

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H4/16/24 H4/30/24

2 94th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Fiscal Session, 2024

HOUSE BILL 1041

4

5 By: Joint Budget Committee

6

7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

9

FUND GRANTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -

10

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION -

11

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE

12

30, 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

13

14

15

Subtitle

16

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -

17

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

18

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND

19

APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL

20

YEAR.

21

22

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

24

25 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND

26 SPECIAL PROGRAMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of

27 Education, to be payable from the Division of Elementary and Secondary

28 Education Public School Fund Account, for grants and aid to local school

29 districts and special programs of the Department of Education - Division of

30 Elementary and Secondary Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025,

31 the following:

32

33 ITEM

FISCAL YEAR

34 NO.

2024-2025

35 (01) 98% URT ACTUAL COLLECTION ADJUSTMENT

\$34,500,000

36 (02) ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE

1,275,000



1	(03)	ALTERNATIVE LEARNING	35,783,095
2	(04)	ARKANSAS EASTER SEALS	193,113
3	(05)	ASSESSMENT/END OF LEVEL TESTING	20,309,189
4	(06)	AT RISK	1,688,530
5	(07)	BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM	114,000,000
6	(08)	BONDED DEBT ASSISTANCE	28,455,384
7	(09)	COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE	3,500,000
8	(10)	CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE	5,981,400
9	(11)	CONTENT STANDARDS	161,000
10	(12)	CONTENTS STANDARDS CURRICULUM	
11		FRAMEWORKS	50,000
12	(13)	COOP EDUCATION TECH CENTERS	1,200,000
13	(14)	COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH	2,000,000
14	(15)	DEPT OF CORRECTION	8,702,425
15	(16)	DECLINING ENROLLMENT	13,963,389
16	(17)	DISTANCE LEARNING	4,760,000
17	(18)	DISTANCE LEARNING OPERATIONS	7,575,000
18	(19)	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION	16,897,920
19	(20)	ECONOMIC EDUCATION	400,000
20	(21)	EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVES	6,129,270
21	(22)	EIDT SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	6,000,000
22	(23)	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	19,075,847
23	(24)	ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING	246,723,439
24	(25)	ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING	8,000,000
25	(26)	ESA MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM	5,300,000
26	(27)	GIFTED & TALENTED	1,560,381
27	(28)	GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS	67,856
28	(29)	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER EDUCATION AID	526,150
29	(30)	INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS	302,000
30	(31)	ISOLATED FUNDING	7,896,000
31	(32)	LEADERSHIP ACADEMY-MASTER PRINCIPAL	1,400,000
32	(33)	MASTER PRINCIPAL BONUS	175,000
33	(34)	MATERNITY LEAVE	3,000,000
34	(35)	MERIT TEACHER INCENTIVE	10,000,000
35	(36)	MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY AND RAISES	190,000,000
36	(37)	NATIONAL BOARD OF PROF TEACHING	

1	STANDARDS	18,738,000
2	(38) NON-TRADITIONAL LICENSURE	50,000
3	(39) OE CHARTER FAC FUNDING AID PRG	9,075,000
4	(40) POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANTS	5,000,000
5	(41) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING	37,175,911
6	(42) PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	142,000,000
7	(43) R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS	10,470,000
8	(44) RESIDENTIAL CENTERS/JUVENILE DETENTION	16,345,087
9	(45) SCHOOL FACILITY JOINT USE SUPPORT	500,000
10	(46) SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES	7,650,000
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-HIGH COST OCCURRENCES	17,498,150
19	(55) SPECIAL NEEDS ISOLATED FUNDING	3,000,000
20	(56) STATE FOUNDATION FUNDING	2,206,861,456
21	(57) STUDENT GROWTH	37,690,144
22	(58) SURPLUS COMMODITIES	1,125,065
23	(59) TEACHER LICENSING/MENTORING	6,065,758
24	(60) TEACHER OF THE YEAR	100,000
25	(61) TEACHER RETIREMENT MATCHING	14,776,754
26	(62) TEACHER SALARY EQUALIZATION	60,000,000
27	(63) TECHNOLOGY GRANTS	3,602,678
28	(64) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS	500,000
29	(64.1) TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION GRANTS	5,000,000
30	(65) WORKER'S COMPENSATION	450,000
31	(66) YOUTH SHELTERS	<u>165,000</u>
32	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$3,459,041,080</u>

33

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

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

36 Elementary and Secondary Education - Arkansas Public School Computer Network

1 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular
 2 employees.

