

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Fiscal Session, 2026  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 58

5 By: Joint Budget Committee  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES  
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
11 EDUCATION - DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE  
12 FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER  
13 PURPOSES.  
14

## Subtitle

15  
16  
17 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -  
18 DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
19 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL  
20 YEAR.  
21

22  
23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
24

25 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - GENERAL OPERATIONS. There is hereby  
26 established for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education  
27 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular  
28 employees.  
29

			Maximum Annual
		Maximum	Salary Rate
Item	Class	No. of	Fiscal Year
No.	Code Title	Employees	2026-2027
34	(1) EEX13A COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION	1	GRADE EXE03
35	(2) EEA03C HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC09
36	(3) FAC10C CONTROLLER	1	GRADE SPC06



1	(4)	EEP04C EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC06
2	(5)	EES03P EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL SUPV/EXP	2	GRADE SPC06
3	(6)	FAC03P ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SPC03
4	(7)	EES01P EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL I	15	GRADE SPC02
5	(8)	EEP06P EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPV/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS10
6	(9)	EEP03P EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	14	GRADE SGS07
7	(10)	EEP05P EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
8	(11)	FGM02P GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS05
9	(12)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS04
10	(13)	FGM01P GRANTS ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS04
11	(14)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	3	GRADE SGS02
12	(15)	IIS07C IT INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER	4	GRADE IST10
13	(16)	IIS01P IT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE IST08
14	(17)	IIP02P IT PROJECT MANAGER	1	GRADE IST08
15	(18)	IIS04P IT INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYST	1	GRADE IST06
16	(19)	IIS09P IT INFRASTRUCTURE SPECIALIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST04
17		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	52	

18

19 SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - GENERAL OPERATIONS. There is hereby

20 authorized, for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education

21 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or

22 temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds

23 appropriated herein for such purposes: fifteen (15) temporary or part-time

24 employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the

25 Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act

26 for the appropriate classification.

27

28 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL OPERATIONS. There is hereby

29 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division

30 of Higher Education Fund Account, for personal services and operating

31 expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education -

32 General Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

34	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
35	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
36	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$2,368,390

1	(02) EXTRA HELP	75,000
2	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	777,152
3	(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
4	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	909,346
5	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	49,659
6	(C) PROF. FEES	25,000
7	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	50,000
8	(E) DATA PROC.	0
9	(05) STATEWIDE PROMOTION	<u>295,000</u>
10	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$4,549,547</u></u>

11

12           SECTION 4. EXTRA HELP - STATE BOARD OF PRIVATE CAREER EDUCATION. There

13 is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Division of Higher

14 Education - State Board of Private Career Education for the 2026-2027 fiscal

15 year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be

16 known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such

17 purposes: two (2) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of

18 pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and

19 Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate

20 classification.

21

22           SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF PRIVATE CAREER EDUCATION -

23 OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to

24 be payable from the Private Career Education Fund, for personal services and

25 operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher

26 Education - State Board of Private Career Education - Operations for the

27 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

29	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
30	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
31	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$163,983
32	(02) EXTRA HELP	20,000
33	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	55,427
34	(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
35	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	63,000
36	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	4,000

1	(C) PROF. FEES	6,000
2	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
3	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
4	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$312,410</u></u>

5

6 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS AND VARIOUS

7 SCHOLARSHIPS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education,

8 to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for providing

9 student assistance grants and various scholarships as provided by law of the

10 Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Student Assistance

11 Grants and Various Scholarships for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the

12 following:

14	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
15	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
16	(01) ARKANSAS FUTURE GRANTS	\$5,000,000
17	(02) NATIONAL GUARD TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	4,400,000
18	(03) SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	175,000
19	(04) STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM	4,000,000
20	(05) TEACHER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM	2,500,000
21	(06) AR GEOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL NEEDS	
22	MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS	150,000
23	(07) ARKANSAS HEROES SCHOLARSHIP	5,500,000
24	(08) GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION	
25	TRANSITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	2,000,000
26	(09) SREB MINORITY DOCTORAL SCHOLARS	175,000
27	(10) WASHINGTON CENTER SCHOLARSHIPS	150,000
28	(11) TUITION ADJUSTMENT	350,000
29	(12) AR ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIPS	25,000,000
30	(13) AR GOVERNOR'S SCHOLAR	22,000,000
31	(14) STUDENT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM(SURF)	<u>150,000</u>
32	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$71,550,000</u></u>

