

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1485

By: Representative Eubanks  
By: Senator J. Sturch

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING; TO AMEND  
PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE WITH RESPECT TO  
PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
WITH RESPECT TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(C), concerning approved programs and purposes for which funds allocated under this section may be expended, is amended to read as follows:

(C)(i)(a) The State Board of Education shall establish by rule a list of approved programs and purposes for which funds allocated under this subdivision (b)(4) may be expended.

(b) School districts shall expend funds allocated under this subdivision (b)(4) ~~only on~~ for the programs or purposes on the State Board of Education's list of approved programs and purposes for which funds allocated under this subdivision (b)(4) may be expended, ~~which shall include, but are not limited to~~ including without limitation:

(1) Classroom teachers, ~~provided that if~~ the school district meets the minimum salary schedule ~~in~~ under § 6-17-2403 without using funds provided under this subdivision (b)(4) and ~~that~~ those teachers are used for the purposes delineated in this subdivision (b)(4);

(2) Before-school academic programs and



1 after-school academic programs, including without limitation transportation  
 2 to and from the before-school academic programs and after-school academic  
 3 programs;

4 (3) Prekindergarten programs coordinated  
 5 by the Department of Human Services;

6 (4) Tutors, teachers' aides, counselors,  
 7 social workers, nurses, and curriculum specialists;

8 (5) Parent education;

9 (6) Summer programs;

10 (7) Early intervention programs;

11 (8) Materials, supplies, and equipment,  
 12 including without limitation technology used ~~in approved programs or for~~  
 13 ~~approved purposes for programs or purposes on the State Board of Education's~~  
 14 list of approved programs and purposes for which funds allocated under this  
 15 subdivision (b)(4) may be expended;

16 (9) Federal child nutrition programs, to  
 17 the extent necessary to provide school meals without charge to all students  
 18 under the United States Department of Agriculture Special Assistance  
 19 Alternative "Provision 2" program under 42 U.S.C. § 1759a, as it existed on  
 20 July 1, 2011;

21 (10) Federal child nutrition programs,  
 22 to the extent necessary to provide school meals without charge to students  
 23 otherwise eligible for reduced-price meals under the United States Department  
 24 of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program;

25 (11) Expenses directly related to  
 26 funding a longer school day;

27 (12) Expenses directly related to  
 28 funding a longer school year;

29 (13) Partnering with state-supported  
 30 institutions of higher education and technical institutes to provide  
 31 concurrent courses or technical education options for academic learning to  
 32 students while those students are still in high school so that the students  
 33 are college-ready and career-ready upon graduation from high school;

34 (14) ~~Teach For America, Inc.,~~  
 35 professional Professional development as identified in the school district's  
 36 support plan required under § 6-15-2914;

(15) Implementing components of the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science, Inc.;

(16) The College and Career Coaches Program, as administered by the Department of Career Education under § 6-1-601 et seq.; and

(17) Implementing a school-wide evidence-based program intended to close achievement gaps with an arts-infused curriculum;

(18) Dyslexia programs and interventions under § 6-41-601 et seq.; and

(19) Recruiting and retaining effective teachers, if the school district meets the minimum salary schedule under § 6-17-2403 without using funds provided under this subdivision (b)(4), by implementing:

(A)(i) Approaches identified within the school district's support plan required under § 6-15-2914 to address a disproportionate rate of low-income students or minority students being taught by ineffective teachers, teachers who teach out of their licensure content area, or inexperienced teachers, either within the school district or as compared to surrounding school districts, including without limitation strategies:

(a) For reassignment;

(b) For differentiated pay plans to address identified shortage areas; and

(c) For addressing teacher recruitment and retention, as recommended by the Department of Education, including without limitation models for:

(1) Effective use of teacher leaders;

(2) Cultural responsiveness training; and

(3) Equity audits.

(ii) A school district's support plan under this subdivision (b)(4)(C)(i)(b)(19)(A) shall include without limitation how the school district identified gaps in equitable

1 access to effective teachers through a review of school district and school-  
2 level data, student growth data, a root-cause analysis, research of the  
3 strategies used to address the identified gaps, and the measures of the  
4 effectiveness of the strategies used, including without limitation student  
5 growth data; and

6 (B) Levels of differentiated  
7 compensation that increase classroom teacher salaries based on a tiered  
8 system of licensure established by the State Board of Education under § 6-17-  
9 402.

10 ~~(ii) School districts that have met the needs of~~  
11 ~~students for whom the funding is provided for additional educational~~  
12 ~~categories under this subsection and that have excess national school lunch~~  
13 ~~student categorical funds provided under this subdivision (b)(4) may use the~~  
14 ~~excess national school lunch student categorical funds to supplement all~~  
15 ~~classroom teacher salaries under the following conditions:~~

16 ~~(a) The school district shall not use any~~  
17 ~~portion of the national school lunch student categorical funds that are carry~~  
18 ~~forward or reserve funds to supplement classroom teacher salaries;~~

19 ~~(b) The school district shall meet the minimum~~  
20 ~~teacher salary schedule under § 6-17-2403 without using national school lunch~~  
21 ~~student categorical funds;~~

22 ~~(c) The school district shall comply with the~~  
23 ~~Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts~~  
24 ~~established under The Quality Education Act of 2003, § 6-15-201 et seq., and~~  
25 ~~the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program under § 6-20-1901~~  
26 ~~et seq. without using national school lunch student categorical funds; and~~

27 ~~(d) The school district shall agree that it~~  
28 ~~shall not allocate or use any excess national school lunch student~~  
29 ~~categorical funds in any manner except as a bonus to the salary of classroom~~  
30 ~~teachers.~~

31 ~~(iii) The school district shall include with its~~  
32 ~~comprehensive school improvement plan a written detailed statement concerning~~  
33 ~~how the school district will use its excess national school lunch categorical~~  
34 ~~funds each school year and explaining in detail the amount of funds and~~  
35 ~~percent of total funds to be used to supplement all classroom teacher~~  
36 ~~salaries as allowed in subdivision (b)(4)(C)(ii) of this section.~~

1                   ~~(iv)(a)(ii)~~ Upon review of the school district's  
 2 ~~school-level improvement support plan required under § 6-15-2914~~, if the  
 3 Commissioner of Education determines that the school district has met the  
 4 needs of students in the school district for whom the funding for additional  
 5 educational categories under this subsection is provided, ~~has met the~~  
 6 ~~requirements of subdivisions (b)(4)(C)(ii) and (iii) of this section~~, and has  
 7 prudently managed its resources, the commissioner shall give written approval  
 8 of the detailed planned flexible use of excess national school lunch ~~student~~  
 9 state categorical funds provided to the school district for up to two (2)  
 10 years.

11                   ~~(b)~~ ~~The school district shall not use its~~  
 12 ~~excess national school lunch categorical funds for classroom teacher salaries~~  
 13 ~~as provided in subdivision (b)(4)(C)(ii) of this section unless:~~

14                   ~~(1)~~ ~~The commissioner provides the~~  
 15 ~~written approval required under subdivision (b)(4)(C)(iv)(a) of this~~  
 16 ~~section; and~~

17                   ~~(2)~~ ~~Funds allocated under this~~  
 18 ~~subdivision (b)(4) are available.~~

19                   ~~(v)~~ ~~The excess national school lunch student~~  
 20 ~~categorical funds used to supplement the salary of a classroom teacher shall~~  
 21 ~~only be used as a nonrecurring bonus to a classroom teacher's salary for any~~  
 22 ~~given school year and shall not be considered a permanent obligation under~~  
 23 ~~the school district's teacher salary schedule or as contract obligations of~~  
 24 ~~any classroom teacher or employee of the school district.~~

25                   ~~(vi)(iii)~~ Notwithstanding any other provision of  
 26 law, if the Department of Education determines that a school district's  
 27 expenditure of funds allocated under this subdivision (b)(4) would result in  
 28 the school district's losing funding under any federal law, then the funds  
 29 allocated to a school district under this subdivision (b)(4) may be expended  
 30 for other academic programs or salaries.

31                   ~~(vii)(iv)~~ The Department of Education may direct  
 32 that a school district expend available funds on specified programs under  
 33 subdivision (b)(4)(C)(i) of this section.

34                   ~~(viii)(v)(a)~~ By September 15 of each school year, a  
 35 school district shall submit to the Department of Education a report for the  
 36 immediately preceding school year listing each program ~~upon~~ for which funds

1 allocated under this subdivision (b)(4) were expended, the amount expended,  
2 and any other information required by the Department of Education on  
3 concerning the use of funds allocated under this subdivision (b)(4).

4 (b) The Department of Education shall develop  
5 appropriate reporting forms for use by school districts to comply with  
6 subdivision ~~(b)(4)(C)(viii)(a)~~ (b)(4)(C)(v)(a) of this section.

