

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

As Engrossed: H4/22/26

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1005

5 By: Joint Budget Committee  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES  
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
11 EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027;  
12 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
16 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL  
17 YEAR.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - SHARED SERVICES. There is hereby  
24 established for the Department of Education - Shared Services for the 2026-  
25 2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.  
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Item	Class		Maximum	Maximum Annual
No.	Code	Title	No. of	Salary Rate
			Employees	Fiscal Year
				2026-2027
31	(1)	ESE05A SECRETARY OF EDUCATION	1	GRADE EXE04
32	(2)	EEX10A CHIEF OF STAFF II	1	GRADE EXE02
33	(3)	FAC09C CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER II	1	GRADE SPC10
34	(4)	LAT08C CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL I	1	GRADE SPC10
35	(5)	EEA03C HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER	2	GRADE SPC09
36	(6)	EEA01C EDUCATION DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE SPC08



1	(7)	LAT05P ATTORNEY III	1	GRADE SPC08
2	(8)	CPR02C CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS II	1	GRADE SPC07
3	(9)	EEP04C EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC06
4	(10)	FIN03P FINANCE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SPC06
5	(11)	CPR03C GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SPC05
6	(12)	HDH02C HR ADMINISTRATOR I	1	GRADE SPC05
7	(13)	LAT04P ATTORNEY II	4	GRADE SPC05
8	(14)	EES02P EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL II	1	GRADE SPC04
9	(15)	LAT03P ATTORNEY I	1	GRADE SPC03
10	(16)	FAC02P ACCOUNTANT II	2	GRADE SPC02
11	(17)	FAU04P AUDITOR II	1	GRADE SPC02
12	(18)	EES01P EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL I	1	GRADE SPC02
13	(19)	FAC01P ACCOUNTANT I	1	GRADE SPC01
14	(20)	FFS03C FISCAL SUPPORT MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09
15	(21)	SSP06I OMBUDSMAN	1	GRADE SGS08
16	(22)	PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	GRADE SGS07
17	(23)	EEP03P EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	5	GRADE SGS07
18	(24)	FFS05P FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	5	GRADE SGS07
19	(25)	CME03P GRAPHIC ARTIST	2	GRADE SGS07
20	(26)	HDH05P HR COORDINATOR	5	GRADE SGS07
21	(27)	PPR02P PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS07
22	(28)	CPR05P PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS07
23	(29)	ILS03I LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	2	GRADE SGS06
24	(30)	FFS02P FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS06
25	(31)	TMA04P MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	4	GRADE SGS06
26	(32)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS05
27	(33)	TIW04P INVENTORY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS05
28	(34)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	3	GRADE SGS04
29	(35)	FFS04P FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS04
30	(36)	FGM01P GRANTS ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS04
31	(37)	HDH07P HR SPECIALIST	3	GRADE SGS04
32	(38)	TMA05P MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	2	GRADE SGS03
33	(39)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS02
34	(40)	IIA03C CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER III	1	GRADE IST14
35	(41)	IDA01C DATA ARCHITECT	1	GRADE IST13
36	(42)	IIS08C IT INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER	1	GRADE IST11

1	(43)	IAS06C APPLICATIONS SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE IST10
2	(44)	IIS07C IT INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER	1	GRADE IST10
3	(45)	IDM01P DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE IST09
4	(46)	IIS01P IT COORDINATOR	2	GRADE IST08
5	(47)	IAS01P APPLICATIONS ANALYST I	1	GRADE IST07
6	(48)	IDN01P DATA ANALYST	2	GRADE IST07
7	(49)	IUS02P USER SUPPORT COORDINATOR	3	GRADE IST05
8	(50)	TMA03P MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	3	GRADE SGS04
9	(51)	IIP03P IT SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST10
10		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	88	

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12 SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - SHARED SERVICES PAYING ACCOUNT. There is  
 13 hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Shared Services Paying  
 14 Account for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-  
 15 time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds  
 16 appropriated herein for such purposes: six (6) temporary or part-time  
 17 employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the  
 18 Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act  
 19 for the appropriate classification.