33

34 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - TECHNICAL EDUCATION - FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

35 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable

36 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the

1 State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of  
 2 Education - Division of Higher Education - Technical Education - Federal  
 3 Programs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

5 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
6 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
7 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$139,791
8 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	49,594
9 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
10 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	108,271
11 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	80,000
12 (C) PROF. FEES	157,000
13 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
14 (E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
15 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$534,656</u></u>

16  
 17 SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. There is  
 18 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the  
 19 Research Development Fund, for providing Arkansas Research Development  
 20 Program Grants to Institutions of Higher Education by the Department of  
 21 Education - Division of Higher Education - Research Development Program for  
 22 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

24 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
25 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
26 (01) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS	<u><u>\$750,000</u></u>

27  
 28 SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - HEALTH EDUCATION GRANTS AND LOANS. There is  
 29 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the  
 30 Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for payments of contracts and loans  
 31 with participating out-of-state institutions of higher learning in the fields  
 32 of dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, and podiatry for  
 33 the education of Arkansas citizens by the Department of Education - Division  
 34 of Higher Education - Health Education Grants and Loans for the fiscal year  
 35 ending June 30, 2027, the following:

36

1	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
2	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
3	(01) CHIROPRACTIC AID	\$260,000
4	(02) DENTAL AID - GRANTS	2,950,000
5	(03) OPTOMETRY AID - GRANTS	650,000
6	(04) PODIATRY AID	130,400
7	(05) VETERINARY AID FORGIVENESS PROGRAM	1,750,000
8	(06) DENTAL AID - LOANS	987,370
9	(07) OPTOMETRY AID - LOANS	140,000
10	(08) VETERINARY MED. LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM	<u>250,000</u>
11	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$7,117,770</u></u>

12

13 SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the

14 Department of Education, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the

15 State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for

16 operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher

17 Education - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

19	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
20	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
21	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
22	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$269,233
23	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	32,865
24	(C) PROF. FEES	63,932
25	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
26	(E) DATA PROC.	0
27	(02) SCHOLARSHIPS	<u>50,000</u>
28	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$416,030</u></u>

29

30 SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - PRIVATE CAREER EDUCATION BOARD - CASH.

31 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable

32 from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief

33 Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Department of

34 Education - Division of Higher Education - Private Career Education Board -

35 Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

36

1	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
2	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
3	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
4	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$9,500
5	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	6,000
6	(C) PROF. FEES	5,000
7	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
8	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
9	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$20,500</u></u>

10

11           SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - STUDENT PROTECTION TRUST. There is hereby  
 12 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Private  
 13 Career School Student Protection Trust Fund, for expenses, claims, and fees  
 14 of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - State Board  
 15 of Private Career Education - Student Protection Trust for the fiscal year  
 16 ending June 30, 2027, the following:

17

18	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
19	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
20	(01) EXPENSES/CLAIMS/FEES	<u><u>\$300,000</u></u>

21

22           SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - TANF PROGRAM - FEDERAL. There is hereby  
 23 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal  
 24 funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal  
 25 services, operating expenses, grants and aid by the Department of Education -  
 26 Division of Higher Education - TANF Program - Federal for the fiscal year  
 27 ending June 30, 2027, the following:

28

29	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
30	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
31	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$292,016
32	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	100,134
33	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
34	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	80,000
35	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	60,000
36	(C) PROF. FEES	70,000

1	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
2	(E) DATA PROC.	0
3	(04) SELF SUFFICIENCY/JOB TRAINING GRANTS	6,547,850
4	(05) ENROLLMENT AND EDUCATION	<u>3,000,000</u>
5	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$10,150,000</u>

