



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
ASA HUTCHINSON  
GOVERNOR

March 14, 2017

Senator Larry Teague, Co-Chair  
Representative Lane Jean, Co-Chair  
Joint Budget Committee  
Arkansas General Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request the following amendment to SB168, 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.

Please amend SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION – GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS as follows and renumber item numbers accordingly:

Item No.		Fiscal Year
		2017-2018
(10)	<del>BROADBAND FACILITIES MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM</del>	<del>1,018,835</del>
	NEW <u>R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS</u>	1,100,000
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<del>\$2,982,431,839</del> \$2,982,513,004

Please delete SECTION 6. BROADBAND FACILITIES MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM – RESTRICTIONS AND MATCHING FUNDS, in its entirety.

Please amend SECTION 7. BROADBAND FACILITIES MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM – CARRY FORWARD as follows:

SECTION 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. ~~BROADBAND FACILITIES MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM~~ R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS - CARRY FORWARD. Any unexpended balance of monies allocated for the ~~Broadband Facilities Matching Grant Program~~ R.I.S.E. Arkansas remaining on June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018, in the Department of Education Public School Fund Account shall be designated and retained for the ~~Broadband Facilities Matching Grant Program~~ R.I.S.E. Arkansas.

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

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

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

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

(4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution. The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

Please add an additional item following SECTION 31 to read as follows and renumber sections accordingly:

SECTION XX. 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, 2017 through June 30, 2018.



Senator Larry Teague, Co-Chair  
Representative Lane Jean, Co-Chair  
Page 3

These changes will allow the Department of Education to fund the Reading Initiative for Student Excellence (R.I.S.E. Arkansas) program. The initiative will build a culture of reading statewide through collaboration with community partners and increase access to books in the home; and provide additional support to current and future teachers.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,  


Asa Hutchinson

AH:db:jh