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21 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - SHARED SERVICES PAYING ACCOUNT. There is  
 22 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the  
 23 paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for  
 24 personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education -  
 25 Shared Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

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27	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
28	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
29	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$6,776,073
30	(02) EXTRA HELP	80,000
31	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,228,979
32	(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
33	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	100,000
34	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	10,000
35	(C) PROF. FEES	0
36	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0

1	(E) DATA PROC.	0
2	(05) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>300,000</u>
3	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$9,495,052</u>

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5 SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby  
6 established for the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and  
7 Secondary Education - State Operations for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the  
8 following maximum number of regular employees.

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10			Maximum Annual
11		Maximum	Salary Rate
12	Item Class	No. of	Fiscal Year
13	No. Code Title	Employees	2026-2027
14	(1) EEX11A CHIEF PROGRAMS DIRECTOR	2	GRADE EXE03
15	(2) EEA02C EDUCATION DIVISION DIRECTOR	3	GRADE SPC09
16	(3) EEA01C EDUCATION DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR	4	GRADE SPC08
17	(4) EEP02C EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE SPC07
18	(5) FAC10C CONTROLLER	1	GRADE SPC06
19	(6) EEP04C EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC06
20	(7) EES03P EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL SUPV/EXP	7	GRADE SPC06
21	(8) FIN03P FINANCE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SPC06
22	(9) EES02P EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL II	17	GRADE SPC04
23	(10) FAC02P ACCOUNTANT II	4	GRADE SPC02
24	(11) EES01P EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL I	107	GRADE SPC02
25	(12) SIA23P PUBLIC SAFETY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
26	<del>(13) PQA04P QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR/EXP</del>	<del>2</del>	<del>GRADE SGS08</del>
27	<del>(14) FGM03C GRANTS MANAGER</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>GRADE SGS07</del>
28	(15) PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	3	GRADE SGS07
29	(16) EEP03P EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	26	GRADE SGS07
30	(17) FFS05P FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	4	GRADE SGS07
31	(18) HDH05P HR COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS07
32	(19) IIV05P INVESTIGATOR SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS07
33	(20) PPE04P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SUPERVISOR/EXP	1	GRADE SGS07
34	(21) CPR05P PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS07
35	<del>(22) PQA01P QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR</del>	<del>9</del>	<del>GRADE SGS07</del>
36	(23) CTR02P TRAINER	1	GRADE SGS07

1	(24)	ILS03I LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	2	GRADE SGS06
2	<del>(25)</del>	<del>EEPO5P EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>GRADE SGS06</del>
3	(26)	FFS02P FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	9	GRADE SGS06
4	(27)	IIV04P INVESTIGATOR III	1	GRADE SGS06
5	(28)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	16	GRADE SGS05
6	(29)	FGM02P GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS05
7	(30)	PPR04P PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS05
8	(31)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	23	GRADE SGS04
9	(32)	EEC04P EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM SPECIALIST	5	GRADE SGS04
10	(33)	FFS04P FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	3	GRADE SGS04
11	(34)	FGM01P GRANTS ANALYST	4	GRADE SGS04
12	(35)	PAS09P LICENSING COORDINATOR	6	GRADE SGS03
13	(36)	TMA05P MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE SGS03
14	(37)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	22	GRADE SGS02
15	(38)	MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE	1	GRADE MED05
16	(39)	IAS01P APPLICATIONS ANALYST I	8	GRADE IST07
17	(40)	IDN01P DATA ANALYST	3	GRADE IST07
18	(41)	IAS08I WEBSITE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IST05
19	(42)	IUS01P USER SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE IST04
20	(43)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	3	GRADE IST02
21	(44)	EEC01C EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SGS10
22	(45)	EEC02P EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM COORDINATOR	3	GRADE SGS06
23	<del>(46)</del>	<del>EEPO6P EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR/EXPERT</del>	<del>3</del>	<del>GRADE SGS10</del>
24	(47)	FAC01P ACCOUNTANT I	1	GRADE SPC01
25	(48)	IIS01P IT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE IST08
26	(49)	SPS08P SCHOOL SAFETY COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE LES07
27		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	308	

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29 SECTION 5. EXTRA HELP - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized,  
30 for the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary  
31 Education - State Operations for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following  
32 maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra  
33 Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: seven (7)  
34 temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed  
35 those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its  
36 successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

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SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$13,520,917
(02) EXTRA HELP	160,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	4,756,796
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	3,399,057
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	56,500
(C) PROF. FEES	25,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	100,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$22,018,270</u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL GRANTS ADMINISTRATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Federal Grants Administration for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$254,677
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	88,477
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	49,970
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	19,672
(C) PROF. FEES	260,000

