

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2026

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1007

4
5 By: Joint Budget Committee
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
10 FUND GRANTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
11 DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION -
12 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE
13 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

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16
17 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
18 DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
19 EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND
20 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL
21 YEAR.
22
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25

26 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
27 SPECIAL PROGRAMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of
28 Education, to be payable from the Division of Elementary and Secondary
29 Education Public School Fund Account, for grants and aid to local school
30 districts and special programs of the Department of Education - Division of
31 Elementary and Secondary Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,
32 the following:
33

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(01) 98% URT ACTUAL COLLECTION ADJUSTMENT	\$34,500,000



1	(02)	ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE	1,275,000
2	(03)	ALTERNATIVE LEARNING	35,783,095
3	(04)	ARKANSAS EASTER SEALS	193,113
4	(05)	ASSESSMENT/END OF LEVEL TESTING	20,309,189
5	(06)	AT RISK	1,688,530
6	(07)	BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM	114,000,000
7	(08)	BONDED DEBT ASSISTANCE	28,455,384
8	(09)	COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE	3,500,000
9	(10)	CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE	5,981,400
10	(11)	CONTENT STANDARDS	161,000
11	(12)	CONTENTS STANDARDS CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS	50,000
12	(13)	COOP EDUCATION TECH CENTERS	1,200,000
13	(14)	COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH	2,000,000
14	(15)	DECLINING ENROLLMENT	23,963,389
15	(16)	DEPT OF CORRECTION	8,702,425
16	(17)	DISTANCE LEARNING	4,760,000
17	(18)	DISTANCE LEARNING OPERATIONS	7,575,000
18	(19)	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION	22,897,920
19	(20)	ECONOMIC EDUCATION	400,000
20	(21)	EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVES	6,129,270
21	(22)	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	19,075,847
22	(23)	ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING	246,723,439
23	(24)	ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING	8,000,000
24	(25)	ESA MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM	5,636,400
25	(26)	FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM	14,700,000
26	(27)	GIFTED & TALENTED	1,560,381
27	(28)	GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS	67,856
28	(29)	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER EDUCATION AID	526,150
29	(30)	INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS	302,000
30	(31)	ISOLATED FUNDING	7,896,000
31	(32)	LEADERSHIP ACADEMY-MASTER PRINCIPAL	1,400,000
32	(33)	MASTER PRINCIPAL BONUS	175,000
33	(34)	MATERNITY LEAVE	3,000,000
34	(35)	MERIT TEACHER INCENTIVE	10,000,000
35	(36)	MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY AND RAISES	190,000,000
36	(37)	NATIONAL BOARD OF PROF TEACHING STANDARDS	18,738,000

1	(38)	NON-TRADITIONAL LICENSURE	50,000
2	(39)	OE CHARTER FAC FUNDING AID PROGRAM	10,275,000
3	(40)	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING	37,175,911
4	(41)	PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	142,000,000
5	(42)	R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS	10,470,000
6	(43)	RESIDENTIAL CENTERS/JUVENILE DETENTION	16,345,087
7	(44)	SCHOOL FACILITY JOINT USE SUPPORT	500,000
8	(45)	SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES	7,650,000
9	(46)	SCHOOL FOOD-LEGISLATIVE AUDIT	75,000
10	(47)	SCHOOL FUNDING CONTINGENCY	25,000,000
11	(48)	SCHOOL RECOGNITION	7,000,000
12	(49)	SCHOOL WORKER DEFENSE	390,000
13	(50)	SERIOUS OFFENDER	1,716,859
14	(51)	SMART START/SMART STEP	10,666,303
15	(52)	SPECIAL EDUCATION - HIGH COST OCCURRENCES	17,934,000
16	(53)	SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	2,802,527
17	(54)	SPECIAL NEEDS ISOLATED FUNDING	3,000,000
18	(55)	STATE FOUNDATION FUNDING	2,206,861,456
19	(56)	STUDENT GROWTH	37,690,144
20	(57)	SURPLUS COMMODITIES	1,125,065
21	(58)	TEACHER LICENSING/MENTORING	6,065,758
22	(59)	TEACHER OF THE YEAR	100,000
23	(60)	TEACHER RETIREMENT MATCHING	14,776,754
24	(61)	TEACHER SALARY EQUALIZATION	60,000,000
25	(62)	TECHNOLOGY GRANTS	3,602,678
26	(63)	TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS	500,000
27	(64)	TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION GRANTS	5,000,000
28	(65)	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	450,000
29	(66)	YOUTH SHELTERS	<u>165,000</u>
30		TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$3,480,713,330</u>

