

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1874

5 By: Representative B. McKenzie  
6 By: Senator B. Davis  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING ACT OF  
10 2003; TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING  
11 THAT IS USED BY THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND  
12 SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING  
13 COMMUNITIES; TO REQUIRE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
14 FUNDING THAT EXCEEDS THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT AWARDED TO  
15 PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO BE USED  
16 TO IMPLEMENT ACTS 2023, NO. 237, ALSO KNOWN AS THE  
17 "LEARNS ACT"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
18  
19

## Subtitle

20  
21 AN ACT TO AMEND THE USE OF PROFESSIONAL  
22 DEVELOPMENT FUNDING THAT EXCEEDS THE  
23 MAXIMUM AMOUNT AWARDED TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
24 FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS UNDER THE  
25 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING ACT OF 2003.  
26

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
28

29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(5), concerning professional  
30 development funding under the Public School Funding Act of 2003, is amended  
31 to read as follows:

32 (5)(A) For each school year, professional development funding  
33 shall be equal to an amount of up to forty-one dollars (\$41.00) multiplied by  
34 the school district's previous school year average daily membership.

35 (B) Funding for professional development for teachers in  
36 Arkansas public schools required under the Teacher Excellence and Support



1 System, § 6-17-2801 et seq., other law or rule, or by the school district  
 2 shall be used for professional development activities and materials that:

3 (i) Improve the knowledge, skills, and effectiveness  
 4 of teachers;

5 (ii) Address the knowledge and skills of  
 6 administrators and paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional  
 7 strategies, methods, and skills;

8 (iii) Lead to improved student academic achievement;  
 9 and

10 (iv) Provide training for school bus drivers as  
 11 outlined in rules promulgated by the Commission for Arkansas Public School  
 12 Academic Facilities and Transportation.

13 (C)(i) ~~For the 2023-2024 school year and each school year~~  
 14 ~~thereafter, additional funding up to sixteen million five hundred thousand~~  
 15 ~~dollars (\$16,500,000) provided for professional development~~ Funding provided  
 16 above the maximum amount in subdivision (b)(5)(A) of this section shall be  
 17 used by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for the  
 18 ~~development and administration of professional learning communities for the~~  
 19 ~~benefit of public school districts~~ implementation of the LEARNS Act to  
 20 improve student academic outcomes.

21 (ii)(a) The division may distribute funds under  
 22 subdivision (b)(5)(C)(i) of this section through grants to eligible entities.

23 (iii) The Division of Elementary and Secondary  
 24 Education ~~shall~~ may promulgate rules to administer the additional  
 25 ~~professional development~~ funding under subdivision ~~(b)(5)(C)(i)~~ (b)(5)(C) of  
 26 this section.

27 ~~(b) The Division of Elementary and Secondary~~  
 28 ~~Education may partner with or choose a person, firm, corporation, or~~  
 29 ~~education service cooperative to provide the knowledge, skills, experience,~~  
 30 ~~and expertise for the development of a research-based process for the~~  
 31 ~~implementation of professional learning communities.~~