

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Fiscal Distress Services

History and Purpose: Fiscal Distress Services is a subdivision of the Fiscal and Administrative Services section. This is also known as and may be cited as the "Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program". Our mission is to partner with school districts, charter schools and educational cooperatives to maintain fiscal stability while providing all students an opportunity to learn and achieve at their fullest potential. Our purpose is to establish and implement a program which shall identify, assess, and address school districts in fiscal distress, specifically those defined in ARK. CODE ANN. §6-20-1900 et seq.

Current Districts: Currently there are ten districts classified in the Fiscal Distress Program (November 4, 2011)

- Armored School District
- Dermott School District
- Earle School District
- Forrest City School District
- Helena-West Helena School District
- Pulaski County Special School District
- North Little Rock School District
- Strong-Huttig School District
- West Side School District
- Yellville-Summit School District

The Fiscal Distress Unit:

- Identifies any fiscal condition that, if not corrected, would have a negative impact on the continuation of educational services by the school district.
- Provides approval and follow-up to the fiscal distress plan to ensure future financial success.
- Provides on-site technical evaluation and assistance.
- Provides fiscal training to school district board members and employees.
- Monitors fiscal operations and accounts while providing financial assistance, as needed, to **all** school districts, charter schools and educational cooperatives in the State of Arkansas.

In 2009, Act 798 (Early Intervention) was established to provide intervention and professional consultation upon early indicators deemed to be at a nonmaterial level, but that without intervention could place the district in fiscal distress.

Reporting Requirement:

Written notice is provided to the president of the school board and the superintendent of each school district identified as being in fiscal distress.

Districts identified as being in fiscal distress are reported to the State Board of Education for Fiscal Distress Classification.

Every six (6) months, a written evaluation on the status of each school district in fiscal distress is reported to the State Board of Education.