31

32 SECTION 2. REGULAR SALARIES - ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK.

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

34 Elementary and Secondary Education - Arkansas Public School Computer Network

35 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular

36 employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
6	(1) EES02P	EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL II	1	GRADE SPC04
7	(2) EEP06P	EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE SGS10
8	(3) PAS02P	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS04
9	(4) IIS07C	IT INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER	1	GRADE IST10
10	(5) IIA06C	IT MANAGER	1	GRADE IST10
11	(6) IDN02P	DATA ANALYST SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE IST09
12	(7) IIP02P	IT PROJECT MANAGER	4	GRADE IST08
13	(8) IAS01P	APPLICATIONS ANALYST I	3	GRADE IST07
14	(9) IDN01P	DATA ANALYST	1	GRADE IST07
15	(10) IDM02P	DATABASE ANALYST	1	GRADE IST07
16	(11) IDM03P	DATABASE SPECIALIST	2	GRADE IST05
17	(12) IUS04P	USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	26	GRADE IST02
18	(13) EEP03P	EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS07
19	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES		45	

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK.
 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Arkansas Public School Computer Network for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$2,633,280
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	946,438
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	29,245,839
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	7,250
(C) PROF. FEES	0

1	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	200,000
2	(E) DATA PROC.	0
3	(04) DATA ACCESS IMPLEMENTATION	<u>300,000</u>
4	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$33,332,807</u></u>

5
6 SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There
7 is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of
8 Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Education Renewal Zones for
9 the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

11		Maximum Annual
12		Salary Rate
13	Item Class	Fiscal Year
14	<u>No. Code Title</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
15	(1) EEP03P EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	3 GRADE SGS07
16	(2) PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	<u>1</u> GRADE SGS04
17	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	4

18
19 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There is
20 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the
21 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account,
22 for personal services, operating expenses, and grants by the Department of
23 Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of
24 Education Renewal Zones for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the
25 following:

27	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
28	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
29	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$145,568
30	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	58,129
31	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
32	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	25,000
33	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	3,000
34	(C) PROF. FEES	0
35	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
36	(E) DATA PROC.	0

1	(04) EDUCATIONAL RENEWAL ZONE GRANTS	<u>1,101,150</u>
2	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,332,847</u></u>

3

4 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM.

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

6 from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund

7 Account, for personal services, operating expenses, and grants and aid for

8 the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program by the Department of Education -

9 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Sexual Risk Avoidance

10 Education Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

12	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
13	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
14	(01) SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM	<u><u>\$4,000,000</u></u>

15

16 SECTION 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS

17 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

18 FUND ALLOCATION. The appropriation for the Isolated Funding line item in the

19 Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this

20 Act may be fully funded. Any funding and appropriation for Isolated Funding

21 that is not utilized shall be transferred to the appropriation for Special

22 Needs Isolated Funding in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and

23 Special Programs section of this Act and shall be used there for fully

24 funding each subsection (c) through (f) of Arkansas Code § 6-20-604 on a pro

25 rata basis until the available funds are exhausted. Pro rata basis is defined

26 as providing each district qualifying for additional funding under

27 subsections (c) through (f) a proportionate share based on how each

28 district's additional funding amount bears to the total additional funding

29 amounts for all qualifying districts. If any funding and appropriation

30 remains after funding each subsection (c) through (f) of Arkansas Code § 6-

31 20-604 the remaining balance shall be used to fund the provisions of Arkansas

32 Code § 6-20-604 (h) on an equal basis until the available funds are

33 exhausted.

34 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2025

35 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

1 SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
2 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
3 GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS. For the purposes of distributing the Grants To
4 School Districts appropriation in the Grants and Aid to Local School
5 Districts and Special Programs section of this Act, "school district" means a
6 school district which contracts with a school district in an adjoining state
7 for the education of some of the pupils within the Arkansas school district
8 because the portion of the school district wherein such pupils live is
9 completely separated from the remainder of the school district by a reservoir
10 covering at least 12,000 acres at normal water level, and where to attend
11 school in their own district, the pupils of said portion would be required to
12 travel or to be transported a distance (measured by the nearest highway or
13 road route) of more than 35 miles round trip and pass through another school
14 district or districts. The Department of Education shall distribute the
15 monies appropriated for Grants to School Districts in the Grants and Aid to
16 Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this Act to such
17 school districts as reimbursement for expenses incurred in educating the
18 pupils residing in the separated portion of the school district. The payments
19 are to be limited to the amount of available appropriation. Such school
20 districts shall file a request for reimbursement with the Department of
21 Education and provide the Department of Education with such documentation as
22 is deemed necessary.

