

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S3/17/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 88

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL
YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - GENERAL OPERATIONS. There is hereby
established for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education
for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular
employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	U024U	DHE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SE05
(2)	D022N	IT SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	1	GRADE IT09
(3)	D012C	DATABASE SPECIALIST	2	GRADE IT08



1	(4) D007C INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER	2	GRADE IT08
2	(5) D028C SENIOR SOFTWARE SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT07
3	(6) D016C SENIOR TECHNOLOGY ANALYST	1	GRADE IT06
4	(7) G281C ADE POLICY & SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS15
5	(8) N002N DHE SENIOR ASSOC DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS15
6	(9) N069N ADE SPECIAL ADVISOR	1	GRADE GS14
7	(10) N055N DHE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS14
8	(11) A010C AGENCY CONTROLLER II	1	GRADE GS13
9	(12) N054N DHE CAREER PATHWAYS DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS13
10	(13) N167N DHS POLICY & RESEARCH DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS12
11	(14) A027C ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS MANAGER	1	GRADE GS11
12	(15) G058C DHE FEDERAL PROGRAM MANAGER	2	GRADE GS11
13	(16) E061C ACE PROGRAM COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS10
14	(17) G071C DHE PROGRAM COORDINATOR	6	GRADE GS10
15	(18) E062C ACE PROGRAM ADVISOR	2	GRADE GS09
16	(19) G102C DHE PROGRAM SPECIALIST	18	GRADE GS09
17	(20) G080C NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SVCS EXEC. DIR.	1	GRADE GS09
18	(21) G295C OSTEOPATHIC RURAL MED PROG ADMIN	1	GRADE GS09
19	(22) G147C GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
20	(23) G180C GRANTS ANALYST	1	GRADE GS06
21	(24) A084C PROGRAM/FIELD AUDIT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS06
22	(25) C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	1	GRADE GS04
23	(26) C073C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS03
24	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	52	

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26 SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - GENERAL OPERATIONS. There is hereby
 27 authorized, for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education
 28 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or
 29 temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds
 30 appropriated herein for such purposes: fifteen (15) temporary or part-time
 31 employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the
 32 Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act
 33 for the appropriate classification.

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35 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL OPERATIONS. There is hereby
 36 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division

of Higher Education Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - General Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$2,367,990
(02) EXTRA HELP	75,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	777,058
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	909,346
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	49,659
(C) PROF. FEES	25,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	50,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) STATEWIDE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROMOTION	<u>295,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$4,549,053</u></u>

SECTION 4. EXTRA HELP - STATE BOARD OF PRIVATE CAREER EDUCATION. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - State Board of Private Career Education for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: two (2) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF PRIVATE CAREER EDUCATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Private Career Education Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - State Board of Private Career Education - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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1	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
2	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$163,983
3	(02) EXTRA HELP	20,000
4	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	55,427
5	(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
6	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	63,000
7	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	4,000
8	(C) PROF. FEES	6,000
9	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
10	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
11	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$312,410</u></u>

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13 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS AND VARIOUS
 14 SCHOLARSHIPS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education,
 15 to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for providing
 16 student assistance grants and various scholarships as provided by law of the
 17 Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Student Assistance
 18 Grants and Various Scholarships for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the
 19 following:

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21	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
22	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
23	(01) ARKANSAS FUTURE GRANTS	\$5,000,000
24	(02) NATIONAL GUARD TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	1,400,000
25	(03) SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	175,000
26	(04) STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM	4,000,000
27	(05) TEACHER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM	2,500,000
28	(06) AR GEOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL NEEDS	
29	MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS	150,000
30	(07) DEPENDENTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, ETC. SCHOLARSHIPS	1,000,000
31	(08) DEPENDENTS-KIA'S, MIA'S, POW'S, ETC.	4,500,000
32	(09) GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION	
33	TRANSITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	2,000,000
34	(10) SREB MINORITY DOCTORAL SCHOLARS	175,000
35	(11) WASHINGTON CENTER SCHOLARSHIPS	150,000
36	(12) TUITION ADJUSTMENT	350,000