6

7 SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - WEB BASED APPLICATIONS. There is hereby  
 8 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher  
 9 Education Grants Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses  
 10 associated with web based applications of the Department of Education -  
 11 Division of Higher Education - Web Based Applications for the fiscal year  
 12 ending June 30, 2027, the following:

14	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
15	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
16	(01) WEB BASED APPLICATIONS PERSONAL	
17	SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$500,000</u>

18

19 SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION. There is  
 20 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the  
 21 Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for personal services and operating  
 22 expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education -  
 23 Scholarship Administration for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the  
 24 following:

26	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
27	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
28	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$283,079
29	(02) EXTRA HELP	10,000
30	(03) ADDITIONAL FRINGE BENEFITS	0
31	(04) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	107,410
32	(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
33	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	285,000
34	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
35	(C) PROF. FEES	30,000
36	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0

1	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
2	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$715,489</u></u>

3

4 SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION - WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2015. There is

5 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the

6 Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 Fund, for workforce education grants,

7 administrative and operating expenses of the Department of Education -

8 Division of Higher Education - Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 for the

9 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

10		
11	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
12	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
13	(01) WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2015 EXPENSES	<u><u>\$8,000,000</u></u>

14

15 SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - VETERAN'S APPROVING AGENCY - FEDERAL.

16 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable

17 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the

18 State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of

19 Education - Division of Higher Education - Veteran's Approving Agency -

20 Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

21		
22	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
23	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
24	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$241,441
25	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	88,805
26	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
27	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	53,546
28	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	9,623
29	(C) PROF. FEES	0
30	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
31	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
32	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$393,415</u></u>

33

34 SECTION 18. APPROPRIATION - AMERICORPS - OPERATIONS. There is hereby

35 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division

36 of Higher Education Fund Account, for personal services, operating expenses,

1 and grants and aid by the Department of Education - Division of Higher  
 2 Education - AmeriCorps - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,  
 3 the following:

5 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
6 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
7 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$324,617
8 (02) EXTRA HELP	30,000
9 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	126,827
10 (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
11 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	363,650
12 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	85,650
13 (C) PROF. FEES	2,500
14 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
15 (E) DATA PROC.	0
16 (05) GRANTS AND AID	<u>50,000</u>
17 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$983,244</u></u>

18  
 19 SECTION 19. APPROPRIATION - AMERICORPS - GRANTS AND AID. There is  
 20 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the  
 21 Division of Higher Education Fund Account, for grants and aid by the  
 22 Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - AmeriCorps - Grants  
 23 and Aid for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

25 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
26 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
27 (01) GRANTS AND AID	<u><u>\$2,010,704</u></u>

28  
 29 SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION - OSTEOPATHIC RURAL MEDICAL PRACTICE STUDENT  
 30 LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the  
 31 Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund  
 32 Account, for for Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan &  
 33 Scholarship Program loans and/or scholarships of the Department of Education  
 34 - Division of Higher Education - Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student  
 35 Loan & Scholarship Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the  
 36 following:

1

2 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
3 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
4 (01) OSTEOPATHIC RURAL MEDICAL PRACTICE	
5 STUDENT LOANS/SCHOLARSHIP	<u>\$400,000</u>

6

7 SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY

8 EXPANSION BOARD. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of

9 Education, to be payable from the Graduate Medical Education Fund, for

10 planning grants to eligible entities for graduate medical education residency

11 program expansion or new programs, and for board expenses and reimbursements

12 of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Graduate

13 Medical Education Residency Expansion Board for the fiscal year ending June

14 30, 2027, the following:

15

16 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
17 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
18 (01) GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY	
19 EXPANSION BOARD	<u>\$10,000,000</u>

20

21 SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION - HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND

22 UNIVERSITIES GRANTS AND EXPENSES. There is hereby appropriated, to the

23 Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund

24 Account, for grants for scholarships to Historically Black Colleges and

25 Universities and for personal services and operating expenses as determined

26 by the Division of Higher Education for outreach programs to promote

27 awareness of those scholarships of the Department of Education - Division of

28 Higher Education - HBCU Grants and Expenses for the fiscal year ending June

29 30, 2027, the following:

