits of having instructional aides who are

bilingual;

(3) The duties instructional aides should maintain to be effective and resourceful;

(4) The training requirements for instructional aides; and

(5) The costs associated with adding instructional aides to the calculation of foundation funding that is distributed to public school districts.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Diana Gonzales Worthen
District 9

Prepared by: TNL/TNL