1	(13)	AR ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIPS	25,000,000
2	(14)	AR GOVERNOR'S SCHOLAR	22,000,000
3	(15)	STUDENT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (SURF)	<u>150,000</u>
4		TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$68,550,000</u></u>

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6 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - TECHNICAL EDUCATION - FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

7 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable
 8 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the
 9 State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of
 10 Education - Division of Higher Education - Technical Education - Federal
 11 Programs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

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13	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
14	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
15	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$139,791
16	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	49,594
17	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
18	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	108,271
19	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	80,000
20	(C) PROF. FEES	157,000
21	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
22	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
23	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$534,656</u></u>

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25 SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. There is
 26 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the
 27 Research Development Fund, for providing Arkansas Research Development
 28 Program Grants to Institutions of Higher Education by the Department of
 29 Education - Division of Higher Education - Research Development Program for
 30 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

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32	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
33	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
34	(01) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS	<u><u>\$750,000</u></u>

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36 SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - HEALTH EDUCATION GRANTS AND LOANS. There is

hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for payments of contracts and loans with participating out-of-state institutions of higher learning in the fields of dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, and podiatry for the education of Arkansas citizens by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Health Education Grants and Loans for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) CHIROPRACTIC AID	\$260,000
(02) DENTAL AID - GRANTS	2,950,000
(03) OPTOMETRY AID - GRANTS	650,000
(04) PODIATRY AID	130,400
(05) VETERINARY AID FORGIVENESS PROGRAM	1,750,000
(06) DENTAL AID - LOANS	987,370
(07) OPTOMETRY AID - LOANS	140,000
(08) VETERINARY MED. LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM	<u>250,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$7,117,770</u></u>

SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$269,233
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	32,865
(C) PROF. FEES	63,932
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) SCHOLARSHIPS	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$416,030</u></u>

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - PRIVATE CAREER EDUCATION BOARD - CASH.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Private Career Education Board - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$9,500
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	6,000
(C) PROF. FEES	5,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$20,500</u></u>

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - STUDENT PROTECTION TRUST. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Private Career School Student Protection Trust Fund, for expenses, claims and fees of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - State Board of Private Career Education - Student Protection Trust for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) EXPENSES/CLAIMS/FEES	<u><u>\$300,000</u></u>

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - TANF PROGRAM - FEDERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services, operating expenses, grants and aid by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - TANF Program - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$292,016
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	100,134
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	80,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	60,000
(C) PROF. FEES	70,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) SELF SUFFICIENCY/JOB TRAINING GRANTS	6,547,850
(05) ENROLLMENT AND EDUCATION	<u>3,000,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$10,150,000</u></u>

SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - WEB BASED APPLICATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses associated with web based applications of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Web Based Applications for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) WEB BASED APPLICATIONS PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES	<u><u>\$500,000</u></u>

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Scholarship Administration for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$282,079

1	(02) EXTRA HELP	10,000
2	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	107,174
3	(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
4	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	285,000
5	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
6	(C) PROF. FEES	30,000
7	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
8	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
9	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$714,253</u></u>

SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION - WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2015. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 Fund, for workforce education grants, administrative and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2015 EXPENSES	<u><u>\$8,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - VETERAN'S APPROVING AGENCY - FEDERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Veteran's Approving Agency - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$239,841
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	88,427
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	53,546
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	9,623
(C) PROF. FEES	0

1	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
2	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
3	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$391,437</u></u>

SECTION 18. APPROPRIATION - AMERICORPS - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division of Higher Education Fund Account, for personal services, operating expenses, and grants and aid by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - AmeriCorps - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$324,617
(02) EXTRA HELP	30,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	126,827
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	363,650
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	85,650
(C) PROF. FEES	2,500
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) GRANTS AND AID	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$983,244</u></u>