3			4	Maximum Annual
5			Maximum	Salary Rate
6	Item Class		No. of	Fiscal Year
7	No.	Code Title	Employees	2024-2025
8	(1)	D105C ADE STATE NETWORK ENGINEER	1	GRADE IT09
9	(2)	D022N IT SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	1	GRADE IT09
10	(3)	D104C ADE STATE SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE IT08
11	(4)	D007C INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER	1	GRADE IT08
12	(5)	D042C DATA WAREHOUSE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT06
13	(6)	D037C ADE APSCN APPLICATIONS MANAGER	3	GRADE IT05
14	(7)	D063C COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT05
15	(8)	D055C ADE APSCN FIELD ANALYST	25	GRADE IT04
16	(9)	D079C COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE IT02
17	(10)	N047N ADE APSCN DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS15
18	(11)	G012C ADE ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR	3	GRADE GS12
19	(12)	G050C ADE APSCN DIVISION MANAGER	3	GRADE GS10
20	(13)	C020C STUDENT APPLICATIONS SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS06
21	(14)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS04
22		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	45	

23
 24 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK.

25 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable
 26 from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund
 27 Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of
 28 Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Arkansas Public
 29 School Computer Network for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the
 30 following:

31			32	FISCAL YEAR
33	ITEM			2024-2025
34	NO.			
34	(01)	REGULAR SALARIES		\$2,720,774
35	(02)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING		965,070
36	(03)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION		

1	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	25,245,839
2	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	7,250
3	(C) PROF. FEES	0
4	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	200,000
5	(E) DATA PROC.	0
6	(04) DATA ACCESS IMPLEMENTATION	<u>300,000</u>
7	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$29,438,933</u>

8
 9 SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There
 10 is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of
 11 Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Education Renewal Zones for
 12 the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.
 13

14		Maximum Annual
15		Salary Rate
16	Item Class	Fiscal Year
17	No. Code Title	2024-2025
18	(1) E020C ADE OERZ TECHNICAL ASSIST SPECIALIST	3 GRADE GS08
19	(2) C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	<u>1</u> GRADE GS04
20	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	4

21
 22 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There is
 23 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the
 24 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account,
 25 for personal services, operating expenses, and grants by the Department of
 26 Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of
 27 Education Renewal Zones for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the
 28 following:
 29

30	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
31	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
32	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$168,180
33	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	68,739
34	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
35	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	25,000
36	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	3,000

1	(C) PROF. FEES	0
2	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
3	(E) DATA PROC.	0
4	(04) EDUCATIONAL RENEWAL ZONE GRANTS	<u>1,101,150</u>
5	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,366,069</u>

6

7 SECTION 6. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS

8 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. R.I.S.E.

9 ARKANSAS - CARRY FORWARD. Any unexpended balance of monies allocated for

10 R.I.S.E. Arkansas remaining on June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025, in the Division of

11 Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account shall be

12 designated and retained for the R.I.S.E. Arkansas. Any carry forward of

13 unexpected balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward

14 under the following conditions:

15 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025 the Agency shall by written statement

16 set forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the

17 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

18 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall

19 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee all

20 amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or

21 Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the

22 Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding

23 carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that

24 appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in item (1) above;

25 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a

26 written report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee

27 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written

28 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose, etc.

29 for which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty

30 (30) days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution

31 presents its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget

32 Committee; and

33 (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall

34 include all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals

35 and/or a statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or

36 Institution.

1 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
2 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

3
4 SECTION 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
5 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
6 FUND ALLOCATION. The appropriation for the Isolated Funding line item in the
7 Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this
8 Act may be fully funded. Any funding and appropriation for Isolated Funding
9 that is not utilized shall be transferred to the appropriation for Special
10 Needs Isolated Funding in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and
11 Special Programs section of this Act and shall be used there for fully
12 funding each subsection (c) through (f) of Arkansas Code § 6-20-604 on a pro
13 rata basis until the available funds are exhausted. Pro rata basis is defined
14 as providing each district qualifying for additional funding under
15 subsections (c) through (f) a proportionate share based on how each
16 district's additional funding amount bears to the total additional funding
17 amounts for all qualifying districts. If any funding and appropriation
18 remains after funding each subsection (c) through (f) of Arkansas Code § 6-
19 20-604 the remaining balance shall be used to fund the provisions of Arkansas
20 Code § 6-20-604 (h) on an equal basis until the available funds are
21 exhausted.