23 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
24 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

25
26 SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
27 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
28 SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES. The funds appropriated in the line item "Special
29 Education Services" in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and
30 Special Programs section of this Act shall be used to provide extended year
31 summer programs for handicapped students in need of such services, to provide
32 special education services to foster children who are wards of the State, and
33 to provide funds for the payment of salaries of special education
34 supervisors. The Department of Education shall distribute such funds in the
35 manner necessary to carry out the intent of this Section.

36 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~

1 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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3 SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
4 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
5 TRANSFER AUTHORITY. The Commissioner of the Department of Education, with the
6 approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and after approval by the
7 Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, is hereby authorized
8 to request necessary appropriation transfers and any other budget related
9 adjustments necessary within the Department of Education. Provided, however,
10 that the Department of Education shall be limited to submitting no more than
11 two transfer requests during any fiscal year.

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

28 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
29 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

30

31 SECTION 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
32 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
33 AETN DOCUMENTED QUIZ BOWL COSTS. Of the total amount of appropriation and
34 funds authorized herein to the Department of Education for the Quiz Bowl each
35 fiscal year, an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) each
36 fiscal year may be made available to the Department of Education -

1 Educational Television Division for its documented costs associated with the
2 Quiz Bowl.

3 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
4 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

5
6 SECTION 12. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
7 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

8 RETIREMENT MATCHING. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, Local School
9 Districts shall pay the teacher retirement employer contribution rate for any
10 eligible employee in accordance with rules and regulations established by the
11 Teacher Retirement Board of Directors. The appropriation contained herein for
12 Teacher Retirement Matching each fiscal year shall be used to provide the
13 employer matching for employees of the Cooperative Education Services Areas,
14 Vocational Centers, Arkansas Easter Seals and the school operated by the
15 Department of Correction.

16 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
17 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

18
19 SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
20 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

21 BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE FEES. The Department of Education is
22 hereby authorized to expend a maximum of two percent (2%) of available funds
23 for administration of the Better Chance Program. Up to 1.8% of available
24 funds shall be used to administer the program and to monitor program grantees
25 to ensure compliance with programmatic standards. Prior to the utilization of
26 the remaining 0.2% of available funds, the Department of Education shall seek
27 prior review and approval of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget
28 Committee by providing a written request to include the following: a) the
29 Department's reason(s) for the use of the funds and b) the amount of funds
30 that will be expended. The Department may contract with the Division of
31 Elementary and Secondary Education to administer the program.

32 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of
33 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year
34 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by
35 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and
36 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by

1 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Therefore, it is both necessary
2 and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring
3 prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as
4 provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative
5 Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section.
6 If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget
7 Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction,
8 this entire section is void.

9 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
10 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

11
12 SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
13 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

14 CARRY FORWARD - ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE. Any unexpended balance of monies
15 allocated for the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program remaining
16 on June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027, in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
17 Public School Fund Account shall be designated and retained for the Arkansas
18 Better Chance for School Success Program.

19 Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein,
20 may be carried forward under the following conditions:

21 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement set
22 forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the
23 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

24 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall
25 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee all
26 amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or
27 Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the
28 Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding
29 carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that
30 appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;

31 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written
32 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee
33 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written
34 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for
35 which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30)
36 days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents

1 its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget
2 Committee; and

3 (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include
4 all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a
5 statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

6 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
7 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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9 SECTION 15. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
10 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

11 ARKANSAS/STRIVE PROGRAM TRANSFER. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State
12 shall transfer on his books and those of the State Treasurer and the State
13 Auditor, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) during each
14 fiscal year from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public
15 School Fund Account to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Fund,
16 specifically to provide funding for the Arkansas/STRIVE Program. The total
17 amount of funds transferred each fiscal year pursuant to this section shall
18 not be subject to any indirect costs by the University of Arkansas at Little
19 Rock.