30

31 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
32 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
33 (01) HBCU GRANTS AND EXPENSES	<u>\$4,000,000</u>

34

35 SECTION 23. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS TEACHER ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP

36 PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be

1 payable from the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program Fund, for  
 2 scholarships, personal services, and operating expenses necessary to create  
 3 and maintain the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program by the  
 4 Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Arkansas Teacher  
 5 Academy Scholarship Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the  
 6 following:

8 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
9 NO.	2026-2027
10 (01) AR TEACHER ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	<u>\$12,000,000</u>

11  
 12 SECTION 24. APPROPRIATION - SUSTAINABLE BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROGRAM  
 13 FOR STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. There is hereby  
 14 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the  
 15 Sustainable Building Maintenance Program for State-Supported Institutions of  
 16 Higher Education Revolving Loan Fund, for transfers or loans to a state-  
 17 supported institution of higher education for deferred maintenance, critical  
 18 maintenance, or renovation of state-owned property of the Department of  
 19 Education - Division of Higher Education - Sustainable Building Maintenance  
 20 Program for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education for the fiscal  
 21 year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

23 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
24 NO.	2026-2027
25 (01) LOANS	<u>\$7,437,405</u>

26  
 27 SECTION 25. REGULAR SALARIES - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE. There is  
 28 hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of Higher  
 29 Education - Northwest Technical Institute for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the  
 30 following maximum number of regular employees.

32				Maximum Annual
33				Salary Rate
34	Item	Class	Maximum	Fiscal Year
35	No.	Code	No. of	2026-2027
36	Title			Employees
(1)	NWT10C	NWTI	DIRECTOR	1
				\$169,298

1	(2)	NWT07C NWTI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	2	\$127,195
2	(3)	NWT19P NWTI NURSE INSTRUCTOR	6	\$124,726
3	(4)	NWT06P NWTI AMMONIA & INDUST TRNG SUPV/EXP	1	\$112,976
4	(5)	NWT12P NWTI EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPV/EXP	3	\$112,976
5	(6)	NWT09P NWTI CAREER & TECHNICAL FACULTY II	7	\$95,564
6	(7)	NWT01P NWTI ACCOUNTANT II	1	\$95,564
7	(8)	NWT05P NWTI AMMONIA & INDUSTRIAL TRAINER	2	\$93,367
8	(9)	NWT21P NWTI USER SUPPORT ANALYST	2	\$89,613
9	(10)	NWT08P NWTI CAREER & TECHNICAL FACULTY I	28	\$86,876
10	(11)	NWT11P NWTI EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	3	\$84,879
11	(12)	NWT13P NWTI EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	\$84,879
12	(13)	NWT15P NWTI HR COORDINATOR	1	\$84,879
13	(14)	NWT20P NWTI TRAINER	3	\$84,879
14	(15)	NWT17P NWTI MAINT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	\$77,163
15	(16)	NWT02P NWTI ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	2	\$70,148
16	(17)	NWT03P NWTI ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	5	\$63,770
17	(18)	NWT14P NWTI FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	\$63,770
18	(19)	NWT16P NWTI HR SPECIALIST	1	\$63,770
19	(20)	NWT18P NWTI MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	3	\$57,973
20	(21)	NWT04P NWTI ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	<u>4</u>	\$52,703
21		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	79	

22

23 SECTION 26. EXTRA HELP - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE. There is  
 24 hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Division of Higher  
 25 Education - Northwest Technical Institute for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the  
 26 following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as  
 27 "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: one  
 28 hundred thirty-five (135) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at  
 29 rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and  
 30 Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate  
 31 classification.

