

05/09/2023



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## On Your Marks: Legal Framework

The court held that:

- (1) An adequate education must be provided to all school children on a substantially equal basis with regard to curricula, facilities, and equipment, and
- (2) It is the state's responsibility to:
  - (a) define adequacy;
  - (b) assess, evaluate, and monitor the entire spectrum of public education to determine whether equal educational opportunity is being substantially afforded to Arkansas's school children; and
  - (c) know how state revenues are spent and whether true equality in education is being achieved.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**On Your Marks:** Legal Framework

The court further noted that the General Assembly must exercise **constant vigilance** for constitutionality, recognizing that **continual assessment** is vital under Act 57.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Get Set:** Adequacy Statutory Requirements

Act 57 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003 established eight broad areas the Education Committees must review each biennium.



Act 1204 of 2007 (as amended by later acts) specified how these broad reviews should be accomplished.

---

---

---

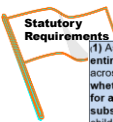
---

---

---

---

---



<p>(1) Assess, evaluate, and monitor the entire spectrum of public education across the State of Ark. to determine whether equal educational opportunity for an adequate education is being substantially afforded to the school children of the State of Ark. and recommend any necessary changes;</p> <p>(2) Review and continue to evaluate what constitutes an adequate education in the State of Ark. and recommend any necessary changes;</p> <p>(3) Review and continue to evaluate the method of providing equality of educational opportunity of the State of Ark. and recommend any necessary changes;</p> <p>(4) Evaluate the effectiveness of any program implemented by a school, a school district, an education service cooperative, the ADE, or the Slate Board of Education and recommend necessary changes;</p>	<p>Reviewing a report prepared by the Division of Legislative Audit compiling all funding received by public schools for each program</p>	<p>Legislative Audit</p>	<p>June '24</p>
	<p>Reviewing the Ark. academic standards developed by the ADE</p>	<p>Learning Expectations</p>	<p>May '24</p>
	<p>Reviewing the Ark. Educational Support and Accountability Act</p>	<p>Accountability</p>	<p>June '24</p>
	<p>Reviewing fiscal and facilities distress programs</p>	<p>Achievement</p>	<p>Jan. '24</p>
	<p>Reviewing fiscal and facilities distress programs</p>	<p>Accountability</p>	<p>June '24</p>
	<p>Reviewing the state's standing under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015</p>	<p>Accountability</p>	<p>June '24</p>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



(5) Review the average teacher salary in the State of Ark. in comparison to average teacher salaries in surrounding states and member states of the Southern Regional Education Board and make recommendations for any necessary changes to teacher salaries in the State of Ark. established by law;

Comparing the average teacher salary in Ark. with surrounding states and Southern Regional Education Board member states, including:

- Comparing teacher salaries as adjusted by a cost-of-living index or a comparative wage index
- Reviewing the minimum teacher compensation salary schedule



Teacher Salary	June '24
----------------	----------

---

---

---

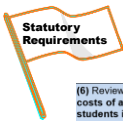
---

---

---

---

---



(6) Review and continue to evaluate the costs of an adequate education for all students in the State of Ark., taking into account cost-of-living variances, diseconomies of scale, transportation variability, demographics, school districts with a disproportionate number of students who are economically disadvantaged or have educational disabilities, and other factors as deemed relevant, and recommend any necessary changes;

Reviewing expenditures from isolated school funding  
 Reviewing expenditures from national school lunch state funding  
 Reviewing expenditures from declining enrollment funding  
 Reviewing expenditures from student growth funding  
 Reviewing expenditures from special education funding  
 Reviewing disparities in teacher salaries



Resource Allocation	Mar. and May '24				
		Teacher Salary	June '24		

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



(7) Review and continue to evaluate the amount of per-student expenditure necessary to provide an equal educational opportunity and the amount of state funds to be provided to school districts, based upon the cost of an adequate education and monitor the expenditures and distribution of state funds and recommend any necessary changes;

Completing an expenditure analysis and resource allocation review



Resource Allocation	Mar. and May '24
Equity	May '24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



(8) Review and monitor the amount of funding provided by the State of Ark. for an education system based on need and the amount necessary to provide an adequate educational system, not on the amount of funding available, and make recommendations for funding for each biennium.



Using evidence-based research as the basis for recalibrating as necessary the state's system of funding public education	ALL	
Adjusting for the inflation or deflation of any appropriate component of the system of funding public education	Economic Indices	July '24
Reviewing legislation enacted or rules promulgated during the biennium covered by the study to determine the impact of the legislation and rules on educational adequacy-related public school costs	ALL	
Reviewing any related topics identified for further study by the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education	Intro./History/Legal Overview/Starting State	Jan. '24
	Facilities	Feb. '24
	Teacher Recruitment & Retention	June '24
	CTE	May '24
Waivers	May '24	

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



To paraphrase....