7 ~~(ix) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year and~~  
8 ~~each school year thereafter, any school district that used or applied~~  
9 ~~restricted national school lunch student categorical funds as a supplement~~  
10 ~~for salaries of classroom teachers in a school district during the 2006-2007~~  
11 ~~school year under subdivision (b)(4)(C)(i)(b) of this section shall either:~~

12 ~~(a) Remove the use of all national school~~  
13 ~~lunch student categorical funds immediately as a supplement to classroom~~  
14 ~~teacher salaries; or~~

15 ~~(b) Begin the process of removing the use or~~  
16 ~~application of national school lunch student categorical funds as part of an~~  
17 ~~obligated salary schedule in the following manner:~~

18 ~~(1) A school district shall reduce each~~  
19 ~~current school year by twenty percent (20%) the amount of national school~~  
20 ~~lunch student categorical funds received and used in the prior school year by~~  
21 ~~the school district as a supplement to classroom teacher salaries and shall~~  
22 ~~continue this reduction in the application of national school lunch student~~  
23 ~~categorical funds as a supplement to classroom teacher salaries until the~~  
24 ~~school district has no more than twenty percent (20%) of the total of any~~  
25 ~~current year of all national school lunch student categorical funds received~~  
26 ~~by a school district applied and used as a supplement to classroom teacher~~  
27 ~~salaries for a current school year;~~

28 ~~(2) No school district shall be allowed~~  
29 ~~to use or consider reserve or carry forward national school lunch student~~  
30 ~~categorical funds as a supplement to classroom teacher salaries;~~

31 ~~(3) The school district shall meet the~~  
32 ~~minimum teacher salary schedule under § 6-17-2403 without using national~~  
33 ~~school lunch student categorical funds;~~

34 ~~(4) The school district shall comply~~  
35 ~~with the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School~~  
36 ~~Districts established under The Quality Education Act of 2003, § 6-15-201 et~~

seq., without using national school lunch categorical funds;

~~(5) The school district shall include with its school-level improvement plan a written detailed narrative or plan concerning how the school district will use its excess national school lunch categorical funds each school year and explaining in detail the amount of funds and percent of total funds to be used to supplement all classroom teacher salaries as allowed in this subdivision (b)(4)(C)(ix);~~

~~(6) Upon review of the school district's school-level improvement plan, if the commissioner determines that the school district has met or is meeting the needs of students in the school district for whom the funding for additional educational categories under this subdivision (b)(4)(C)(ix) is provided, and has prudently managed its resources, the commissioner shall give written approval of the detailed planned flexible use of excess national school lunch student categorical funds provided to the school district; and~~

~~(7) Upon review of the school district's school-level improvement plan and other indicators, if the commissioner determines that a school district has not met the needs of students that may be served with national school lunch student categorical funds, the commissioner may require that any and all national school lunch categorical funds dedicated for use or application in the teachers' salary fund shall be removed from and not used to meet the classroom teacher salary obligation and redirected and applied to meet the needs of students in a school district.~~

~~(x)(vi)~~ Each school district shall submit to the Department of Education a report listing each program and purpose upon which funds allocated under this subdivision (b)(4) were expended, the amount expended, and any other information required by the Department of Education concerning the receipt and use of funds allocated under this subdivision (b)(4).

~~(xi) No provision of subdivision (b)(4)(C)(ix) of this section shall be deemed to prohibit a school district from participating in the provisions of subdivisions (b)(4)(C)(ii)-(viii) of this section.~~

~~(xii)(vii)~~ The Department of Education shall promulgate rules and develop appropriate reporting forms for use by school districts to comply with this subdivision (b)(4)(C).

APPROVED: 3/20/19

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 605

By: Senator A. Clark

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH STATE  
CATEGORICAL FUNDING; TO AMEND THE NAME OF NATIONAL  
SCHOOL LUNCH STATE CATEGORICAL FUNDING; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE NAME OF NATIONAL SCHOOL  
LUNCH STATE CATEGORICAL FUNDING.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2701(b) and (c), concerning the  
closing the achievement gap program, are amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) A school district that has a chronically underperforming school  
shall use its ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced  
Student Achievement Funding under § 6-20-2305(b)(4) to evaluate the impact of  
educational strategies used by the chronically underperforming school to  
address the achievement gaps among students in the chronically  
underperforming school.

(2) The evaluation shall:

(A) Identify the categories of programs and intervention  
strategies used with ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced  
Student Achievement Funding; and

(B) Report the benchmark assessment scores for the end of  
the immediately preceding school year and for the end of the current school  
year of students involved in the programs and intervention strategies  
identified under this subdivision (b)(2).





(c) The Department of Education shall:

(1) Promulgate rules necessary to implement this section, including without limitation establishing the categories by which a chronically underperforming school shall identify programs and intervention strategies under subsection (b) of this section;

(2) In a chronically underperforming school's comprehensive school improvement plan, direct the use of ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding for strategies to close gaps in academic achievement, including without limitation:

(A) Using an Arkansas Scholastic Audit;

(B) Using disaggregated school data to set academic improvement targets in reading, writing, mathematics, and science;

(C) Using improvement targets to define professional development needs related to content, instruction, differentiation, and best practices in educating special education students, gifted and talented students, English language learners, and other student subgroups as needed;

(D) Developing interim building-level assessments to monitor student progress toward proficiency on the state benchmark assessments;

(E) Developing a plan to immediately address gaps in learning;

(F) Examining and realigning, as needed, school scheduling, academic support systems, and assignments of personnel; and

(G) Designing a plan for increasing parental knowledge and skill to support academic objectives; and

(3) By August 1 of each year, report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education on:

(A) The use of ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding by chronically underperforming schools in the state; and

(B) The status of the achievement gaps at chronically underperforming schools in the state.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2907(a)(4)(C), concerning the statewide student assessment system, is amended to read as follows:

(C) Public school districts may offer additional college

1 and career readiness assessments for students in grades ten through twelve  
 2 (10-12) at no cost to the student by using public school district funding,  
 3 including without limitation ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~  
 4 Enhanced Student Achievement Funding under § 6-20-2305.

5  
 6 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(A) and (B), concerning the  
 7 calculation of national school lunch state categorical funding, are amended  
 8 to read as follows:

9 (4)(A) ~~National school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced  
 10 Student Achievement Funding for each identified national school lunch student  
 11 shall be as follows:

12 (i) For a public school district in which ninety  
 13 percent (90%) or greater of the previous school year's enrolled students are  
 14 national school lunch students, the amount of per-student ~~national school~~  
 15 ~~lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding is for  
 16 each school year, one thousand five hundred seventy-six dollars (\$1,576);

17 (ii) For a public school district in which at least  
 18 seventy percent (70%) but less than ninety percent (90%) of the previous  
 19 school year's enrolled students are national school lunch students, the  
 20 amount of per-student ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~  
 21 Enhanced Student Achievement Funding is for each school year, one thousand  
 22 fifty-one dollars (\$1,051); and

23 (iii) For a public school district in which less  
 24 than seventy percent (70%) of the previous school year's enrolled students  
 25 are national school lunch students, the amount of per-student ~~national school~~  
 26 ~~lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding is for  
 27 each school year, five hundred twenty-six dollars (\$526).

28 (B)(i)(a) Except as provided under subdivision  
 29 (b)(4)(B)(i)(c) of this section, ~~national school lunch state categorical~~  
 30 ~~funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding under this subdivision (b)(4)  
 31 shall be based on the number of national school lunch students for the  
 32 immediately preceding school year determined under § 6-20-2303(13)(A).

33 (b) If the public school district is  
 34 participating under 42 U.S.C. § 1759a, funding under this subdivision (b)(4)  
 35 is based on the percentage determined in § 6-20-2303(13)(B) multiplied by the  
 36 number of enrolled students for the immediately preceding school year.

1 (c) The per-student ~~national school lunch~~  
2 ~~state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding for an open-  
3 enrollment public charter school shall be based upon the current school year  
4 enrollment:

5 (1) In the initial year of operation for  
6 an open-enrollment public charter school; or

7 (2) In a year in which an open-  
8 enrollment public charter school adds a grade.

9 (ii)(a) If a public school district will receive in  
10 the current school year ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~  
11 Enhanced Student Achievement Funding under subdivision (b)(4)(A) of this  
12 section that is based on a different per-student amount of ~~national school~~  
13 ~~lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding than the  
14 public school district received in the immediately preceding school year, due  
15 to a percentage change in national school lunch students, the ~~department~~  
16 Department of Education shall adjust the funding to the public school  
17 district in a transitional three-year period.

18 (b) The amount of ~~national school lunch state~~  
19 ~~categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding under this  
20 subdivision (b)(4)(B)(ii) shall be increased or decreased in each year of a  
21 three-year transition period by one-third (1/3) of the difference between the  
22 amount of ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student  
23 Achievement Funding per student for the current year and the amount of  
24 ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement  
25 Funding per student for the immediately preceding year, adjusted for changes  
26 to the funding rates in subdivision (b)(4)(A) of this section.

27 (iii)(a) The Department of Education shall establish  
28 rules to implement the transitional ~~national school lunch state categorical~~  
29 ~~funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding provided in subdivision  
30 (b)(4)(B)(ii) of this section.

31 (b) The rules shall include the methods of  
32 transition for a school district that:

33 (1) Experiences a decrease in the amount  
34 of ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student  
35 Achievement Funding per student under subdivision (b)(4)(A) of this section;

36 (2) Experiences an increase in the

amount of ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding per student under subdivision (b)(4)(A) of this section;  
or

(3) Within a three-year transition period, experiences both a decrease and an increase in the amount of ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding per student under subdivision (b)(4)(A) of this section.

(iv) Under no circumstances shall a public school district be entitled to receive more or less ~~funding~~ Enhanced Student Achievement Funding as a result of the transitional process than the public school district is otherwise entitled to receive under this subdivision (b)(4) based on the school district's national school lunch student population as a percentage of the public school district's entire student population.

(v)(a) A public school district that has experienced a significant growth in enrolled students in the previous three (3) years shall receive funding for the expected increase in the number of national school lunch students based on the expected increase in enrolled students based on the levels of funding provided in this section for national school lunch students.

(b) The State Board of Education shall establish rules to be used by the Department of Education to determine:

(1) The amount of growth necessary to qualify as significant growth;

(2) The expected increase in the number of national school lunch students based on the expected increase in enrolled students; and

(3) Which public school districts have experienced a significant growth in enrolled students as necessary to qualify for funding under this subdivision (b)(4)(B)(v).

(c) The Department of Education shall not be required to adjust or fund a public school district's national school lunch students based on the current year's number of national school lunch students enrolled in the public school district or the average growth of students in the public school district.

1           SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-23-501(a)(3), concerning the distribution  
2 of national school lunch state categorical funding to an open-enrollment  
3 public charter school, is amended to read as follows:

4           (3) ~~National school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced  
5 Student Achievement Funding under § 6-20-2305(b)(4) shall be provided to an  
6 open-enrollment public charter school as follows:

7           (A) For the first year of operation, the first year  
8 operating under a new license, the first year adding a new campus, and in any  
9 year when a grade is added at any campus, free or reduced-price meal  
10 eligibility data as reported by October 1 of the current school year will be  
11 used to calculate the ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~  
12 Enhanced Student Achievement Funding under the state board rules governing  
13 special needs funding; and

14           (B) For the second year and each school year of operation  
15 thereafter, the previous year's October 1 national school lunch student count  
16 as specified in state board rules governing special needs funding will be  
17 used to calculate ~~national school lunch state categorical funding~~ Enhanced  
18 Student Achievement Funding for the open-enrollment public charter school.