32

33 SECTION 27. APPROPRIATION - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - STATE.  
 34 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable  
 35 from the Northwest Technical Institute Fund, for personal services and  
 36 operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher

1 Education - Northwest Technical Institute - State for the fiscal year ending  
 2 June 30, 2027, the following:

3

4 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
5 NO.	2026-2027
6 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,201,793
7 (02) EXTRA HELP	453,411
8 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,199,562
9 (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
10 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	668,564
11 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	44,866
12 (C) PROF. FEES	0
13 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
14 (E) DATA PROC.	0
15 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$5,568,196</u>

16

17 SECTION 28. APPROPRIATION - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - FEDERAL.

18 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable  
 19 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the  
 20 State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of  
 21 Education - Division of Higher Education - Northwest Technical Institute -  
 22 Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

23

24 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
25 NO.	2026-2027
26 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$82,696
27 (02) EXTRA HELP	171,492
28 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	47,690
29 (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
30 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	14,278
31 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
32 (C) PROF. FEES	0
33 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
34 (E) DATA PROC.	0
35 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$316,156</u>

36

1 SECTION 29. APPROPRIATION - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - CASH.  
 2 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable  
 3 from cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code §19-4-801, for personal services  
 4 and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher  
 5 Education - Northwest Technical Institute - Cash for the fiscal year ending  
 6 June 30, 2027, the following:

8 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
9 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
10 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,006,351
11 (02) EXTRA HELP	556,450
12 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	440,787
13 (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
14 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,894,530
15 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	15,000
16 (C) PROF. FEES	275,000
17 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	200,000
18 (E) DATA PROC.	0
19 (05) RESALE	<u>325,000</u>
20 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$4,713,118</u></u>

21  
 22 SECTION 30. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
 23 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
 24 DHE - REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Upon  
 25 determination by the president or chancellor of an institution of higher  
 26 education that a reallocation of resources for purposes of reorganization or  
 27 consolidation of administrative functions within the institution is necessary  
 28 for efficient and effective operations of the institution, the president or  
 29 chancellor, with approval of the institution's board of trustees, may have  
 30 the authority to transfer positions, appropriations and related funds between  
 31 campuses, divisions, branches, and other budgetary units of the institution,  
 32 after receiving prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget  
 33 Committee. The transfers of positions, programs, or activities shall be used  
 34 for those purposes for which the appropriations were approved by the General  
 35 Assembly. The transfers, consolidations, or reorganizations which involve  
 36 academic programs shall be reviewed by the Division of Higher Education prior

1 to submission to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee. Provided,  
2 however, that the institution shall be limited to submitting no more than two  
3 (2) individual transaction transfer requests during any fiscal year and shall  
4 be further limited to no more than five percent (5%) of the total General  
5 Revenue and Special Revenue appropriation, funding, positions specific to  
6 each institution, and no Tobacco Settlement funds or appropriations may be  
7 reallocated pursuant to this section.

8 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of  
9 appropriation and general revenue funding for institutions of higher  
10 education each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This  
11 is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation  
12 act(s) for institutions of higher education and the general revenue  
13 allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the  
14 Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that  
15 institutions of higher education may operate more efficiently if some  
16 flexibility is provided to institutions of higher education authorizing broad  
17 powers under this section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate  
18 that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of  
19 the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this  
20 section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint  
21 Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement  
22 of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled  
23 unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is  
24 void.

25 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
26 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

27  
28 SECTION 31. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
29 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
30 DHE - BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND. After the sum of \$13,200,000 has been  
31 deposited into the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund, any additional  
32 deposits are to be transferred to the Research Development Fund there to be  
33 used as provided by law.

34 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
35 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

36

1 SECTION 32. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
2 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

3 DHE - TRANSFER PROVISION. Upon certification by the Director of the Division  
4 of Higher Education that transfers are needed to make maximum utilization of  
5 funds and appropriations provided for financial aid programs, and with the  
6 approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and a review by the  
7 Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, funds and  
8 appropriations may be transferred between financial aid programs to more  
9 adequately align the appropriation with the number of eligible students.

10 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
11 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

12  
13 SECTION 33. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
14 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

15 DHE - TRANSFER OF HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS FUND APPROPRIATIONS - HEALTH  
16 EDUCATION GRANTS AND LOANS. Upon certification to and with the approval of  
17 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, surplus funds and appropriations may  
18 be transferred between the appropriations provided for "Health Education  
19 Grants and Loans" by this Act by the General Assembly for Dental Aid Grants  
20 and Loans, Optometry Aid Grants and Loans, Veterinary Aid, Veterinary Med.  
21 Loan Forgiveness Program, Podiatry Aid, and Chiropractic Aid.