1	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
2	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
3	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$672,796</u></u>

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5 SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - BUILDING MAINTENANCE. There is hereby  
6 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the  
7 Educational Buildings Maintenance Fund, for operating expenses of the  
8 Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education -  
9 Building Maintenance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

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11	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
12	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
13	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
14	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$500,000
15	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
16	(C) PROF. FEES	0
17	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
18	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
19	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$500,000</u></u>

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21 SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - REVOLVING LOAN CERTIFICATES PROGRAM. There  
22 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from  
23 the Education Revolving Loan Certificates Fund, for personal services,  
24 operating expenses, and loans to school districts by the Department of  
25 Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Revolving Loan  
26 Certificates Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

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28	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
29	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
30	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$54,790
31	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	20,856
32	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
33	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	27,500
34	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	2,500
35	(C) PROF. FEES	10,000
36	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0

1	(E) DATA PROC.	0
2	(04) LOANS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS	13,000,000
3	(05) LOANS TO OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC	
4	CHARTER SCHOOLS	<u>10,000,000</u>
5	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$23,115,646</u>

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7 SECTION 10. EXTRA HELP - FEDERAL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.

8 There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Division of  
 9 Elementary and Secondary Education - Federal Elementary and Secondary  
 10 Education for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of  
 11 part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from  
 12 funds appropriated herein for such purposes: four (4) temporary or part-time  
 13 employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the  
 14 Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act  
 15 for the appropriate classification.

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17 SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.

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, operating expenses, aid and reimbursements of  
 21 the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
 22 - Federal Elementary and Secondary Education for the fiscal year ending June  
 23 30, 2027, the following:

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25	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
26	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
27	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$4,282,186
28	(02) EXTRA HELP	60,000
29	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,608,156
30	(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
31	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	91,242,005
32	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	100,000
33	(C) PROF. FEES	1,500,000
34	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	200,000
35	(E) DATA PROC.	0
36	(05) ENTITLEMENT GRANT PROGRAMS	1,181,832,710

1	(06) REFUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>1,110,000</u>
2	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,281,935,057</u>

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 4 SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - MULTIPLE GRANT AWARD PROGRAM. There is  
 5 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the  
 6 cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal  
 7 Officer of the State, for operating expenses and grants by the Department of  
 8 Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Multiple Grant  
 9 Award Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

11	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
12	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
13	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
14	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$422,000
15	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	16,500
16	(C) PROF. FEES	40,000
17	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	100,000
18	(E) DATA PROC.	0
19	(02) MULTIPLE GRANT AWARDS	<u>1,900,000</u>
20	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$2,478,500</u>

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 22 SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM. There is  
 23 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the  
 24 cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal  
 25 Officer of the State, for Medicaid reimbursement and administration of the  
 26 Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education -  
 27 Medicaid Reimbursement Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the  
 28 following:

30	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
31	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
32	(01) REFUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS	\$13,659,017
33	(02) MEDICAID ADMIN	<u>10,500</u>
34	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$13,669,517</u>

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 36 SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM. There

1 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from  
 2 the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief  
 3 Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses and grants by the  
 4 Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education -  
 5 Alternative Certification Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,  
 6 the following:

8 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
9 NO.	<u>2026-2027</u>
10 (01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
11 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$27,367
12 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	8,500
13 (C) PROF. FEES	35,420
14 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
15 (E) DATA PROC.	0
16 (02) ALT. CERT. PROG. GRANTS AND AID	<u>827,925</u>
17 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$899,212</u></u>

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 19 SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - CONFERENCES. There is hereby appropriated,  
 20 to the Department of Education, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in  
 21 the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State,  
 22 for operating expenses of conferences sponsored by the Department of  
 23 Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Conferences for  
 24 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

26 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
27 NO.	<u>2026-2027</u>
28 (01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
29 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$400,000
30 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	25,000
31 (C) PROF. FEES	50,000
32 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
33 (E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
34 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$475,000</u></u>

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 36 SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION - MEDICAID ADMINISTRATION CLAIMING PROGRAM.