SECTION 19. APPROPRIATION - AMERICORPS - GRANTS AND AID. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division of Higher Education Fund Account, for grants and aid by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - AmeriCorps - Grants and Aid for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) GRANTS AND AID	<u><u>\$2,010,704</u></u>

SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION - OSTEOPATHIC RURAL MEDICAL PRACTICE STUDENT

LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan & Scholarship Program loans and/or scholarships by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan & Scholarship Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) OSTEOPATHIC RURAL MEDICAL PRACTICE STUDENT LOANS/SCHOLARSHIP	<u>\$400,000</u>

SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY EXPANSION BOARD. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Graduate Medical Education Fund, for planning grants to eligible entities for graduate medical education residency program expansion or new programs, and for board expenses and reimbursements of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY EXPANSION BOARD	<u>\$10,000,000</u>

SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION - HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES GRANTS AND EXPENSES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for grants for scholarships to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and for personal services and operating expenses as determined by the Division of Higher Education for outreach programs to promote awareness of those scholarships of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - HBCU Grants and Expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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1	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
2	(01) HBCU GRANTS AND EXPENSES	<u>\$4,000,000</u>

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4 SECTION 23. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS TEACHER ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP

5 PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be

6 payable from the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program Fund, for

7 scholarships, personal services, and operating expenses necessary to create

8 and maintain the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program by the

9 Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Arkansas Teacher

10 Academy Scholarship Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the

11 following:

13	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
14	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
15	(01) AR TEACHER ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	<u>\$12,000,000</u>

16

17 SECTION 24. APPROPRIATION - SUSTAINABLE BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

18 FOR STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. There is hereby

19 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the

20 Sustainable Building Maintenance Program for State-Supported Institutions of

21 Higher Education Revolving Loan Fund, for transfers or loans to a state-

22 supported institution of higher education for deferred maintenance, critical

23 maintenance, or renovation of state-owned property of the Department of

24 Education - Division of Higher Education - Sustainable Building Maintenance

25 Program for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education for the fiscal

26 year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

28	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
29	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
30	(01) LOANS	<u>\$4,555,985</u>

31

32 SECTION 25. REGULAR SALARIES - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

33 *There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of*

34 *Higher Education - Northwest Technical Institute for the 2025-2026 fiscal*

35 *year, the following maximum number of regular employees.*

				Maximum Annual
				Salary Rate
				Fiscal Year
Item	Class	No. of		
No.	Code	Title	Employees	2025-2026
(1)	NWT10C	NWTI DIRECTOR	1	\$169,298
(2)	NWT07C	NWTI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	2	\$127,195
(3)	NWT19P	NWTI NURSE INSTRUCTOR	6	\$124,726
(4)	NWT06P	NWTI AMMONIA & INDUST TRAIN SUPV/EXPERT	1	\$112,976
(5)	NWT12P	NWTI EDUC PROG SUPV/EXPERT	3	\$112,976
(6)	NWT01P	NWTI ACCOUNTANT II	1	\$95,564
(7)	NWT09P	NWTI CAREER & TECH FACULTY II	7	\$95,564
(8)	NWT05P	NWTI AMMONIA & INDUST TRAINER	2	\$93,367
(9)	NWT21P	NWTI USER SUPPORT ANALYST	2	\$89,613
(10)	NWT08P	NWTI CAREER & TECH FACULTY I	28	\$86,876
(11)	NWT11P	NWTI EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	3	\$84,879
(12)	NWT13P	NWTI EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	\$84,879
(13)	NWT15P	NWTI HR COORDINATOR	1	\$84,879
(14)	NWT20P	NWTI TRAINER	3	\$84,879
(15)	NWT17P	NWTI MAINT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	\$77,163
(16)	NWT02P	NWTI ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	2	\$70,148
(17)	NWT03P	NWTI ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	5	\$63,770
(18)	NWT14P	NWTI FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	\$63,770
(19)	NWT16P	NWTI HR SPECIALIST	1	\$63,770
(20)	NWT18P	NWTI MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	3	\$57,973
(21)	NWT04P	NWTI ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	4	\$52,703
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES			79	