22 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
23 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

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

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

11 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
12 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

13
14 SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
15 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
16 SPECIAL 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, ~~2023~~
25 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

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 TRANSFER AUTHORITY. The Commissioner of the Department of Education, with the
30 approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and after approval by the
31 Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, is hereby authorized
32 to request necessary appropriation transfers and any other budget related
33 adjustments necessary within the Department of Education. Provided, however,
34 that the Department of Education shall be limited to submitting no more than
35 two transfer requests during any fiscal year.

36 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of

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

16 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
17 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

18

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

21 AETN DOCUMENTED QUIZ BOWL COSTS. Of the total amount of appropriation and
22 funds authorized herein to the Department of Education for the Quiz Bowl each
23 fiscal year, an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) each
24 fiscal year may be made available to the Department of Education -
25 Educational Television Division for its documented costs associated with the
26 Quiz Bowl.

27 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
28 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

29

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

32 RETIREMENT MATCHING. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, Local School
33 Districts shall pay the teacher retirement employer contribution rate for any
34 eligible employee in accordance with rules and regulations established by the
35 Teacher Retirement Board of Directors. The appropriation contained herein for
36 Teacher Retirement Matching each fiscal year shall be used to provide the

1 employer matching for employees of the Cooperative Education Services Areas,
2 Vocational Centers, Arkansas Easter Seals and the school operated by the
3 Department of Correction.

4 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
5 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

6

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

9 BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE FEES. The Department of Education is
10 hereby authorized to expend a maximum of two percent (2%) of available funds
11 for administration of the Better Chance Program. Up to 1.8% of available
12 funds shall be used to administer the program and to monitor program grantees
13 to ensure compliance with programmatic standards. Prior to the utilization of
14 the remaining 0.2% of available funds, the Department of Education shall seek
15 prior review and approval of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget
16 Committee by providing a written request to include the following: a) the
17 Department's reason(s) for the use of the funds and b) the amount of funds
18 that will be expended. The Department may contract with the Division of
19 Elementary and Secondary Education to administer the program.

20 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of
21 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year
22 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by
23 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and
24 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by
25 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Therefore, it is both necessary
26 and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring
27 prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as
28 provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative
29 Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section.
30 If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget
31 Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction,
32 this entire section is void.

33 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
34 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

35

36 SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS

1 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
2 AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY. The Arkansas Department of Education is requested to
3 calculate Average Teacher Salary in the Department's Annual Statistical
4 Report to not include extra duty funds. Specifically, the Department is
5 requested to calculate the Average Teacher Salary amount using the National
6 Education Association definitions for Average Salary for Classroom Teachers.
7 The Arkansas Department of Education shall submit this data annually to the
8 National Education Association in accordance with that organization's
9 deadlines for submission for their report "Rankings and Estimates" which
10 includes state-by-state teacher salary comparisons.

11 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
12 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

13
14 SECTION 15. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
15 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

16 CARRY FORWARD - ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE. Any unexpended balance of monies
17 allocated for the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program remaining
18 on June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025, in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
19 Public School Fund Account shall be designated and retained for the Arkansas
20 Better Chance for School Success Program.

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

23 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025 the Agency shall by written statement set
24 forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the
25 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

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

33 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written
34 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee
35 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written
36 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for

1 which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30)
2 days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents
3 its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget
4 Committee; and

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

8 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
9 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

10

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

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

22 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
23 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

24

25 SECTION 17. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
26 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

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

36 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~

1 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

2

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

18 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
19 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

20

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

1 of the Quiz Bowl, the Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for grants up to \$1,000
2 each for students and chaperones, Destination Imagination, the State History
3 Day Competition, and the Arkansas Science Fair Association for grants to
4 regional and state science fairs. The Department shall either expend or have
5 committed for expenditure the monies allocated for the Quiz Bowl, Creativity
6 in Arkansas, Inc., Destination Imagination, the State History Day
7 Competition, and Arkansas Science Fair Association grants as authorized
8 herein in order to fulfill the provisions of this section.

9 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
10 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

11
12 SECTION 20. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
13 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
14 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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

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

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

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

- 32 (1) Governor;
- 33 (2) Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is
34 in session, the Joint Budget Committee;
- 35 (3) Senate Committee on Education;
- 36 (4) House Committee on Education; and

1 (5) Department of Finance and Administration.