20 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
21 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

22

23 SECTION 16. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
24 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

25 ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FUNDING. The Department of Education shall
26 allocate, budget and commit for expenditure two hundred fifty thousand
27 dollars (\$250,000), in addition to funds already being provided for the
28 Arkansas Governor's School, to fund the appropriation authorized from general
29 revenue for the Gifted and Talented program as appropriated in the Grants and
30 Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section herein. With this
31 additional funding either the department shall increase the number of grants
32 for AEGIS summer enrichment programs, or the duration of the Arkansas
33 Governor's School shall be extended from four (4) weeks to six (6) weeks.

34 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
35 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

36

1 SECTION 17. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
2 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
3 EAST FUNDING PROVISION. Of the total amount appropriated for Technology
4 Grants each fiscal year, an amount of not less than three million five
5 thousand dollars (\$3,005,000) or eighteen percent (18%), whichever is greater
6 each fiscal year, shall be awarded through a grant or professional services
7 contract for the EAST Initiative. Not less than one million dollars
8 (\$1,000,000) of the three million five thousand dollars (\$3,005,000) or
9 eighteen percent (18%) of the Technology Grants Line Item awarded to the EAST
10 Initiatives shall be used for EAST infrastructure and personnel growth for
11 the establishment of new programs. The remaining funding shall be used for
12 existing EAST infrastructure, personnel, and operating expenses of the EAST
13 Initiative. The EAST infrastructure grant or contract for personal services
14 and operating expenses shall be awarded to an entity that has personnel or
15 experience, or both, in implementing the EAST Initiative.

16 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
17 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

18
19 SECTION 18. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
20 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
21 INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS FUNDING RESTRICTION. The Department of Education
22 shall make available from the Intervention Block Grants appropriation
23 authorized by this Act, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal
24 year for the annual expenses of the Quiz Bowl, thirteen thousand five hundred
25 dollars (\$13,500) each fiscal year for Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for
26 grants up to \$1,000 each for students and chaperones, thirteen thousand five
27 hundred dollars (\$13,500) each fiscal year for Destination Imagination, one
28 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal year for the State History
29 Day Competition, and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) each fiscal year
30 for a grant to the Arkansas Science Fair Association for grants to regional
31 and the state science fairs. The Department of Education shall allocate
32 General Revenue funding totaling no less than three hundred two thousand
33 dollars (\$302,000) each fiscal year from the Division of Elementary and
34 Secondary Education Public School Fund Account to support the annual expenses
35 of the Quiz Bowl, the Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for grants up to \$1,000
36 each for students and chaperones, Destination Imagination, the State History

1 Day Competition, and the Arkansas Science Fair Association for grants to
2 regional and state science fairs. The Department shall either expend or have
3 committed for expenditure the monies allocated for the Quiz Bowl, Creativity
4 in Arkansas, Inc., Destination Imagination, the State History Day
5 Competition, and Arkansas Science Fair Association grants as authorized
6 herein in order to fulfill the provisions of this section.

7 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
8 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

9
10 SECTION 19. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
11 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

13 (a) Of the total amount appropriated for Professional Development
14 Funding, three million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) may be
15 authorized by the Commissioner of the Department of Education to be used by
16 the Department of Education to develop and implement statewide professional
17 development support systems for teachers that will benefit student
18 achievement.

19 (b)(1) The Department of Education shall annually report the following
20 information concerning the Arkansas Online Professional Development
21 Initiative under § 6-17-707:

- 22 (1) Annual expenditure information;
- 23 (2) Statistical information pertaining to users of the
24 initiative;
- 25 (3) Course offerings;
- 26 (4) Course hours completed; and
- 27 (5) Certificates awarded.

28 (2) The report under subsection (b)(1) of this section shall be
29 annually submitted by August 1 to the:

- 30 (1) Governor;
- 31 (2) Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is
32 in session, the Joint Budget Committee;
- 33 (3) Senate Committee on Education;
- 34 (4) House Committee on Education; and
- 35 (5) Department of Finance and Administration.

36 (c) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,

1 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

2
3 SECTION 20. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
4 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
5 ESA MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM.

6 (a)(1) Of the appropriation and funding for the ESA MATCHING GRANT
7 PROGRAM Item in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special
8 Programs section of this Act, five million three hundred thousand dollars
9 (\$5,300,000) shall be set aside by the Department of Education and shall be
10 used for school district expenditures for evidence-based programs to improve
11 academic achievement of identified national school lunch students.

12 (2) These programs shall be limited to:

13 (A) Tutors as set out in § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(C)(i)(b)(4);

14 (B) Before-school academic programs and after-school academic
15 programs, including transportation to and from the programs
16 under § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(C)(i)(b)(2); and

17 (C) Prekindergarten programs under § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(C)(i)(b)(3).