1 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable  
 2 from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief  
 3 Fiscal Officer of the State, for reimbursement of school districts for  
 4 administrative activities that support the Arkansas Medicaid Program of the  
 5 Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education -  
 6 Medicaid Administration Claiming Program for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
 7 2027, the following:

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9 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
10 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
11 (01) AR MEDICAID ADMIN CLAIMS	<u>\$45,000,000</u>

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13 SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM -  
 14 ADMINISTRATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of  
 15 Education, to be payable from the Division of Elementary and Secondary  
 16 Education Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the  
 17 Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education -  
 18 Arkansas Better Chance Program - Administration for the fiscal year ending  
 19 June 30, 2027, the following:

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21 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
22 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
23 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$611,206
24 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	231,426
25 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
26 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,245,291
27 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	3,917
28 (C) PROF. FEES	297,610
29 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
30 (E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
31 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$2,389,450</u>

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33 SECTION 18. REGULAR SALARIES - PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD.  
 34 There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of  
 35 Elementary and Secondary Education - Professional Licensure Standards Board  
 36 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular

1 employees.

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Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	LAT05P	ATTORNEY III	1	GRADE SPC08
(2)	ILS03I	LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
(3)	FFS02P	FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS06
(4)	IIV04P	INVESTIGATOR III	4	GRADE SGS06
(5)	PAS01P	ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	2	GRADE SGS05
(6)	PAS02P	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	<u>2</u>	GRADE SGS04
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES			11	

15 SECTION 19. APPROPRIATION - PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD.

16 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable  
 17 from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief  
 18 Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services, operating expenses, and  
 19 grants of the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary  
 20 Education - Professional Licensure Standards Board for the fiscal year ending  
 21 June 30, 2027, the following:

22

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$629,772
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	235,810
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	376,325
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	10,000
(C) PROF. FEES	9,505
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	50,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) EDTPA PROGRAM GRANTS	<u>100,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,411,412</u></u>

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36 SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION - OPEN ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

1 CLOSURE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be  
 2 payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by  
 3 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for outstanding obligations incurred  
 4 by closed charter schools of the Department of Education - Division of  
 5 Elementary and Secondary Education - Open Enrollment Public Charter School  
 6 Closure for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

8 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
9 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
10 (01) CHARTER SCHOOL CLOSURE	<u>\$300,000</u>

11  
 12 SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - SAVE THE CHILDREN GRANT. There is hereby  
 13 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division  
 14 of Elementary and Secondary Education Fund Account, for a grant for statewide  
 15 in-school, summer, and after school literacy, nutrition, home visiting, and  
 16 early childhood programs to be administered by Save the Children for low  
 17 income, at-risk children by the Department of Education - Division of  
 18 Elementary and Secondary Education - Save the Children Grant for the fiscal  
 19 year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

21 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
22 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
23 (01) SAVE THE CHILDREN GRANTS	<u>\$500,000</u>

24  
 25 SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION - SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS. There is hereby  
 26 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division  
 27 of Elementary and Secondary Education Fund Account, for School Safety Grants  
 28 by the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary  
 29 Education - School Safety Grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,  
 30 the following:

32 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
33 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
34 (01) SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS	<u>\$50,000,000</u>

35  
 36 SECTION 23. APPROPRIATION - EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM ACCOUNTS. There is

1 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the  
2 Arkansas Children’s Educational Freedom Account Fund, for Educational Freedom  
3 Accounts by the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and  
4 Secondary Education - Educational Freedom Accounts for the fiscal year ending  
5 June 30, 2027, the following:

6		
7	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
8	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
9	(01) EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM ACCOUNTS	<u>\$309,487,318</u>

10

11 SECTION 24. APPROPRIATION - ASTHMA TRAINING AND TREATMENT PROGRAM

12 GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be  
13 payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by  
14 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grants for expenses related to  
15 providing asthma treatment in local school districts, asthma treatment  
16 equipment for school districts, school personnel training, and monitoring and  
17 tracking of asthma cases in local public school districts by the Department  
18 of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for the fiscal  
19 year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

20

21	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
22	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
23	(01) ASTHMA TRAINING AND TREATMENT PROGRAM GRANTS	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

24

25 SECTION 25. APPROPRIATION - OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM GRANTS. There  
26 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from  
27 the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief  
28 Fiscal Officer of the State, for a grant program for comprehensive out-of-  
29 school time programs for school aged children which shall provide evidence-  
30 based academic enhancement programs and activities that align with and  
31 support state curriculum standards by the Department of Education - Division  
32 of Elementary and Secondary Education for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
33 2027, the following:

34

35	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
36	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>

1 (01) OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM GRANTS \$3,900,000

2  
3 SECTION 26. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
4 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

5 CARRY FORWARD. Notwithstanding any law pertaining to the transfer of year-end  
6 fund balances or any law to the contrary, any funds which remain in the  
7 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Fund Account at the end of a  
8 fiscal year shall remain in the Division of Elementary and Secondary  
9 Education Fund Account and be made available to fund appropriation(s)  
10 authorized by law and made payable from the Division of Elementary and  
11 Secondary Education Fund Account for the following fiscal year.