1. How does the state fund school districts to support an adequate and equitable education?
2. How do school districts spend that money?
3. Is it working?

**Go!**

---

---

---

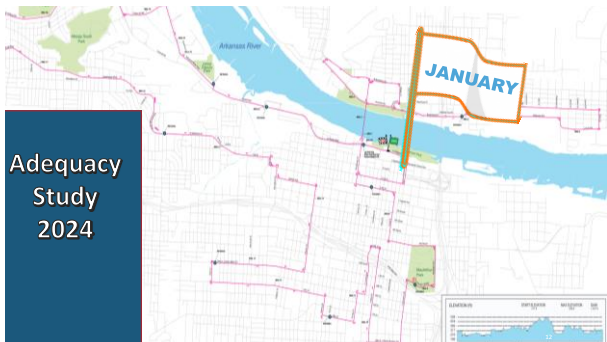
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

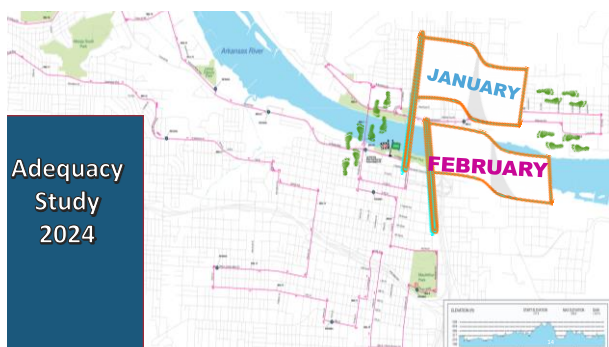
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

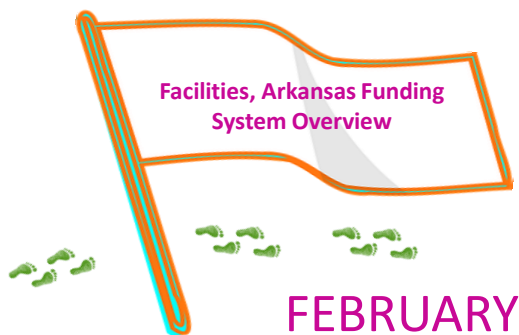
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

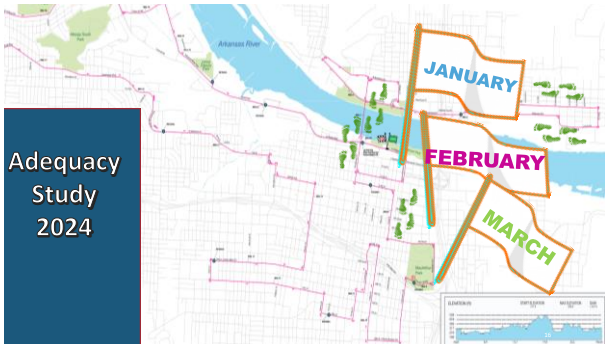
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

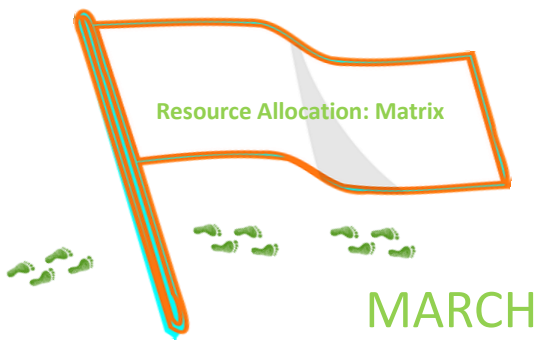
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

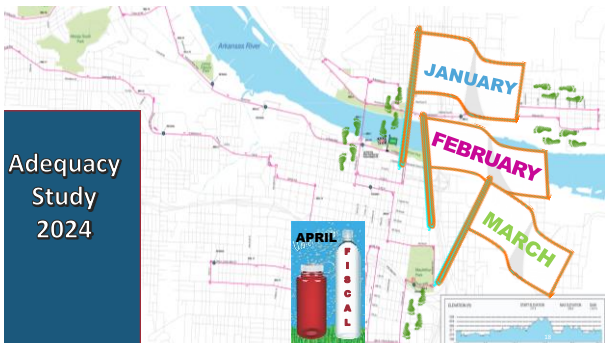
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