SECTION 26. EXTRA HELP - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Northwest Technical Institute for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: one hundred thirty-five (135) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 27. APPROPRIATION - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - STATE.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Northwest Technical Institute Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Northwest Technical Institute - State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,199,793
(02) EXTRA HELP	453,411
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,199,110
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	668,564
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	44,866
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$5,565,744</u></u>

SECTION 28. APPROPRIATION - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - FEDERAL.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Northwest Technical Institute - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$82,696
(02) EXTRA HELP	171,492
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	47,690
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	14,278
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0

1	(C) PROF. FEES	0
2	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
3	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
4	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$316,156</u></u>

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6 SECTION 29. APPROPRIATION - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - CASH.

7 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable
 8 from cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code §19-4-801, for personal services
 9 and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher
 10 Education - Northwest Technical Institute - Cash for the fiscal year ending
 11 June 30, 2026, the following:

12

13	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
14	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
15	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,005,551
16	(02) EXTRA HELP	556,450
17	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	440,606
18	(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
19	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,894,530
20	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	15,000
21	(C) PROF. FEES	275,000
22	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	200,000
23	(E) DATA PROC.	0
24	(05) RESALE	<u>325,000</u>
25	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$4,712,137</u></u>

26

27 SECTION 30. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
 28 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

29 DHE - REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Upon
 30 determination by the president or chancellor of an institution of higher
 31 education that a reallocation of resources for purposes of reorganization or
 32 consolidation of administrative functions within the institution is necessary
 33 for efficient and effective operations of the institution, the president or
 34 chancellor, with approval of the institution's board of trustees, may have
 35 the authority to transfer positions, appropriations and related funds between
 36 campuses, divisions, branches, and other budgetary units of the institution,

1 after receiving prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget
2 Committee. The transfers of positions, programs, or activities shall be used
3 for those purposes for which the appropriations were approved by the General
4 Assembly. The transfers, consolidations, or reorganizations which involve
5 academic programs shall be reviewed by the Division of Higher Education prior
6 to submission to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee. Provided,
7 however, that the institution shall be limited to submitting no more than two
8 (2) individual transaction transfer requests during any fiscal year and shall
9 be further limited to no more than five percent (5%) of the total General
10 Revenue and Special Revenue appropriation, funding, positions specific to
11 each institution, and no Tobacco Settlement funds or appropriations may be
12 reallocated pursuant to this section.

13 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of
14 appropriation and general revenue funding for institutions of higher
15 education each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This
16 is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation
17 act(s) for institutions of higher education and the general revenue
18 allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the
19 Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that
20 institutions of higher education may operate more efficiently if some
21 flexibility is provided to institutions of higher education authorizing broad
22 powers under this section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate
23 that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of
24 the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this
25 section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint
26 Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement
27 of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled
28 unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is
29 void.

30 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2024
31 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

32
33 SECTION 31. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
34 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
35 DHE - BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND. After the sum of \$13,200,000 has been
36 deposited into the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund, any additional

1 deposits are to be transferred to the Research Development Fund there to be
2 used as provided by law.

3 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2024
4 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

5
6 SECTION 32. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
7 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

8 DHE - TRANSFER PROVISION. Upon certification by the Director of the Division
9 of Higher Education that transfers are needed to make maximum utilization of
10 funds and appropriations provided for financial aid programs, and with the
11 approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and a review by the
12 Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, funds and
13 appropriations may be transferred between financial aid programs to more
14 adequately align the appropriation with the number of eligible students.

15 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2024
16 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

17
18 SECTION 33. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
19 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

20 DHE - TRANSFER OF HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS FUND APPROPRIATIONS - HEALTH
21 EDUCATION GRANTS AND LOANS. Upon certification to and with the approval of
22 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, surplus funds and appropriations may
23 be transferred between the appropriations provided for "Health Education
24 Grants and Loans" by this Act by the General Assembly for Dental Aid Grants
25 and Loans, Optometry Aid Grants and Loans, Veterinary Aid, Veterinary Med.
26 Loan Forgiveness Program, Podiatry Aid, and Chiropractic Aid.