18 (b)(1) Set aside funds authorized in subsection (a) of this section
19 shall be distributed to school districts on a dollar for dollar matching
20 basis of school district expenditures for programs under subsection (a) of
21 this section on a pro rata basis until the available funds are exhausted.

22 (2) As used in this subsection, "pro rata basis" means providing
23 each district qualifying for additional funding in a proportionate share
24 based on how each district's expenditure bears to the total of funding
25 provided in subsection (a) of this section for all qualifying districts as
26 determined by the Department of Education.

27 (c) If any funding remains after funding subsection (b) of this
28 section, that remaining balance shall be carried over to the following fiscal
29 year for the same purposes as provided in this section.

30 (d) The Department of Education shall adopt rules as necessary to
31 implement this section.

32 (e) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
33 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

34
35 SECTION 21. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
36 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

1 R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS. The appropriation for the R.I.S.E. Arkansas line item in
2 the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of
3 this Act shall be used for the coordination of a statewide reading campaign
4 with community partners, parents, and teachers to establish the importance of
5 reading in homes, schools, and communities.

6 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
7 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

8
9 SECTION 22. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
10 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
11 ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING NAME CHANGE. Any appropriation titled
12 "ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING" or abbreviated as "ESA" as named by
13 SB605 of 2019 may also be known as "NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH" funding or
14 abbreviated as "NSL" and shall be used for the same purposes as set out in
15 law.

16 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
17 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

18
19 SECTION 23. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
20 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
21 ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL CURRICULUM. Prior to the beginning of the
22 Arkansas Governor's School Program each year, the Arkansas Department of
23 Education shall review and approve the proposed curriculum for the program
24 year and shall maintain oversight of its implementation for consistency and
25 accuracy.

26 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
27 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

28
29 SECTION 24. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
30 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. HIGH
31 QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS. Of the amount appropriated from the
32 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Public School Fund for
33 R.I.S.E. Arkansas, up to nine million five hundred thousand dollars
34 (\$9,500,000) may be used for the purchase and distribution of high quality
35 instructional materials in accordance with Arkansas Code § 6-17-429(f).

36 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,

1 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

2
3 SECTION 25. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
4 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. DIVISION
5 OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND AND EDUCATIONAL
6 ADEQUACY FUND DISTRIBUTION AND FUND BALANCE REPORT. (a) The Department of
7 Education shall submit quarterly a "Division of Elementary and Secondary
8 Education Public School Fund Distribution and Balance" report to the Arkansas
9 Legislative Council PEER Subcommittee or, if meeting in a Legislative
10 Session, the Joint Budget Committee PEER/Review Subcommittee no later than
11 ten days prior to the Subcommittee's scheduled meeting date.

12 (1) The report shall summarize the current total fund balance and
13 the past five Fiscal Year ending total fund balances of the Division of
14 Elementary and Secondary Education - Public School Fund.

15 (2) The report shall contain, cumulatively over the course of the
16 fiscal year, by quarter a summary of the itemized totals distributed from
17 each subfund of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Public
18 School Fund and each subfund shall be organized as restricted or unrestricted
19 in spending purpose.

20 (b) The Department of Education shall submit monthly an "Educational
21 Adequacy Fund Distribution and Balance" report to the Arkansas Legislative
22 Council PEER Subcommittee or, if meeting in a Legislative Session, the Joint
23 Budget Committee PEER/Review Subcommittee no later than ten days prior to the
24 Subcommittee's scheduled meeting date.

25 (1) The report shall summarize the current total fund balance and
26 the past five Fiscal Year ending total fund balances of the Educational
27 Adequacy Fund.

28 (2) The report shall contain the following:

29 (A) Monthly beginning fund balance;

30 (B) Monthly Distribution report with total distributions to
31 the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public
32 School Fund Account and the Division of Elementary and
33 Secondary Education Fund Account; and

34 (C) Amount of certified funding obligation remaining to the
35 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public
36 School Fund Account and the Division of Elementary and

1 Secondary Education Fund Account for the fiscal year.

2 (c) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
3 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

4
5 SECTION 26. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
6 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
7 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
8 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
9 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
10 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
11 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
12 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
13 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

14
15 SECTION 27. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
16 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
17 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
18 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
19 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
20 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
21 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
22 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

23
24 SECTION 28. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
25 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
26 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
27 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of
28 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
29 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
30 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm
31 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
32 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
33 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
34 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

35
36