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21                                   **APPROVED: 4/17/19**  
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State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/20/17

## A Bill

SENATE BILL 596

By: Senator J. English  
By: Representative Cozart

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION.

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-5-904(b)(3)(B)(i), concerning positive youth development grant applications, is amended to read as follows:*

*(i) The applicant operates or will operate the program within the geographic boundaries of a public school district that contains at least one (1) school ~~in-school-improvement, as designated~~ identified as targeted or comprehensive by the Department of Education; and*

*SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-5-904(d)(2)(B), concerning positive youth development grant applications, is amended to read as follows:*

*(B) A public school district has been ~~designated by~~ identified to receive Level 5 – Intensive support from the department as ~~being in-school-improvement.~~*

*SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-13-112(c), concerning responsibilities of the State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education regarding school districts under state authority, is amended to read as follows:*



1 (c) A person appointed by the state board or the commissioner to  
2 operate a school district under the authority of the state board or the  
3 commissioner shall not have previously been an administrator responsible for  
4 a school district that was placed in fiscal distress, academic distress,  
5 facilities distress, Level 5 - Intensive support, or in violation of the  
6 Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

7  
8 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-13-112(e), concerning responsibilities of  
9 the State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education regarding school  
10 districts under state authority, is repealed.

11 ~~(e) Before the appointment of an interim school district board of~~  
12 ~~directors, permanent school district board of directors, or community~~  
13 ~~advisory board for the school district under the authority of the state board~~  
14 ~~or the commissioner, the commissioner or the state board through the~~  
15 ~~commissioner shall seek recommendations for individuals to serve as members~~  
16 ~~of the interim school district board of directors, permanent school district~~  
17 ~~board of directors, or community advisory board from the members of the~~  
18 ~~General Assembly who represent the area in which the school district is~~  
19 ~~located.~~

20  
21 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1305(4), concerning school district  
22 policy, is amended to read as follows:

23 (4) ~~School~~ School-level improvement plans, including the form  
24 and function of strategic planning and its relationship to school district  
25 planning;

26  
27 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1403(a)(1), concerning conditions  
28 under which the State Board of Education may annex school districts, is  
29 amended to read as follows:

30 (1) The state board, after providing thirty (30) days' written  
31 notice to the affected school districts, determines that annexation is in the  
32 best interest of the affected district or districts and the receiving  
33 district based upon failure to meet standards for accreditation, ~~or~~ failure  
34 to meet ~~academic~~, fiscal, or facilities distress requirements, or failure to  
35 meet the requirements to exit Level 5 - Intensive support pursuant to The  
36 Quality Education Act of 2003, § 6-15-201 et seq., the Arkansas Comprehensive

1 ~~Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq., the~~  
2 ~~Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program, § 6-20-1901 et seq.,~~  
3 ~~and the Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities Program Act, § 6-21-801 et~~  
4 ~~seq., and the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-~~  
5 ~~2901 et seq.;~~  
6

7 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1403(b)(1), concerning conditions  
8 under which the State Board of Education may annex school districts, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (1) The state board, after providing thirty (30) days written  
11 notice to the affected districts, may on its own motion based on a school  
12 district's failure to meet standards for accreditation, ~~or failure to meet~~  
13 ~~academic or fiscal distress requirements, or failure to meet the requirements~~  
14 to exit Level 5 - Intensive support pursuant to The Quality Education Act of  
15 2003, § 6-15-201 et seq., the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and  
16 Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq., and the Arkansas Fiscal  
17 Assessment and Accountability Program, § 6-20-1901 et seq., and the Arkansas  
18 Educational Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-2901 et seq.; or  
19

20 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1404(a)(1), concerning conditions  
21 under which the State Board of Education may consolidate school districts, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (1) The state board, after providing thirty (30) days' written  
24 notice to the affected school districts, determines consolidation is in the  
25 best interest of the affected district or districts and the resulting  
26 district based upon failure to meet standards for accreditation, ~~or academic,~~  
27 failure to meet fiscal, or facilities distress requirements, or failure to  
28 meet the requirements to exit Level 5 - Intensive support, pursuant to The  
29 Quality Education Act of 2003, § 6-15-201 et seq., the Arkansas Comprehensive  
30 Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq., the  
31 Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program, § 6-20-1901 et seq.,  
32 and the Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities Program Act, § 6-21-801 et  
33 seq., and the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-  
34 2901 et seq.; or  
35

36 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1404(b)(1), concerning conditions



1 under which the State Board of Education may consolidate school districts, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (1) After providing thirty (30) days written notice to the  
4 affected districts, may consolidate school districts upon its own motion  
5 based upon a school district's failure to meet standards for accreditation,  
6 ~~or academic or failure to meet~~ fiscal distress requirements, or failure to  
7 meet the requirements to exit Level 5 - Intensive support pursuant to The  
8 Quality Education Act of 2003, § 6-15-201 et seq., the Arkansas Comprehensive  
9 Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq., and  
10 the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program, § 6-20-1901 et  
11 seq., and the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-  
12 2901 et seq.; or

13  
14 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1411(b), concerning use of fund  
15 balances, is amended to read as follows:

16 (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply if the  
17 consolidation or annexation is because of the school district's failure to  
18 meet standards for accreditation, ~~or failure to meet academic, fiscal, or~~  
19 facilities distress requirements, or failure to meet the requirements to exit  
20 Level 5 - Intensive support pursuant to The Quality Education Act of 2003, §  
21 6-15-201 et seq., the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and  
22 Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq., the Arkansas Fiscal  
23 Assessment and Accountability Program, § 6-20-1901 et seq., and the Arkansas  
24 Public School Academic Facilities Program Act, § 6-21-801 et seq., and the  
25 Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-2901 et seq.

26  
27 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1613(a)(3)(D), concerning minimum  
28 school district size waiver, is amended to read as follows:

29 (D) A statement of assurance that the school district is  
30 not currently classified in ~~academic distress~~ Level 5 - Intensive support,  
31 fiscal distress, or facilities distress.

32  
33 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1613(b)(2)(A), concerning minimum  
34 school district size waiver, is amended to read as follows:

35 (A) The school district is not currently classified in  
36 ~~academic distress~~ Level 5 - Intensive support, fiscal distress, or facilities

1 *distress;*

2  
3 *SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 6-15-202(f)(7), concerning accreditation,*  
4 *is amended to read as follows:*

5 *(7) ~~Section 6-15-401 et seq. concerning the Arkansas~~*  
6 *~~Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program~~ 6-15-2901 et*  
7 *seq. concerning the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act;*

8  
9  
10 *SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1003(c)(2), concerning academically*  
11 *competent students, is amended to read as follows:*

12 *(2) School districts, schools, and students shall participate in*  
13 *the state assessments in the basic core of knowledge and skills as defined by*  
14 *the Department of Education in the ~~Arkansas Comprehensive Testing,~~*  
15 *~~Assessment, and Accountability Program~~ Arkansas Educational Support and*  
16 *Accountability Act, § 6-15-2901 et seq.*

17  
18 *SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1005(e)(2), concerning safe,*  
19 *equitable, and accountable public schools, is amended to read as follows:*

20 *(2) Every school will develop and implement a data-driven ~~school~~*  
21 *school-level improvement plan based on these analyses that leads to increased*  
22 *student achievement and continuous school improvement; and*

23  
24 *SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1005(f)(3), concerning safe,*  
25 *equitable, and accountable public schools, is amended to read as follows:*

26 *(3) Every school will involve parents in developing school goals*  
27 *and priorities and evaluating the effectiveness of the ~~school~~ school-level*  
28 *improvement plan.*

29  
30 *SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1005(g)(2), concerning safe,*  
31 *equitable, and accountable public schools, is amended to read as follows:*

32 *(2) All schools will participate in the ~~Arkansas Comprehensive~~*  
33 *~~Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program~~ Arkansas Educational Support*  
34 *and Accountability Act, § 6-15-2901 et seq.*

35  
36 *SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1005(g)(5), concerning safe,*

1 equitable, and accountable public schools, is amended to read as follows:

2 (5) Each school will issue a school achievement report to the  
3 community on all ~~state-required~~ statewide student assessments.

4  
5 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1005(h)(3), concerning safe,  
6 equitable, and accountable public schools, is amended to read as follows:

7 (3) In order for administrators to be able to renew a license,  
8 they must have participated in a continuing education and professional  
9 development program based on their ~~school~~ school-level improvement plans,  
10 performance evaluation results, and student achievement scores.

11  
12 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(b)(2)(A)(ii), concerning the  
13 school performance report, is amended to read as follows:

14 (ii) ~~Norm-referenced test~~ Statewide student  
15 assessment results;

16  
17 SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(b)(2)(A)(iii), concerning the  
18 school performance report, is repealed.

19 ~~(iii) Augmented, criterion-referenced, or norm-~~  
20 ~~referenced assessment results;~~

21  
22 SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(b)(3)(A)(ii), concerning the  
23 school performance report, is amended to read as follows:

24 (ii) ~~Norm-referenced test~~ Statewide student  
25 assessment results;

26  
27 SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(b)(3)(A)(iii), concerning the  
28 school performance report, is repealed.

29 ~~(iii) Augmented criterion-referenced assessment~~  
30 ~~results;~~

31  
32 SECTION 24. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(b)(3)(A)(xiv), concerning the  
33 school performance report, is repealed.

34 ~~(xiv) Student participation in the Arkansas College~~  
35 ~~and Career Readiness Planning Program under § 6-15-441; and~~

1       SECTION 25. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(b)(4)(B)(i), concerning the  
2 school performance report, is repealed.