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

14 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement  
15 set forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the  
16 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

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

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

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

36 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~

1 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

2

3 SECTION 27. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
4 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL, AND TEMPORARY LAW. SCHOOL  
5 SAFETY SET-ASIDE.

6 (a)(1) The Department of Education shall not begin the process of  
7 promulgating rules for the distribution of funds in the School Safety Set-  
8 Aside or Contingency Vote 3/5 Set-Aside until authorized by Legislative  
9 Council.

10 (2) The department shall not disburse any funds in the School Safety  
11 Set-Aside or Contingency Vote 3/5 Set-Aside until the rules have been  
12 approved by Legislative Council.

13 (b) Notwithstanding other provisions of law, the Chief Fiscal Officer of  
14 the State may from time to time transfer on his or her books and those of the  
15 Treasurer of State and the Auditor of State funds from the Restricted Reserve  
16 Fund School Safety Set-Aside or Contingency Vote 3/5 Set-Aside after  
17 receiving prior approval of the greater of three-fifths (3/5) of the quorum  
18 present or a majority of the membership of the Legislative Council or, if the  
19 General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee, for the  
20 Department of Education to distribute funds for the School Safety Grant  
21 program, as approved in this section as set out in subsection (a) herein, or  
22 for the distribution of funds from this set-aside for unanticipated state  
23 needs.

24 (c)(1) The General Assembly finds:

25 (A) Determining the maximum amount of appropriation and funding for a  
26 state agency or institution each fiscal year is the prerogative of the  
27 General Assembly;

28 (B) Determining the maximum amount of appropriation and funding for a  
29 state agency or institution is usually accomplished by delineating the  
30 maximum amounts in the appropriation acts for the state agency or institution  
31 and in the general revenue allocations authorized for each relevant fund and  
32 fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization Law, § 19-20-101 et  
33 seq.; and

34 (C) The Restricted Reserve Fund has established procedures for the  
35 transfer of funds to various funds and fund accounts for the efficient and  
36 effective operation of state government.

1 (2)(A) It is necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly  
2 maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or,  
3 if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee, as  
4 provided in § 19-27-317(c).

5 (B) The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or, if the  
6 General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee, is not a  
7 severable part of § 19-27-317.

8 (C) If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or, if  
9 the General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee, is ruled  
10 unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, § 19-27-317(c)-(e) are  
11 void in their entirety.

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

14  
15 SECTION 28. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
16 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

17 ESTABLISHMENT OF A "POSITION POOL". (a) To address needs emerging from  
18 statewide education issues and the necessity of recruiting and retaining  
19 qualified personnel, the Arkansas Department of Education or its successor  
20 agency is authorized for the ~~2025-2026~~ 2026-2027 fiscal year a pool of no  
21 more than five (5) Information Systems and Technology positions at a salary  
22 not to exceed the maximum salary for a grade IST12. These positions are to be  
23 used by the Department of Education in the event that the personal services  
24 needs of the Department during the ~~2025-2026~~ 2026-2027 fiscal year require  
25 additional positions, either by title or in number, that are not authorized  
26 by the General Assembly in the Regular Salaries section of this Act. These  
27 positions may also be used to properly classify positions when the Department  
28 does not have a vacant position available with the appropriate title and  
29 salary level.

30 (b) To address needs emerging from statewide education issues and the  
31 necessity of recruiting and retaining qualified personnel, the Arkansas  
32 Department of Education or its successor agency is authorized for the ~~2025-~~  
33 ~~2026~~ 2026-2027 fiscal year a pool of ten (10) State Government Services  
34 positions at up to a grade SGS12. These positions are to be used by the  
35 Department of Education in the event that the personal services needs of the  
36 Department during the ~~2025-2026~~ 2026-2027 fiscal year require additional

1 positions, either by classification or in number, that are not authorized by  
2 the General Assembly in the Regular Salaries section of this Act. These  
3 positions may also be used to properly classify positions when the Department  
4 does not have a vacant position available with the appropriate title and  
5 grade level.

