

Annual Report to House & Senate Committees on Education
Progress in Implementing Nutrition & Physical Education Standards

March 2016

In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-135(f), the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) submit this report annually on progress of implementing nutrition and physical education standards to the chairs of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education. Act 1079 of 2015, enacted by the 90th General Assembly, made revisions to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-130 and 6-16-132, and Act 846 of 2015, enacted by the 90th General Assembly, made revisions to Ark. Code 20-7-134. These changes required revisions to ADE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools. With involvement from the Child Health Advisory Committee, ADE drafted revised rules. The revised rules were first approved for public comment by the State Board of Education on November 12, 2015. Following a second round of public comment, the rules have been submitted to the State Board of Education for final approval. As required in Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-135(f)(2), these revised rules are hereby submitted to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education for review.

Revisions to the rules include:

- Changes to requirements for physical education in Arkansas public schools;
- Alignment of Arkansas nutrition standards with federal “Smart Snacks” regulations;
- Revisions to allow school districts to provide for entrepreneurial student projects prior to the start of the first classes of the day;
- Clarification of certain language in order to expand opportunities for schools to provide healthy snacks through the U.S.D.A.’s Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program and on testing days;
- Clarification of certain language in order to provide guidance to schools related to the serving and selling of food and beverages that addresses both health concerns and hunger concerns of Arkansas students; and
- Removal of obsolete language.

Respectfully submitted,
Cory Biggs
ADE Staff Attorney