27 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2024
28 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

29
30 SECTION 34. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
31 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

32 DHE - CONTINGENCY APPROPRIATIONS - TRANSFERS AND REPORTS. (a) Upon approval
33 by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education and the Chief
34 Fiscal Officer of the State, institutions of higher education may transfer
35 appropriation from the cash contingency appropriation to any other
36 appropriation made to the institution from cash funds including the

1 establishment of commitment items, and may transfer appropriation from the
2 contingency appropriation made payable from each institution's State Treasury
3 Fund to the state operations appropriation made payable from each
4 institution's State Treasury Fund including the establishment of commitment
5 items, and may transfer appropriation from the contingency appropriation made
6 payable from the Tobacco Settlement Program Fund Accounts to any other
7 appropriation made to the institution from Tobacco Settlement Program Fund
8 Accounts including the establishment of commitment items.

9 (b) Contingency appropriation transfers shall only establish and
10 supplement commitment items that were recommended by the Higher Education
11 Coordinating Board in the budget manuals presented to the Legislative Council
12 and Joint Budget Committee.

13 (c) The Department of Education - Division of Higher Education shall
14 report contingency appropriation transfers and the establishment of any
15 commitment items authorized by this Section to the Legislative Council or
16 Joint Budget Committee for review during its July meeting. The report shall
17 include, by institution, the establishment of, and the amounts transferred
18 to, each commitment item, the reasons therefor and the source of funds.
19 Institutions shall submit contingency appropriation transfer and commitment
20 item establishment requests authorized by this Section to the Division of
21 Higher Education no later than July 1. Upon the failure of an institution to
22 submit the required information by the July 1 deadline, the Department of
23 Education - Division of Higher Education shall immediately notify by written
24 notification the chairpersons of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget
25 Committee.

26 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
27 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

28
29 SECTION 35. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
30 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

31 DHE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ACT FUNDING. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State
32 may transfer, on his or her books and those of the State Treasurer and the
33 Auditor of the State, funding up to the amount authorized in the Workforce
34 Initiative Act of 2015 appropriation section in this Act, from the Division
35 of Higher Education Fund Account to the Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 Fund
36 in order to finance the distribution of grants identified under §6-60-107.

1 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
2 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

3
4 SECTION 36. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
5 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

6 DHE - STATEWIDE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROMOTION. Of the general revenue that
7 is received by and distributed from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
8 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall transfer two hundred ninety-five
9 thousand dollars (\$295,000) to the Division of Higher Education Fund Account
10 to be allocated, budgeted, committed and distributed to the Statewide
11 Scholarship and Grant Promotion line item in the General Operations section
12 of this Act for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the
13 scholarships and grants offered by the State through the Arkansas Department
14 of Education - Division of Higher Education. The Department shall utilize a
15 minimum of one hundred forty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$147,500)
16 of the aforementioned total specifically for the promotion of the Arkansas
17 Future Grant Program.

18 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
19 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

20
21 SECTION 37. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
22 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

23 GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. The Department
24 of Education - Division of Higher Education shall provide for the
25 administration of the "Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship
26 Program" as appropriated in the Student Assistance Grants and Various
27 Scholarships Appropriation section of this Act to assist students accepted
28 into transitional programs for students with intellectual and/or
29 developmental disabilities at state institutions of higher education and
30 shall promulgate rules for the implementation of the program and for the
31 disbursement of scholarships to eligible students.

32 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
33 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

34
35 SECTION 38. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
36 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency

1 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
2 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
3 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
4 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
5 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
6 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
7 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

8
9 SECTION 39. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
10 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
11 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
12 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
13 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
14 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
15 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
16 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

17
18 SECTION 40. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
19 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
20 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
21 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2025 is essential to the operation of
22 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
23 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
24 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2025 could work irreparable harm
25 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
26 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
27 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
28 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2025.

29
30 /s/Joint Budget Committee
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