3               ~~(i) Highly qualified teacher,~~  
4

5       SECTION 26. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(d)(2), concerning the school  
6 performance report, is amended to read as follows:

7               (2) Explore the feasibility of incorporating the ~~school~~ school-  
8 level improvement plans developed by schools and school district support  
9 plans developed by school districts with the school performance reports.  
10

11       SECTION 27. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(e), concerning the school  
12 performance report, is amended to read as follows:

13               (e) The school performance report shall not include individual student  
14 information if the information is reported in a manner that would identify a  
15 particular student except as permitted under the Family Educational Rights  
16 and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, as in effect on January 1, 2017.  
17

18       SECTION 28. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1503 is repealed.

19       ~~6-15-1503. State mandated exams.~~

20       ~~(a)(1) The State Board of Education shall ensure that any revisions~~  
21 ~~made to the Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Framework~~  
22 ~~process is to be aligned to the state assessment system for core academic~~  
23 ~~areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies as~~  
24 ~~funding permits.~~

25       ~~(2) All end-of-course tests shall be aligned with the content~~  
26 ~~standards and curriculum frameworks.~~

27       ~~(b) All other components of the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing,~~  
28 ~~Assessment, and Accountability Program should be aligned with the Arkansas~~  
29 ~~Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Framework process.~~  
30

31       SECTION 29. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1602 is repealed.

32       ~~6-15-1602. Students who have been placed at risk of academic failure—~~  
33 ~~Personal education plans.~~

34       ~~(a)(1) Local school districts shall identify students in all grades~~  
35 ~~who have been placed at risk of academic failure and shall implement a~~  
36 ~~personal education plan for academic improvement with focused intervention~~

1 ~~and performance benchmarks.~~

2 ~~(2) Identification shall occur as early as can reasonably be~~  
3 ~~done and can be based on grades, observations, and other factors that~~  
4 ~~teachers and administrators consider appropriate without having to await the~~  
5 ~~results of end of grade or end of course tests.~~

6 ~~(b)(1) At the beginning of the school year, a personal education plan~~  
7 ~~shall be developed for any student not performing at least at grade level, as~~  
8 ~~identified by the state end of grade test.~~

9 ~~(2) If a student's performance appears to be falling below state~~  
10 ~~proficiency standards at any time during the school year, a personal~~  
11 ~~education plan shall be developed.~~

12 ~~(e) Focused intervention and acceleration activities may include,~~  
13 ~~among other things, summer school, Saturday school, and extended days.~~

14 ~~(d) Local school districts shall provide the activities identified in~~  
15 ~~subsection (e) of this section, and transportation, free of charge to~~  
16 ~~students.~~

17  
18 SECTION 30. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1704(b)(1)(C)(i) and (ii), concerning  
19 parental involvement plans, are amended to read as follows:

20 (i) ~~School improvement for two (2) consecutive~~  
21 ~~school years Level 4 - Directed support; or~~

22 (ii) ~~Academic distress Level 5 - Intensive support.~~

23  
24 SECTION 31. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2002 is repealed.

25 ~~6-15-2002. Comprehensive program.~~

26 ~~The State Board of Education shall establish a comprehensive program~~  
27 ~~for student progression that shall include:~~

28 ~~(1) Standards for evaluating each student's performance,~~  
29 ~~including the student's mastery level with respect to the academic content~~  
30 ~~standards;~~

31 ~~(2) Specific levels of performance in reading, writing, and~~  
32 ~~mathematics for each grade level and specific proficiency levels of~~  
33 ~~performance on statewide assessments, including end of course examinations,~~  
34 ~~below which a student shall be remediated within an intensive program that is~~  
35 ~~different from the previous year's program and that takes into account the~~  
36 ~~student's learning style; and~~

~~(3) Appropriate alternative education intervention programs as developed by the local school district in compliance with state and federal law and approved by the Department of Education for a student who has been retained two (2) consecutive years.~~

SECTION 32. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2004(a)(2), concerning reading deficiency and parental notification, are amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) Any student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading, based upon statewide assessments conducted in grades kindergarten through two (K-2), or through teacher observations, shall be given intensive reading instruction ~~utilizing a reading program approved by the State Board of Education based on the science of reading~~ as soon as practicable following the identification of the reading deficiency.

~~(B) The student's reading proficiency shall be reassessed by utilizing assessments within the state board approved reading program.~~

~~(C) The student shall continue to be provided with intensive reading instruction until the reading deficiency is corrected.~~

SECTION 33. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2006(b) and (c), concerning the student progression annual report, are amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) A school district board of directors shall publish annually ~~in the local newspaper the school performance report required by § 6-15-1402 and report in writing to the State Board of Education § 6-15-2101 on its website, with the option of also publishing it in the local newspaper,~~ by October 15 of each year, and the following information on the prior school year or the latest information available:

~~(1)(A)~~ (A) By grade level, economic status, and ethnicity, the number and percentage of all students in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) performing at each category level on the ~~state-mandated examinations statewide student assessment~~, the percentile rankings by school and grade level on any other assessments as required by the ~~state board~~ State Board of Education, the number of students taking advanced placement courses or courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, the number taking the advanced placement exams, and the percent of students making a 3, 4, or 5 on advanced placement exams;

~~(2)(B)~~ (B) By grade level, the number and percentage of all

1 students retained in grades one through eight (1-8);

2 ~~(3)(C)~~ The graduation rate, grade inflation rate, drop-out  
3 rate for grades nine through twelve (9-12), and college remediation rate;

4 ~~(4)(D)~~ The number of students transferring pursuant to the  
5 unsafe school provision of ~~§ 6-15-432~~ § 6-18-320; and

6 ~~(5)(E)~~ The number of students transferring pursuant to the  
7 Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act of 2004, § 6-18-227.

8 (2) The school performance report shall be easily identifiable on  
9 the website.

10 (c) A printed copy of the school performance report under § 6-15-2101  
11 shall be made available upon request.

12 (d) This section shall apply to the extent that it is not in violation  
13 of applicable state or federal law.

14  
15 SECTION 34. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2009 is repealed.

16 ~~6-15-2009. Public school assessments and remediation.~~

17 ~~(a)(1) Each student shall participate in the statewide program of~~  
18 ~~educational assessment required in §§ 6-15-419, 6-15-433, and this section~~  
19 ~~and by the State Board of Education.~~

20 ~~(2) Each student in grades three through eight (3-8) shall~~  
21 ~~participate in assessments required in §§ 6-15-419, 6-15-433, and this~~  
22 ~~section and by the state board.~~

23 ~~(3) Students in appropriate grades shall participate in the end-~~  
24 ~~of-course assessments and college and career readiness measurements required~~  
25 ~~by §§ 6-15-419 and 6-15-433 as established by the state board and this~~  
26 ~~section.~~

27 ~~(4)(A) The State Board of Education shall determine the~~  
28 ~~requisite scale score of student performance on each assessment or~~  
29 ~~measurement required in subdivisions (a)(1)-(3) of this section.~~

30 ~~(B) The State Board of Education shall make its~~  
31 ~~determination of the requisite scale score of student performance on college~~  
32 ~~and career readiness measurements used for college placement in conjunction~~  
33 ~~with the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.~~

34 ~~(b)(1) A student identified as not meeting the satisfactory pass~~  
35 ~~levels in the immediate previously administered state-mandated assessment~~  
36 ~~shall participate in the remediation activities as required in the student's~~

~~academic improvement plan beginning in the school year the assessment results are reported.~~

~~(2) The Department of Education may determine that an individualized education program for a student with disabilities identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., meets the requirements of an academic improvement plan under this section if the individualized education program addresses one (1) or more academic areas in which the student is not proficient on state-mandated assessments.~~

~~(3)(A) The public school district where the student is enrolled shall notify the student's parent, guardian, or caregiver of the parent's role and responsibilities as well as the consequences for the student's failure to participate in the plan.~~

~~(B) This notice may be provided via student handbooks issued to students.~~

~~(4) A student in grades three through eight (3-8) identified as not passing a state-mandated assessment and who fails to participate in the subsequent academic improvement plan shall be retained and shall not be promoted to the next appropriate grade until:~~

~~(A) The student is deemed to have participated in an academic improvement plan; or~~

~~(B) The student passes the state-mandated assessment for the current grade level in which the student is retained.~~

~~(c)(1) A student required to take an end-of-course assessment who is identified as not meeting the requisite scale score for the end-of-course assessment shall participate in the remediation activities as required in the student's academic improvement plan in the school year that the assessment results are reported in order to receive academic credit on his or her transcript for the course related to the end-of-course assessment.~~

~~(2) The academic improvement plan shall include remediation activities focused on those areas in which a student failed to meet the requisite scale score of an end-of-course assessment.~~

~~(3) A student who is identified as not meeting the requisite scale score for an end-of-course assessment shall not receive academic credit on his or her transcript for the course related to the end-of-course assessment until the student is identified as having participated in~~



~~remediation through an academic improvement plan.~~

~~(d)(1) The state board may require remediation activities and an academic improvement plan for a student in grades in which a state-mandated assessment is required.~~

~~(2) The state board may require that the academic improvement plan include one (1) or more opportunities for a student to retake the measurement.~~

~~(3) For the purpose of a college and career readiness measurement, remediation shall not require that a student pass a subsequent college and career readiness measurement in order to graduate from an Arkansas high school.~~

~~(e)(1) The end-of-course assessment program shall be maintained in such a manner as to meet the requirements of state and federal law, including the full range of students with disabilities.~~

~~(2)(A) The superintendent of each public school district shall be responsible for the proper administration of this section and the rules promulgated by the state board to implement the requirements of this section.~~

~~(B) To the extent that a public school district is determined to have knowingly failed to administer these provisions of law or rules, the superintendent's license shall be subject to probation, suspension, or revocation under § 6-17-410.~~

~~(3) Each year the department shall make public item and task prototypes for the English language arts and mathematics assessments required by this section or a selection of actual items and tasks from the most recent assessments.~~

~~(4)(A) The state board shall promulgate rules to establish cut scores, remediation programs required in this section, and other components of the state assessment program necessary to administer the provisions of this section.~~

~~(B) Remedial activities and instruction provided during high school shall not be in lieu of English language arts, mathematics, science, history, or other core courses required for graduation.~~

~~(5) Each school year, the department shall establish and publish by commissioner's memo an assessment cycle for state-required assessments that a public school district shall follow unless the public school district has obtained a written waiver from the department.~~

~~(6)(A) The department shall develop the form of end-of-course assessments and subsequent end-of-course assessments with the documents, manuals, forms, and protocols necessary for the proper administration, completion, submission, and scoring of the assessment.~~

~~(B) The assessment shall be composed of sections that may include both multiple choice and open response test items.~~

~~(7) For the 2009-2010 school year and each school year thereafter, the department shall take steps to ensure that the end-of-course assessments are aligned with state standards and that professional development training is available to teachers of courses for which an end-of-course assessment is required.~~

~~(8) In administering the assessments under this section, the public school district shall provide state approved accommodations for students with state recognized disabilities and for English language learners as allowed by law and state board rules.~~

SECTION 35. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2101(a)(2), concerning school rating system annual reports, is amended to read as follows:

(2) The department shall prescribe the design and content of these reports that shall include without limitation descriptions of achievement of all schools participating in any assessment program and all of their major student populations as determined by the department, provided that the provisions of ~~§ 6-15-415~~ § 6-15-2909 pertaining to student records apply to this section.