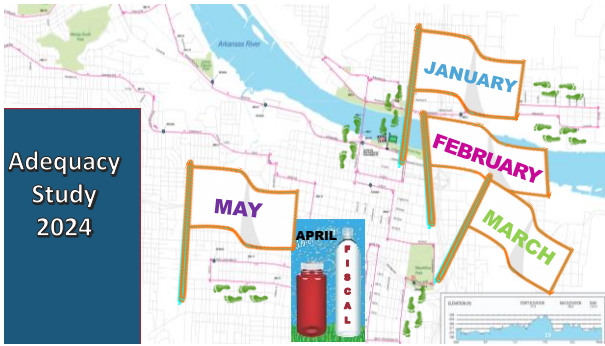
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

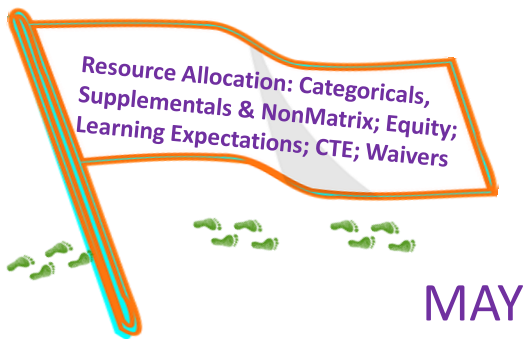
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

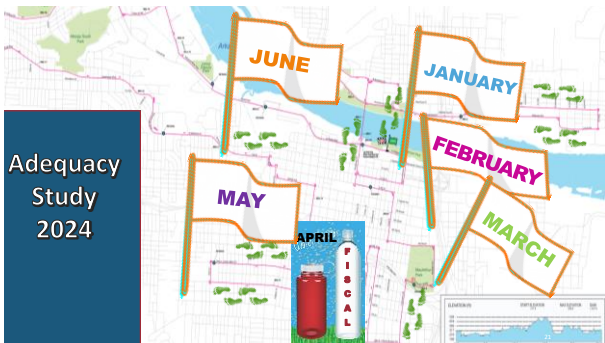
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

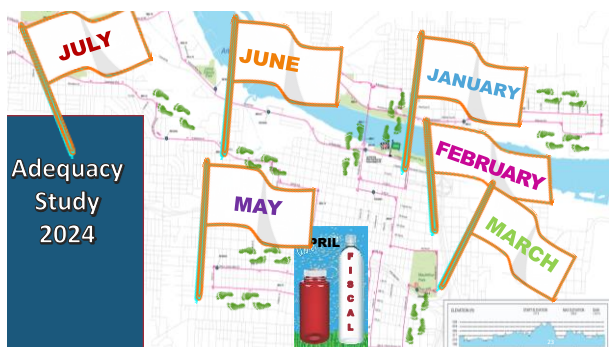
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

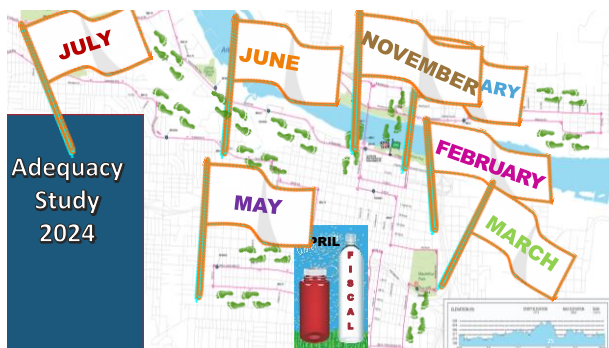
---

---

---

---





---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

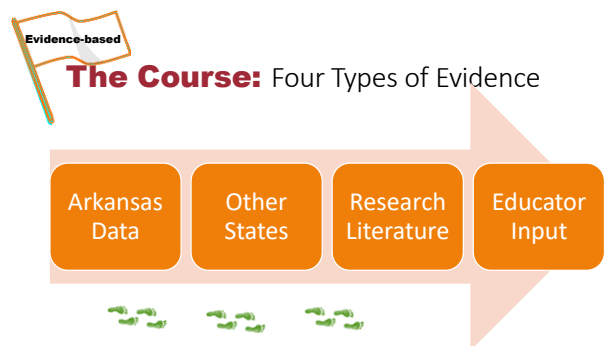
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Hurdles:** Most Recent Data Available



- 2022-2023 School Year
- No LEARNS Act data
- Will incorporate potential/anticipated impacts of LEARNS Act

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**The Runners:** BLR Adequacy Study Team



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Until January...

<https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Education/K12/AdequacyReports>

Policy Analysis and Research  
501-537-0168

Julie Johnson Holt  
501-537-9194  
holtj@blr.arkansas.gov



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---