6 (c) Any salary determinations or adjustments administered under the  
7 provisions of Subsections (a) and (b) of this Section shall be made by  
8 comparing the qualifications and salary levels of similar employees in school  
9 districts or in other state education agencies.

10 (d) The Department of Education is authorized to access the pool  
11 positions authorized in this Section at any time when it is determined by the  
12 Secretary that the need exists. The Secretary shall provide a monthly report  
13 of the justification for the need to allocate titles from this growth pool to  
14 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and to the Arkansas Legislative Council  
15 or Joint Budget Committee for review. The report shall also include an  
16 accounting of the names, titles, and salaries of personnel whose salaries  
17 have been adjusted under provisions of Subsections (a) and (b) of this  
18 Section.

19 (e) If the Department of Education requests continuation of any  
20 "Position Pool" position(s) as established herein during the next fiscal  
21 year, the position(s) must be requested as a new position(s) in the agency's  
22 budget request.

23 (f) Determining the number of personnel to be employed by a state agency  
24 is the prerogative of the General Assembly and is usually accomplished by  
25 delineating the maximum number of personnel by identifying job titles and the  
26 maximum grade or salary attached to those titles. The General Assembly has  
27 determined that the Arkansas Department of Education could be operated more  
28 efficiently if some flexibility is given to that agency. That flexibility is  
29 being accomplished by providing a position pool in Subsections (a) and (b) of  
30 this Section and since the General Assembly has granted the agency broad  
31 powers under the growth pool concept, it is both necessary and appropriate  
32 that the General Assembly maintain oversight of the utilization of the  
33 position pool by requiring review of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget  
34 Committee in the utilization of the position pool. Therefore, the requirement  
35 of review by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a  
36 severable part of this section. If the requirement of review by the

1 Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a  
2 court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

3 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
4 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

5

6 SECTION 29. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
7 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

8 SHARED SERVICES. (a)(1) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may create a  
9 Shared Services paying accounts on his or her books and on the books of the  
10 Treasurer of State and the Auditor of State for the payment of personal  
11 services and operating expenses in the Shared Services Paying Account  
12 Appropriation by the Department of Education.

13 (2) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall direct the transfer  
14 of funds and appropriations to the Shared Services Paying Account  
15 appropriation section of this act on the books of the Treasurer of State, the  
16 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

17 (3) The transfer authority provided to the department in  
18 subdivision (a)(2) of this section may be used to make transfers only within  
19 the department's appropriation act or between other appropriation acts  
20 authorized for the department.

21 (4) The provisions of this section shall be in effect from the  
22 date of passage through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

23

24 SECTION 30. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
25 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. OUT-OF-  
26 SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM GRANTS REQUIREMENTS. (a) Of the amount appropriated to  
27 the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
28 for Out-Of-School Time Program Grants in this act, funding shall only be made  
29 available to eligible entities for comprehensive out-of-school time programs  
30 for school aged children.

31 (b) Eligible programs shall be limited to applicants meeting the following  
32 criteria:

33 (1) Provide out-of-school time programs during the school year to school  
34 aged children;

35 (2) Provide regular activities designed for evidence-based academic  
36 enhancement that aligns and supports state curriculum standards and will

1 include a minimum of two of the following five activity areas:

2 (A) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math);

3 (B) Academic support;

4 (C) Goal setting/leadership;

5 (D) Career exposure/Workforce Readiness; and

6 (E) Community service.

7 (3) Provide activities above as a part of a comprehensive out-of-school  
8 program;

9 (4) Operate for a minimum of 12 hours weekly during the school year;  
10 minimum of four days per week during the calendar school year; not including  
11 school breaks such as holiday or seasonal;

12 (5) Collect data on participants' demographics, attendance and program  
13 participation and compile statewide aggregated data;

14 (6) Implement rigorous safety standards including employee background  
15 checks, compliance with mandated reporting laws; and

16 (7) Must be a qualified 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization that has been  
17 in operation for more than 5 years and has a record of fiscal accountability.  
18 Organizations must also provide a sustainability model with a minimum of 50%  
19 of funding derived from non-state resources.

20 (c) The Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary  
21 Education shall promulgate rules for the determination of eligibility and  
22 administration of the Out-Of-School Time Program Grants.