SECTION 36. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2101(b), concerning school rating system annual reports, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) The department shall provide information regarding performance of students and educational programs as required under ~~§§ 6-15-433~~ §§ 6-15-2907 and 6-15-2301 and implement a system of school reports as required by statute and State Board of Education rule.

(2) Annual school performance reports shall be in an easy-to-read format ~~and shall include both the school improvement and performance level designations.~~

SECTION 37. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2101(c), concerning school rating

1 system annual reports, is repealed.

2 ~~(e) The annual report shall designate one (1) school performance~~  
3 ~~category level for each school based on:~~

4 ~~(1) Student academic performance on state-mandated assessments~~  
5 ~~as required by law or by rule of the state board;~~

6 ~~(2) Student growth based on state-mandated assessments as~~  
7 ~~required by law or by rule of the state board; and~~

8 ~~(3) For a secondary school, the school's graduation rate.~~

9  
10 SECTION 38. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2101(d)(1) and (2), concerning school  
11 rating system annual reports, are amended to read as follows:

12 (1) Student performance on state-mandated statewide student  
13 assessments as required by law or rule of the state board;

14 (2) Student academic growth based on state-mandated statewide  
15 student assessments as required by law or rule of the state board;

16  
17 SECTION 39. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2106(b)(1), concerning school rating  
18 system rules, is amended to read as follows:

19 (1) ~~The Common Core State Standards~~ Arkansas academic standards;

20  
21 SECTION 40. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2106(b)(3), concerning school rating  
22 system rules, is amended to read as follows:

23 (3) Rules adopted under the requirements of a law enacted by the  
24 United States Congress for general education, including without limitation  
25 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 89-10, as  
26 reauthorized by the ~~No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et~~  
27 ~~seq.~~ Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95, or any  
28 supplementary federal regulations, directives, or decisions of the United  
29 States Department of Education pertaining to that legislation.

30  
31 SECTION 41. Arkansas Code § 6-21-2106(c) and (d), concerning school  
32 rating system rules, are repealed.

33 ~~(e) The state board may adopt by rule, criteria that permit the~~  
34 ~~following entities to be exempt from the identification and classification of~~  
35 ~~academic distress:~~

36 ~~(1) A public school that is designated solely as an alternative~~

~~learning environment;~~

~~(2) An open-enrollment public charter school whose mission and enrollment are primarily focused on students who have dropped out of high school or are identified as at risk of dropping out of school;~~

~~(3) A conversion public charter school whose mission and enrollment are primarily focused on students who have dropped out of high school or are identified as at risk of dropping out of school;~~

~~(4) The Arkansas School for the Blind; and~~

~~(5) The Arkansas School for the Deaf.~~

~~(d) The criteria adopted by the state board under subsection (c) of this section shall include the method to measure student academic performance for a student who attends an entity identified under subsection (c) of this section to meet the requirements of state or federal law or regulation.~~

SECTION 42. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2201 is repealed.

~~6-15-2201. Implementation of state system of school improvement and education accountability.~~

~~(a) The Department of Education is responsible for implementing and maintaining a system of intensive school improvement and education accountability that shall include policies and programs to implement the following:~~

~~(1)(A) A system of data collection and analysis that will improve information about the educational success of individual students and schools.~~

~~(B) The information and analyses shall be capable of identifying educational programs or activities in need of improvement, and reports prepared pursuant to this section shall be distributed to the appropriate school district boards of directors prior to distribution to the general public.~~

~~(C) No disclosure shall be made that is in violation of applicable federal or state law;~~

~~(2) A program of school improvement that will analyze information to identify schools' educational programs or educational activities in need of improvement;~~

~~(3) A method of delivering services to assist school districts and schools to improve; and~~

~~(4) A method of coordinating the state educational goals and school improvement plans with any other state program that creates incentives for school improvement.~~

~~(b)(1) The department shall be responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the system of school improvement and education accountability outlined in this section.~~

~~(2) There shall be an annual determination of whether each school is progressing toward implementing and maintaining a system of school improvement.~~

~~(c)(1) If progress is not being made, the local school district shall prepare and implement a revised school improvement plan.~~

~~(2) The department shall monitor the development and implementation of the revised school improvement plan.~~

~~(d)(1)(A) The department shall implement a training program to develop among state and school district educators a cadre of facilitators of school improvement.~~

~~(B) These facilitators shall assist schools and school districts to conduct needs assessments and develop and implement school improvement plans to meet state goals.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) Upon request, the department shall provide technical assistance and training to any school, school district, or school district board of directors for conducting needs assessments, developing and implementing school improvement plans, developing and implementing assistance and intervention plans, or implementing other components of school improvement and accountability.~~

~~(ii) Priority for these services shall be given to schools designated as school districts in academic distress or schools in need of school improvement under state or federal law.~~

~~(B)(i) No less than semiannually, the department shall provide a report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education setting forth the school districts requesting assistance, the state of each request, and the dates and actions taken.~~

~~(ii) The department shall further report the results of the actions taken or assistance provided.~~

~~(e) As a part of the system of educational accountability, the department shall:~~

~~(1) Develop minimum performance standards for various grades and subject areas, as required in §§ 6-15-404 and 6-15-433;~~

~~(2) Administer the statewide assessment testing program created by § 6-15-433;~~

~~(3) Conduct or contract with a provider to conduct the program assessments required by § 6-15-403;~~

~~(4) Conduct or contract with any provider for implementation for any part or portion of this act; and~~

~~(5) Perform any other functions that may be involved in educational planning, research, and evaluation or that may be required by the State Board of Education rules and regulations or federal or state law.~~

SECTION 43. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2202(a)(1), concerning access to school improvement plans, is amended to read as follows:

(1) Improve student achievement and close achievement gaps among student subgroups by providing public access to ~~comprehensive school~~ school-level improvement plans;

SECTION 44. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2202(b)(1), concerning access to school improvement plans, is repealed.

~~(1)(A) The comprehensive school improvement plan developed under the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq., for each public school in the public school district.~~

~~(B) {Repealed.}~~

SECTION 45. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2202(b)(3)-(5), concerning access to school improvement plans, is amended to read as follows:

(3) A parent-friendly explanation of:

(A) ~~The school improvement status of~~ level of support being provided to the public school district;

(B) ~~The school improvement status of each public school in the public school district, including the identification of any supplemental educational services available to each public school; and~~

(C) ~~Why the public school district or any of its public schools are under academic distress, school improvement is receiving Level 5~~

1 ~~- Intensive support, a school is identified as targeted or comprehensive, or~~  
2 ~~the public school district is in fiscal distress and what the public school~~  
3 ~~district is doing to be removed from academic distress, school improvement~~  
4 ~~Level 5 - Intensive support, to remove the school or schools within the~~  
5 ~~public school district from being identified as targeted or comprehensive, or~~  
6 ~~to be removed from fiscal distress;~~

7 (4) The public school district's parental involvement plan and  
8 the parental involvement plan of all public schools in the public school  
9 district and informational packets required under § 6-15-1702 ~~and under the~~  
10 ~~No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.; and~~

11 (5) Teacher qualifications for all public schools in the public  
12 school district ~~under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301~~  
13 ~~et seq.~~

14  
15 SECTION 46. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2202(c)(2), concerning access to  
16 school improvement plans, is amended to read as follows:

17 (2) Assists a school with its ~~comprehensive school~~ school-level  
18 improvement plan or school district support plan.

19  
20 SECTION 47. Arkansas Code § 6-17-705(c), concerning professional  
21 development credit, is repealed.

22 ~~(c) Licensed personnel may earn up to twelve (12) hours of~~  
23 ~~professional development credit required under subsection (a) of this section~~  
24 ~~through online professional development credit approved by the Department of~~  
25 ~~Education and related to the:~~

26 ~~(1) School district's comprehensive school improvement plan; or~~  
27 ~~(2) Teacher's professional growth plan under the Teacher~~  
28 ~~Excellence and Support System, § 6-17-2801 et seq.~~

29  
30 SECTION 48. Arkansas Code § 6-17-707(c)(1)-(3), concerning the  
31 Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative, are amended to read as  
32 follows:

33 (1) Are aligned to the required focus areas identified in the  
34 State Board of Education rules governing professional development and the  
35 ~~Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program~~  
36 Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-2901 et seq.;

1 (2) Are aligned with the clear, specific, and challenging  
2 academic content areas as established by the Department of Education as  
3 required under ~~§ 6-15-404~~ § 6-15-2906;

4 (3) Are aligned with the ~~state curriculum frameworks~~ Arkansas  
5 academic standards established by the department for each class level or  
6 subject area included in the respective professional development programs;  
7

8 SECTION 49. Arkansas Code § 6-17-707(h) and (i), concerning the  
9 Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative, are amended to read as  
10 follows:

11 (h)(1) As part of a ~~school improvement plan~~ school district support  
12 plan, the department may include guidelines for the professional development  
13 programs to be delivered to the licensed personnel employed by ~~a school in~~  
14 ~~school improvement status or a school district in school improvement status~~  
15 ~~or academic distress~~ receiving Level 3 - Coordinated, Level 4 - Directed, or  
16 Level 5 - Intensive support.