2 (c) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
3 ~~2023~~ 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

4
5 SECTION 21. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
6 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
7 ESA MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM.

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

14 (2) These programs shall be limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (e) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
35 ~~2023~~ 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

36

1 SECTION 22. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
2 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
3 R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS. The appropriation for the R.I.S.E. Arkansas line item in
4 the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of
5 this Act shall be used for the coordination of a statewide reading campaign
6 with community partners, parents, and teachers to establish the importance of
7 reading in homes, schools, and communities.

8 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
9 ~~2023~~ 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

10
11 SECTION 23. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
12 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
13 ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING NAME CHANGE. Any appropriation titled
14 "ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING" or abbreviated as "ESA" as named by
15 SB605 of 2019 may also be known as "NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH" funding or
16 abbreviated as "NSL" and shall be used for the same purposes as set out in
17 law.

18 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~
19 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

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

28 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
29 ~~2023~~ 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

30
31 SECTION 25. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
32 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. HIGH
33 QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS. Of the amount appropriated from the
34 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Public School Fund for
35 R.I.S.E. Arkansas, up to nine million five hundred thousand dollars
36 (\$9,500,000) may be used for the purchase and distribution of high quality

1 instructional materials in accordance with Arkansas Code § 6-17-429(f).

2 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
3 2024 through June 30, 2025.

4
5 SECTION 26. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
6 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. DIVISION
7 OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND AND EDUCATIONAL
8 ADEQUACY FUND DISTRIBUTION AND FUND BALANCE REPORT.(a) The Department of
9 Education shall submit quarterly a "Division of Elementary and Secondary
10 Education Public School Fund Distribution and Balance" report to the Arkansas
11 Legislative Council PEER Subcommittee or, if meeting in a Legislative
12 Session, the Joint Budget Committee PEER/Review Subcommittee no later than
13 ten days prior to the Subcommittee's scheduled meeting date.

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

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

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

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

30 (2) The report shall contain the following:

31 (A) Monthly beginning fund balance;

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

36 (C) Amount of certified funding obligation remaining to the

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public
School Fund Account and the Division of Elementary and
Secondary Education Fund Account for the fiscal year.

(c) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
2024 through June 30, 2025.

SECTION 27. SPECIAL LANGUAGE – CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(a), concerning the first day of the school year for public schools, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) Each school year, each public school district board of directors and governing entity of an open-enrollment public charter school shall establish by policy the first day of the school year for student attendance in public elementary and secondary schools shall be:

~~(i) On or after the Monday of the week in which August 19 falls;~~

~~(ii) Not earlier than August 14; and~~

~~(iii) Not later than August 26.~~

(B) ~~The date for beginning the school year shall be determined by the board of directors of each school district~~ The first day of the school year for student attendance established under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall ensure compliance with the number of student-teacher interaction days or hours required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts established by the State Board of Education.

~~(C)(2) Labor Day shall be celebrated as a school holiday in all the school districts of the state, and school shall not be held on that date.~~

~~(D)(3) As used in this section, “week” means a seven-day period that begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday.~~

~~(2) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may grant a school district a waiver to begin school on an earlier or a later date if the division determines that there exists a material and substantial reason for the school district to begin school on an earlier or a later date due to very exceptional or emergency circumstances such as a contagious disease outbreak, inclement weather, or other acts of God.~~

SECTION 28. SPECIAL LANGUAGE – CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 6-10-

1 106(f), concerning the inclusion of make-up days in a public school's
2 academic calendar, is amended to read as follows:

3 (f) Except as provided under subsection (g) of this section, a school
4 district shall adopt an academic calendar that includes five (5) make-up
5 days, in addition to the number of student-teacher interaction days required
6 by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School
7 Districts established by the ~~State Board of Education~~ state board, for days
8 unavoidably lost due to exceptional or emergency circumstances resulting from
9 a contagious disease outbreak, inclement weather, or other acts of God.

10

11 SECTION 29. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
12 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
13 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
14 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
15 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
16 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
17 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
18 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
19 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

20

21 SECTION 30. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
22 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
23 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
24 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
25 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
26 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
27 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
28 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

29

30 SECTION 31. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
31 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
32 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
33 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2024 is essential to the operation of
34 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
35 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
36 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2024 could work irreparable harm

1 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
2 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
3 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
4 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2024.

5
6 */s/Joint Budget Committee*

7
8
9 **APPROVED: 5/3/24**
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36