22 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
23 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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

27 DHE - CONTINGENCY APPROPRIATIONS - TRANSFERS AND REPORTS. (a) Upon approval  
28 by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education and the Chief  
29 Fiscal Officer of the State, institutions of higher education may transfer  
30 appropriation from the cash contingency appropriation to any other  
31 appropriation made to the institution from cash funds including the  
32 establishment of commitment items, and may transfer appropriation from the  
33 contingency appropriation made payable from each institution's State Treasury  
34 Fund to the state operations appropriation made payable from each  
35 institution's State Treasury Fund including the establishment of commitment  
36 items, and may transfer appropriation from the contingency appropriation made

1 payable from the Tobacco Settlement Program Fund Accounts to any other  
2 appropriation made to the institution from Tobacco Settlement Program Fund  
3 Accounts including the establishment of commitment items.

4 (b) Contingency appropriation transfers shall only establish and  
5 supplement commitment items that were recommended by the Higher Education  
6 Coordinating Board in the budget manuals presented to the Legislative Council  
7 and Joint Budget Committee.

8 (c) The Department of Education - Division of Higher Education shall  
9 report contingency appropriation transfers and the establishment of any  
10 commitment items authorized by this Section to the Legislative Council or  
11 Joint Budget Committee for review during its July meeting. The report shall  
12 include, by institution, the establishment of, and the amounts transferred  
13 to, each commitment item, the reasons therefor and the source of funds.  
14 Institutions shall submit contingency appropriation transfer and commitment  
15 item establishment requests authorized by this Section to the Division of  
16 Higher Education no later than July 1. Upon the failure of an institution to  
17 submit the required information by the July 1 deadline, the Department of  
18 Education - Division of Higher Education shall immediately notify by written  
19 notification the chairpersons of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget  
20 Committee.

21 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
22 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

23  
24 SECTION 35. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
25 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

26 DHE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ACT FUNDING. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State  
27 may transfer, on his or her books and those of the State Treasurer and the  
28 Auditor of the State, funding up to the amount authorized in the Workforce  
29 Initiative Act of 2015 appropriation section in this Act, from the Division  
30 of Higher Education Fund Account to the Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 Fund  
31 in order to finance the distribution of grants identified under §6-60-107.

32 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
33 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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

1 DHE - STATEWIDE PROMOTION. Of the general revenue that is received by and  
2 distributed from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, the Chief Fiscal  
3 Officer of the State shall transfer two hundred ninety-five thousand dollars  
4 (\$295,000) to the Division of Higher Education Fund Account to be allocated,  
5 budgeted, committed and distributed to the Statewide Promotion line item in  
6 the General Operations section of this Act for the purpose of increasing  
7 public awareness of the programs and initiatives offered by the State through  
8 the Arkansas Department of Education - Division of Higher Education. The  
9 Department shall utilize a minimum of one hundred forty-seven thousand five  
10 hundred dollars (\$147,500) of the aforementioned total specifically for the  
11 promotion of the Arkansas Future Grant Program.

12 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
13 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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15 SECTION 37. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
16 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
17 GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. The Department  
18 of Education - Division of Higher Education shall provide for the  
19 administration of the "Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship  
20 Program" as appropriated in the Student Assistance Grants and Various  
21 Scholarships Appropriation section of this Act to assist students accepted  
22 into transitional programs for students with intellectual and/or  
23 developmental disabilities at state institutions of higher education and  
24 shall promulgate rules for the implementation of the program and for the  
25 disbursement of scholarships to eligible students.

26 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,  
27 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

28

29 SECTION 38. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds  
30 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency  
31 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and  
32 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and  
33 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary  
34 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal  
35 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by  
36 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be

1 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

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SECTION 39. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 40. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

**APPROVED: 4/29/26**