17 (2)(A) As part of the ~~school improvement~~ school district support  
18 plan, the department may require the participation and completion of  
19 professional development courses or programs by licensed personnel in ~~the a~~  
20 ~~school or school district as appropriate for the licensed personnel's job~~  
21 ~~assignments and duties.~~

22 ~~(B) Licensed personnel employed by any school in school~~  
23 ~~improvement or school district in school improvement or academic distress~~  
24 ~~shall participate in, complete, and pass the assessment for the professional~~  
25 ~~development requirements included in the school's or school district's school~~  
26 ~~improvement plan.~~

27 ~~(i) The department shall further enhance its leadership role in~~  
28 ~~professional development for licensed personnel by:~~

29 ~~(1) Developing technology-based professional development~~  
30 ~~programs and other enhanced professional development options for school~~  
31 ~~districts and licensed personnel; and~~

32 ~~(2) Employing two (2) persons who have a high level of expertise~~  
33 ~~in professional development for the purpose of enhancing professional~~  
34 ~~development opportunities as set forth in this section.~~

35  
36 SECTION 50. Arkansas Code § 6-18-901(b), concerning maintenance of



1 permanent student records, is amended to read as follows:

2 (b) The permanent student record shall include all information  
3 concerning educational programming ~~provided a student who fails to achieve~~  
4 ~~mastery level performance on all administrations of the basic competency~~  
5 ~~tests including statewide student assessments required under the Arkansas~~  
6 ~~Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401~~  
7 ~~et seq~~ Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-2901 et  
8 seq.  
9

10 SECTION 51. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(C)(iv)(a), concerning  
11 public school funding, is amended to read as follows:

12 (iv)(a) Upon review of the school district's  
13 ~~comprehensive school~~ school-level improvement plan, if the Commissioner of  
14 Education determines that the school district has met the needs of students  
15 in the school district for whom the funding for additional educational  
16 categories this subsection is provided, has met the requirements of  
17 subdivisions (b)(4)(C)(ii) and (iii) of this section, and has prudently  
18 managed its resources, the commissioner shall give written approval of the  
19 detailed planned flexible use of excess national school lunch student  
20 categorical funds provided to the school district.  
21  
22

23 SECTION 52. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(C)(ix)(b)(5)-(7),  
24 concerning public school funding, is amended to read as follows:

25 (5) The school district shall include  
26 with its ~~comprehensive school~~ school-level improvement plan a written  
27 detailed narrative or plan concerning how the school district will use its  
28 excess national school lunch categorical funds each school year and  
29 explaining in detail the amount of funds and percent of total funds to be  
30 used to supplement all classroom teacher salaries as allowed in this  
31 subdivision (b)(4)(C)(ix);

32 (6) Upon review of the school district's  
33 ~~comprehensive school~~ school-level improvement plan, if the commissioner  
34 determines that the school district has met or is meeting the needs of  
35 students in the school district for which the funding for additional  
36 educational categories under this subdivision (b)(4)(C)(ix) and has prudently

1 managed its resources, the commissioner shall give written approval of the  
2 detailed planned flexible use of excess national school lunch student  
3 categorical funds provided to the school district; and

4 (7) Upon review of the school district's  
5 ~~comprehensive school~~ school-level improvement plan and other indicators, if  
6 the commissioner determines that a school district has not met the needs of  
7 students that may be served with national school lunch student categorical  
8 funds, the commissioner may require that any and all national school lunch  
9 categorical funds dedicated for use or application in the teacher salary fund  
10 shall be removed from and not used to meet the classroom teacher salary  
11 obligation and redirected and applied to meet the needs of students in a  
12 school district.

13  
14 SECTION 53. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(E)(ii)(c), concerning  
15 public school funding, is amended to read as follows:

16 (c) The analysis of student achievement data  
17 evaluated in student achievement growth models as defined under ~~§ 6-15-435~~ §  
18 6-15-2908 shall be expanded to include the evaluation of the best estimates  
19 of classroom, school, and school district effects on narrowing the  
20 achievement gap, in addition to the examination of student progress based on  
21 established value-added longitudinal calculations.

22  
23 SECTION 54. Arkansas Code § 6-23-107(b)(2)(A), concerning reporting  
24 requirements for public charter schools, is amended to read as follows:

25 (2)(A) For all students enrolled in the public charter school,  
26 the scores for assessments required under the ~~Arkansas Comprehensive Testing,~~  
27 ~~Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq., including~~  
28 ~~without limitation benchmark assessments and end-of-course assessments~~  
29 Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-2901 et seq.

30  
31 SECTION 55. Arkansas Code § 10-3-2102(f)(2)-(5), concerning duties of  
32 the adequacy committee, are amended to read as follows:

33 (2) Reviewing the ~~curriculum frameworks~~ Arkansas academic  
34 standards developed by the Department of Education;

35 (3) Reviewing the ~~Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment,~~  
36 ~~and Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq~~ Arkansas Educational

1 Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-2901 et seq.;

2 (4) *Reviewing fiscal, ~~academic~~, and facilities distress*  
3 *programs;*

4 (5) *Reviewing the state's standing under the ~~No Child Left~~*  
5 *~~Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq. Elementary and Secondary~~*  
6 *~~Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 89-10, as reauthorized by the Every~~*  
7 *~~Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95;~~*

8  
9 /s/J. English  
10

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12 **APPROVED: 04/05/2017**  
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State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S3/14/17 S3/16/17 S3/23/17*

91st General Assembly

Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 168

By: Joint Budget Committee

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR GRANTS AND AID TO  
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
JUNE 30, 2018; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -  
GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS APPROPRIATION FOR  
THE 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND  
SPECIAL PROGRAMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of  
Education, to be payable from the Department of Education Public School Fund  
Account, for grants and aid to local school districts and special programs of  
the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the  
following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2017-2018
(01) 98% URT ACTUAL COLLECTION ADJUSTMENT	34,500,000
(02) ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE	\$15,000,000
(03) ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE	825,000
(04) ALTERNATIVE LEARNING	26,394,317



1	(05)	ARKANSAS EASTER SEALS	193,113
2	(06)	ASSESSMENT/END OF LEVEL TESTING	22,250,189
3	(07)	AT RISK	1,688,530
4	(08)	BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM	114,000,000
5	(09)	BONDED DEBT ASSISTANCE	28,455,384
6	(10)	COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE	2,500,000
7	(11)	CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE	5,981,400
8	(12)	CONTENT STANDARDS	161,000
9	(13)	CONTENTS STANDARDS CURRICULUM	
10		FRAMEWORKS	50,000
11	(14)	COOP EDUCATION TECH CENTERS	1,200,000
12	(15)	COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH	2,000,000
13	(16)	COURT ORDERED DESEGREGATION	65,794,267
14	(17)	CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS	25,000
15	(18)	DECLINING ENROLLMENT	13,963,389
16	(19)	DEPT OF CORRECTION	6,543,752
17	(20)	DISTANCE LEARNING	4,760,000
18	(21)	DISTANCE LEARNING OPERATIONS	7,575,000
19	(22)	DISTRESSED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT	50,000
20	(23)	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION	16,897,920
21	(24)	ECONOMIC EDUCATION	400,000
22	(25)	EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVES	6,129,270
23	(26)	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	15,715,105
24	(27)	ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING	3,000,000
25	(28)	GENERAL FACILITIES FUNDING	8,100,000
26	(29)	GIFTED & TALENTED	1,485,381
27	(30)	GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS	67,856
28	(31)	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER EDUCATION	
29		AID	526,150
30	(32)	INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS	302,000
31	(33)	ISOLATED FUNDING	7,896,000
32	(34)	LEADERSHIP ACADEMY-MASTER PRINCIPAL	500,000
33	(35)	MASTER PRINCIPAL BONUS	208,000
34	(36)	NATIONAL BOARD OF PROF TEACHING	
35		STANDARDS	15,322,100
36	(37)	NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH	223,783,349

1	(38)	NON-TRADITIONAL LICENSURE	50,000
2	(39)	NSL MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM	4,300,000
3	(40)	OE CHARTER FAC FUNDING AID PRG	5,000,000
4	(41)	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING	20,617,836
5	(42)	PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	57,373,600
6	(43)	R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS	1,100,000
7	(44)	RESIDENTIAL CENTERS/JUVENILE	
8		DETENTION	16,345,087
9	(45)	SCHOOL FACILITY JOINT USE SUPPORT	500,000
10	(46)	SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES	1,650,000
11	(47)	SCHOOL FOOD-LEGISLATIVE AUDIT	75,000
12	(48)	SCHOOL FUNDING CONTINGENCY	25,000,000
13	(49)	SCHOOL RECOGNITION	7,000,000
14	(50)	SCHOOL WORKER DEFENSE	390,000
15	(51)	SERIOUS OFFENDER	1,716,859
16	(52)	SMART START/SMART STEP	10,666,303
17	(53)	SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	2,802,527
18	(54)	SPECIAL EDUCATION-CATASTROPHIC	13,000,000
19	(55)	SPECIAL NEEDS ISOLATED FUNDING	3,000,000
20	(56)	STATE FOUNDATION FUNDING	2,085,908,817
21	(57)	STUDENT GROWTH	37,690,144
22	(58)	SUPPLEMENTAL MILLAGE	10,000,000
23	(59)	SURPLUS COMMODITIES	1,125,065
24	(60)	TEACHER LICENSING/MENTORING	6,065,758
25	(61)	TEACHER OF THE YEAR	100,000
26	(62)	TEACHER RECRUITMENT	2,100,000
27	(63)	TEACHER RETIREMENT MATCHING	10,124,858
28	(64)	TECHNOLOGY GRANTS	3,602,678
29	(65)	TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS	500,000
30	(66)	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	450,000
31	(67)	YOUTH SHELTERS	165,000
32		TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$2,982,663,004</u>

33

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

35 There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Arkansas Public  
36 School Computer Network for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the following maximum

number of regular employees.

Item	Class		Maximum	Maximum Annual
No.	Code	Title	No. of Employees	Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2017-2018
(1)	N047N	ADE APSCN DIRECTOR	1	GRADE N908
(2)	G012C	ADE ASSISTANT TO COMMISSIONER	3	GRADE C129
(3)	D007C	INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER	1	GRADE C128
(4)	D006C	SOFTWARE ENGINEER LEAD	1	GRADE C128
(5)	D012C	DATABASE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE C127
(6)	G050C	ADE APSCN DIVISION MANAGER	3	GRADE C126
(7)	D105C	ADE STATE NETWORK ENGINEER	1	GRADE C126
(8)	D104C	ADE STATE SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE C126
(9)	D037C	ADE APSCN APPLICATIONS MANAGER	3	GRADE C124
(10)	D042C	DATA WAREHOUSE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE C123
(11)	D038C	SENIOR SOFTWARE SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE C123
(12)	D055C	ADE APSCN FIELD ANALYST	25	GRADE C121
(13)	D063C	COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE C119
(14)	A089C	ACCOUNTANT I	1	GRADE C116
(15)	C020C	STUDENT APPLICATIONS SPECIALIST	4	GRADE C116
(16)	D079C	COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE C115
(17)	D077C	HELP DESK SPECIALIST	2	GRADE C115
(18)	C056C	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	1	GRADE C112
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES			52	

### SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Department of Education Public School Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Arkansas Public School Computer Network for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2017-2018
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$2,446,075

1	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	794,444
2	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
3	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	19,245,839
4	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	7,250
5	(C) PROF. FEES	0
6	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
7	(E) DATA PROC.	0
8	(04) DATA ACCESS IMPLEMENTATION	<u>300,000</u>
9	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$22,793,608</u>

SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Office of Education Renewal Zones for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

## Maximum Annual

## Salary Rate

## Fiscal Year

## 2017-2018

Item	Class	Maximum	No. of	
No.	Code	Title	Employees	
(1)	E020C	ADE OERZ TECHNICAL ASSIST SPECIALIST	3	GRADE C122
(2)	C056C	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	<u>1</u>	GRADE C112
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	4	

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Department of Education Public School Fund Account, for personal services, operating expenses and grants by the Department of Education - Office of Education Renewal Zones for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2017-2018
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$154,077
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	54,010
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	91,800



1	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	13,000
2	(C) PROF. FEES	0
3	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
4	(E) DATA PROC.	0
5	(04) EDUCATIONAL RENEWAL ZONE GRANTS	<u>1,024,350</u>
6	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,337,237</u>

7

8 SECTION 6. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
 9 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. R.I.S.E.  
 10 ARKANSAS - CARRY FORWARD. Any unexpended balance of monies allocated for  
 11 R.I.S.E. Arkansas remaining on June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018, in the Department of  
 12 Education Public School Fund Account shall be designated and retained for the  
 13 R.I.S.E. Arkansas.

14 Any carry forward of unexpected balance of funding as authorized herein, may  
 15 be carried forward under the following conditions:

16 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018 the Agency shall by written statement  
 17 set forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the  
 18 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

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

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

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

1 Institution.

2 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
3 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

4  
5 SECTION 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
6 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUND  
7 ALLOCATION. The appropriation for the Isolated Funding line item in the  
8 Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this  
9 Act may be fully funded. Any funding and appropriation for Isolated Funding  
10 that is not utilized shall be transferred to the appropriation for Special  
11 Needs Isolated Funding in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and  
12 Special Programs section of this Act and shall be used there for fully  
13 funding each subsection (c) through (f) of Arkansas Code §6-20-604 on a pro  
14 rata basis until the available funds are exhausted. Pro rata basis is defined  
15 as providing each district qualifying for additional funding under  
16 subsections (c) through (f) a proportionate share based on how each  
17 district's additional funding amount bears to the total additional funding  
18 amounts for all qualifying districts. If any funding and appropriation  
19 remains after funding each subsection (c) through (f) of Arkansas Code §6-20-  
20 604 the remaining balance shall be used to fund the provisions of Arkansas  
21 Code §6-20-604 (h) on an equal basis until the available funds are exhausted.

22 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
23 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

24  
25 SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
26 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. GRANTS TO  
27 SCHOOL DISTRICTS. For the purposes of distributing the Grants To School  
28 Districts appropriation in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and  
29 Special Programs section of this Act, "school district" means a school  
30 district which contracts with a school district in an adjoining state for the  
31 education of some of the pupils within the Arkansas school district because  
32 the portion of the school district wherein such pupils live is completely  
33 separated from the remainder of the school district by a reservoir covering  
34 at least 12,000 acres at normal water level, and where to attend school in  
35 their own district, the pupils of said portion would be required to travel or  
36 to be transported a distance (measured by the nearest highway or road route)

1 of more than 35 miles round trip and pass through another school district or  
2 districts. The Department of Education shall distribute the monies  
3 appropriated for Grants to School Districts in the Grants and Aid to Local  
4 School Districts and Special Programs section of this Act to such school  
5 districts as reimbursement for expenses incurred in educating the pupils  
6 residing in the separated portion of the school district. The payments are to  
7 be limited to the amount of available appropriation. Such school districts  
8 shall file a request for reimbursement with the Department of Education and  
9 provide the Department of Education with such documentation as is deemed  
10 necessary.

11 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
12 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

13  
14 SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
15 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SPECIAL  
16 EDUCATION SERVICES. The funds appropriated in the line item "Special  
17 Education Services" in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and  
18 Special Programs section of this Act shall be used to provide extended year  
19 summer programs for handicapped students in need of such services, to provide  
20 special education services to foster children who are wards of the State, and  
21 to provide funds for the payment of salaries of special education  
22 supervisors. The Department of Education shall distribute such funds in the  
23 manner necessary to carry out the intent of this Section.

24 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
25 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

26  
27 SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
28 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
29 DESEGREGATION EXPENSES. (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, and for each  
30 fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Education shall from time to time  
31 as needed, certify to the State Treasurer and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the  
32 State, the amount of funds disbursed or approved to be disbursed by the  
33 Department of Education for desegregation expenses under any "Desegregation  
34 Settlement Agreement". Upon the receipt of such certification, the State  
35 Treasurer, after making those deductions as set out in Arkansas Code 19-5-  
36 202(b)(2)(B), shall also deduct from the net general revenues the amount

1 certified and transfer this amount to the Department of Education Public  
2 School Fund Account there to be used exclusively for payment of or  
3 reimbursement for expenses incurred from the Department of Education Public  
4 School Fund Account under any "Desegregation Settlement Agreement".

5 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
6 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

7  
8 SECTION 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
9 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
10 CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE. The appropriation contained herein for Consolidation  
11 Incentive shall be allocated in accordance with rules and regulations  
12 established by the State Board of Education.

13 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
14 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

15  
16 SECTION 12. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
17 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
18 RESIDENTIAL CENTERS/JUVENILE DETENTION. The funds appropriated herein for  
19 Residential Centers/Juvenile Detention shall be allocated in accordance with  
20 rules and regulations established by the State Board of Education.

21 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
22 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

23  
24 SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
25 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER  
26 AUTHORITY. The Commissioner of the Department of Education, with the approval  
27 of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and after approval by the Arkansas  
28 Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, is hereby authorized to  
29 request necessary appropriation transfers and any other budget related  
30 adjustments necessary within the Department of Education. Provided, however,  
31 that the Department of Education shall be limited to submitting no more than  
32 two transfer requests during any fiscal year.

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

1 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by  
2 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly  
3 has determined that the Department of Education may operate more efficiently  
4 if some flexibility is provided to the Commissioner of the Department of  
5 Education authorizing broad powers under the Transfer Authority provision  
6 herein. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General  
7 Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative  
8 Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The  
9 requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee  
10 is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by  
11 the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional  
12 by a court jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

13 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
14 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

15  
16 SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
17 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. AETN  
18 DOCUMENTED QUIZ BOWL COSTS. Of the total amount of appropriation and funds  
19 authorized herein to the Department of Education for the Quiz Bowl each  
20 fiscal year, an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) each  
21 fiscal year may be made available to the Department of Education -  
22 Educational Television Division for its documented costs associated with the  
23 Quiz Bowl.

24 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
25 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

26  
27 SECTION 15. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
28 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
29 DISTRESSED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT. The funds appropriated in the line item  
30 "Distressed School District Support" in the Grants and Aid to Local School  
31 Districts and Special Programs section of this Act may be used for technical  
32 assistance offered by the Department of Education to school districts in  
33 academic distress that can include, but is not limited to, teacher  
34 specialists, principal specialists, and other personnel assigned by the  
35 department. These funds may also be used for alternative research-based  
36 technical assistance or programs. Criteria for selecting and approving

1 alternative research-based technical assistance or programs are to be  
2 promulgated as a rule by the State Board of Education, provided that  
3 alternative staffing and/or compensation programs for teachers shall be  
4 approved by at least a majority of the teachers in the school, schools, or  
5 school district participating in the program.

6 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
7 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

8  
9 SECTION 16. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
10 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

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

19 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
20 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

21  
22 SECTION 17. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
23 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. BETTER  
24 CHANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE FEES. The Department of Education is hereby  
25 authorized to expend a maximum of two percent (2%) of available funds for  
26 administration of the Better Chance Program. Up to 1.8% of available funds  
27 shall be used to administer the program and to monitor program grantees to  
28 ensure compliance with programmatic standards. Prior to the utilization of  
29 the remaining 0.2% of available funds, the Department of Education shall seek  
30 prior review and approval of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget  
31 Committee by providing a written request to include the following: a) the  
32 Department's reason(s) for the use of the funds and b) the amount of funds  
33 that will be expended. The Department may contract with the Division of Child  
34 Care and Early Childhood Education to administer the program.

35 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of  
36 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year

1 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by  
2 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and  
3 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by  
4 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Therefore, it is both necessary  
5 and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring  
6 prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as  
7 provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative  
8 Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section.  
9 If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget  
10 Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction,  
11 this entire section is void.

12 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
13 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

14  
15 SECTION 18. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
16 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. AVERAGE  
17 TEACHER SALARY. The Arkansas Department of Education is requested to  
18 calculate Average Teacher Salary in the Department's Annual Statistical  
19 Report to not include extra duty funds. Specifically, the Department is  
20 requested to calculate the Average Teacher Salary amount using the National  
21 Education Association definitions for Average Salary for Classroom Teachers.  
22 The Arkansas Department of Education shall submit this data annually to the  
23 National Education Association in accordance with that organization's  
24 deadlines for submission for their report "Rankings and Estimates" which  
25 includes state-by-state teacher salary comparisons.

26 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
27 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

28  
29 SECTION 19. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
30 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY  
31 FORWARD - ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE. Any unexpended balance of monies allocated  
32 for the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program remaining on June  
33 30, ~~2017~~ 2018, in the Department of Education Public School Fund Account  
34 shall be designated and retained for the Arkansas Better Chance for School  
35 Success Program.

36 Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein,

1 may be carried forward under the following conditions:

2 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018 the Agency shall by written statement set  
3 forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the  
4 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

5 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall  
6 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee all  
7 amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or  
8 Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the  
9 Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding  
10 carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that  
11 appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;

12 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written  
13 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee  
14 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written  
15 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for  
16 which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30)  
17 days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents  
18 its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget  
19 Committee; and

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

23 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
24 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

25  
26 SECTION 20. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
27 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PUBLIC  
28 SCHOOL RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE. The Employee Benefits Division of the  
29 Department of Finance and Administration may use up to eleven dollars and  
30 twenty cents (\$11.20) from each contribution made under Arkansas Code  
31 §6-17-1117(a) to offset the cost of health insurance premiums to eligible  
32 members electing to participate in the public school employees' health  
33 insurance program as a retiree.

34 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
35 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.



1 SECTION 21. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
2 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
3 ARKANSAS/STRIVE PROGRAM TRANSFER. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State  
4 shall transfer on his books and those of the State Treasurer and the State  
5 Auditor, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) during each  
6 fiscal year from the Department of Education Public School Fund Account to  
7 the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Fund, specifically to provide  
8 funding for the Arkansas/STRIVE Program. The total amount of funds  
9 transferred each fiscal year pursuant to this section shall not be subject to  
10 any indirect costs by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

11 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
12 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

13  
14 SECTION 22. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
15 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. HEALTH  
16 INSURANCE. The appropriation contained herein for Public School Employee  
17 Insurance each fiscal year shall be used to provide the state contribution  
18 for insurance premiums for employees of the Cooperative Education Services  
19 Areas, Vocational Centers, and the school operated by the Department of  
20 Correction who participate in the Arkansas Public School Life and Health  
21 Insurance Program.

22 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
23 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

24  
25 SECTION 23. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
26 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
27 ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. The Department of Education may provide  
28 funding for Alternative Learning Environment Programs in excess of the  
29 regulatory limitation of six (6) hours per day for those programs that  
30 operate more than twelve hours per day, in a proportionate manner and upon  
31 special request to the Department of Education.

32 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
33 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

34  
35 SECTION 24. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
36 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. STATE

1 FUND RESTRICTIONS. No state funds shall be used for abortion referral in  
2 public schools, or for abortion services. Funds shall be expended in  
3 accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated §6-18-703.

4 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
5 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

6  
7 SECTION 25. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
8 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

9 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDING PROVISION.

10 Effective for the plan year beginning January 1, ~~2016~~ 2017, if ninety-eight  
11 percent (98%) of the uniform rate of tax used in the calculation of State  
12 Foundation Funding Aid for fiscal year ~~2016-2017~~ 2017-2018 exceeds nine  
13 hundred twenty million seven hundred thirty-one thousand eight hundred  
14 nineteen dollars (\$920,731,819), the Department of Education shall pay up to  
15 fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) of the total increase over the nine  
16 hundred twenty million seven hundred thirty-one thousand eight hundred  
17 nineteen dollars (\$920,731,819) to the Employee Benefits Division of the  
18 Department of Finance and Administration in additional health insurance  
19 contributions for eligible employees electing to participate in the public  
20 school employees' health insurance program administered by the State and  
21 Public School Life and Health Insurance Board.

22 The Department of Education shall make the contributions by transferring  
23 funds to the division in quarterly installments. Funds provided by the  
24 Department of Education to the division under this section shall be  
25 administered by the board for the benefit of the employee participants of the  
26 public school employees' health insurance program.

27 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
28 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

29  
30 SECTION 26. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
31 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. ARKANSAS  
32 GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FUNDING. The Department of Education shall allocate, budget  
33 and commit for expenditure two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), in  
34 addition to funds already being provided for the Arkansas Governor's School,  
35 to fund the appropriation authorized from general revenue for the Gifted and  
36 Talented program as appropriated in the Grants and Aid to Local School

1 Districts and Special Programs section herein. With this additional funding  
2 the duration of the Arkansas Governor's School shall be extended from four  
3 (4) weeks to six (6) weeks.

4 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
5 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

6  
7 SECTION 27. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
8 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. EAST  
9 FUNDING PROVISION. Of the total amount appropriated for Technology Grants  
10 each fiscal year, an amount of not less than three million five thousand  
11 dollars (\$3,005,000) or eighteen percent (18%), whichever is greater each  
12 fiscal year, shall be awarded through a grant or professional services  
13 contract for the EAST Initiative. Not less than one million dollars  
14 (\$1,000,000) of the three million five thousand dollars (\$3,005,000) or  
15 eighteen percent (18%) of the Technology Grants Line Item awarded to the EAST  
16 Initiatives shall be used for EAST infrastructure and personnel growth for  
17 the establishment of new programs. The remaining funding shall be used for  
18 existing EAST infrastructure, personnel, and operating expenses of the EAST  
19 Initiative. The EAST infrastructure grant or contract for personal services  
20 and operating expenses shall be awarded to an entity that has personnel or  
21 experience, or both, in implementing the EAST Initiative.

22 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,  
23 ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

24  
25 SECTION 28. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
26 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
27 INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS FUNDING RESTRICTION. The Department of Education  
28 shall make available from the Intervention Block Grants appropriation  
29 authorized by this Act, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal  
30 year for the annual expenses of the Quiz Bowl, thirteen thousand five hundred  
31 dollars (\$13,500) each fiscal year for Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for  
32 grants up to \$1,000 each for students and chaperones, thirteen thousand five  
33 hundred dollars (\$13,500) each fiscal year for Destination Imagination, one  
34 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal year for the State History  
35 Day Competition, and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) each fiscal year  
36 for a grant to the Arkansas Science Fair Association for grants to regional

1 and the state science fairs. The Department of Education shall allocate  
2 General Revenue funding totaling no less than three hundred two thousand  
3 dollars (\$302,000) each fiscal year from the Department of Education Public  
4 School Fund Account to support the annual expenses of the Quiz Bowl, the  
5 Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for grants up to \$1,000 each for students and  
6 chaperones, Destination Imagination, the State History Day Competition, and  
7 the Arkansas Science Fair Association for grants to regional and state  
8 science fairs. The Department shall either expend or have committed for  
9 expenditure the monies allocated for the Quiz Bowl, Creativity in Arkansas,  
10 Inc., Destination Imagination, the State History Day Competition, and  
11 Arkansas Science Fair Association grants as authorized herein in order to  
12 fulfill the provisions of this section.

13 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
14 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

15  
16 SECTION 29. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
17 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. LOCAL  
18 SCHOOL DISTRICT ISOLATED - BASE FUNDING UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

19 (a) The amount of funding a school district receives under either § 6-  
20 20-604(c) and (h) or § 6-20-604(d) and (h) in the fiscal year 2014-2015 shall  
21 become the base year funding for fiscal year 2015-2016 if a school district  
22 meets the following requirements in the 2014-2015 fiscal year and all of the  
23 following requirements except for population density ratio in the 2015-2016  
24 fiscal year:

25 (1) Either:

26 (A) Sections 6-20-604(b) and (c); or

27 (B) Sections 6-20-604(b) and (d); and

28 (2) Section 6-20-601.

29 (b) If after the 2015-2016 fiscal year, an increase in a school  
30 district's population density ratio precludes funding under § 6-20-604(c) and  
31 (h) or § 6-20-604(d) and (h), the amount of funding a school district shall  
32 receive is the amount specified under subsection (a) of this section less ten  
33 percent (10%) cumulative each year until the funding amount a school district  
34 receives is the amount of funding the school district is eligible to receive  
35 under:

36 (1) Sections 6-20-604(e) and (h); or

1 (2) Section 6-20-604(f).

2 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~  
3 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

4  
5 SECTION 30. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
6 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
7 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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

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

17 (1) Annual expenditure information;

18 (2) Statistical information pertaining to users of the  
19 initiative;

20 (3) Course offerings;

21 (4) Course hours completed; and

22 (5) Certificates awarded.

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

25 (1) Governor;

26 (2) Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is  
27 in session, the Joint Budget Committee;

28 (3) Senate Committee on Education;

29 (4) House Committee on Education; and

30 (5) Department of Finance and Administration.

31 (c) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,  
32 2017 through June 30, 2018.

33  
34 SECTION 31. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
35 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. NSL  
36 MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM. (a)(1) Of the appropriation and funding for the NSL

MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM Item in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this Act, four million three hundred thousand dollars (\$4,300,000) shall be set aside by the Department of Education and shall be used for school district expenditures for evidence-based programs to improve academic achievement of identified national school lunch students.

(2) These programs shall be limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

SECTION 32. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS. The appropriation for the R.I.S.E. Arkansas line item in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this Act shall be used for the coordination of a statewide reading campaign with community partners, parents, and teachers to establish the importance of reading in homes, schools, and communities.

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

1 2017 through June 30, 2018.

2  
3 SECTION 33. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds  
4 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency  
5 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and  
6 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and  
7 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary  
8 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal  
9 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by  
10 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be  
11 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.  
12

13 SECTION 34. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General  
14 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations  
15 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for  
16 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive  
17 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget  
18 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or  
19 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative  
20 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.  
21

22 SECTION 35. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
23 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits  
24 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the  
25 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2017 is essential to the operation of  
26 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in  
27 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the  
28 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2017 could work irreparable harm  
29 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental  
30 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act  
31 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health  
32 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2017.  
33

34 /s/ Joint Budget Committee

35  
36 APPROVED: 04/06/2017