23 (d) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
24 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

25  
26 *SECTION 31. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 6-18-*  
27 *722 is amended to read as follows:*

28 *6-18-722. Free and reduced-price meals – Definitions.*

29 (a) *Federal funds appropriated to the Department of ~~Education~~*  
30 *Agriculture for a child nutrition program shall be used to provide school*  
31 *breakfasts and lunches at no cost to each qualifying student.*

32 (b)(1) *A public school that serves a school breakfast or a school*  
33 *lunch as part of a child nutrition program shall not charge a qualifying*  
34 *student a reduced-price copayment for a school breakfast or a school lunch.*

35 (2)(A) *If necessary to comply with the requirements of this*  
36 *section, the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture shall provide funds that*

1 have been disbursed to the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture from the  
2 United States Government for purposes of funding child nutrition programs to  
3 each public school that serves a school breakfast or a school lunch as part  
4 of a child nutrition program to cover the cost of eliminating reduced-price  
5 copayments as required by subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

6 (B) If federal funds appropriated to the ~~department~~  
7 Department of Agriculture for a child nutrition program are insufficient to  
8 provide a school breakfast or a school lunch at no cost under subdivision  
9 (b)(2)(A) of this section, the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture shall use  
10 funds as authorized by law to provide a school breakfast or a school lunch  
11 not initially covered by federal funds under subsection (a) of this section  
12 or other funds as authorized by law.

13 (c)(1) Annually by November 15, the Department of ~~Education~~  
14 Agriculture shall report on and provide to the House Committee on Education  
15 and the Senate Committee on Education an overview of each child nutrition  
16 program offered in public schools.

17 (2) The report required under subdivision (c)(1) of this section  
18 shall include without limitation:

19 (A) The procedure for applying for free or reduced-price  
20 meals in public schools; and

21 (B) The number of students who:

22 (i) Apply for free or reduced-price meals;

23 (ii) Are accepted to receive free or reduced-price  
24 meals;

25 (iii) Are denied from receiving free or reduced-  
26 price meals; and

27 (iv) Automatically qualify for free or reduced-price  
28 meals based on federal eligibility requirements.

29 (d)(1) Arkansas Legislative Audit shall audit the Department of  
30 Education Child Nutrition Unit by December 15, 2023, and report the audit  
31 findings to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on  
32 Education.

33 (2) The audit required under subdivision (d)(1) of this section  
34 shall determine whether each public school's participation in a child  
35 nutrition program effectively:

36 (A) Serves the intent of the General Assembly to expand

1 students' access to free meals in public schools; and

2 (B) Complies with federal and state law and rules.

3 (e) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Child nutrition program" includes the following as  
5 established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C.  
6 § 1751 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2023:

7 (A) The National School Lunch Program; or

8 (B) The School Breakfast Program; and

9 (2) "Qualifying student" means a kindergarten through grade  
10 twelve (K-12) student enrolled in a public school who is eligible for receipt  
11 of a reduced-price meal in a child nutrition program.

12 (f)(1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each school year  
13 thereafter, a public school student who is not a qualifying student under  
14 this section and does not receive a free breakfast through any local, state,  
15 or federal program shall be provided one (1) breakfast at no cost during each  
16 school day upon his or her request without consideration of his or her  
17 eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal.

18 (2)(A) If necessary to comply with the requirements of  
19 subdivision (f)(1) of this section, the ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture  
20 shall provide funds that have been disbursed to the ~~department~~ Department of  
21 Agriculture from the United States Government for purposes of funding child  
22 nutrition programs to each public school to cover the cost of providing one  
23 (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day to each public school student  
24 who is not a qualifying student under this section.

25 (B) If federal funds appropriated to the ~~department~~  
26 Department of Agriculture for a child nutrition program are insufficient to  
27 cover the cost of providing one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school  
28 day to each public school student who is not a qualifying student, the  
29 ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture shall use funds as authorized by law to  
30 cover the cost of providing one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school  
31 day to each public school student who is not a qualifying student.

32 (C) The cost of providing one (1) breakfast shall not  
33 exceed the rate of reimbursement to public schools established by the Richard  
34 B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq., and the Child  
35 Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. § 1771 et seq., for a free school breakfast.

36 (g) The ~~department~~ Department of Agriculture may promulgate rules to

1 *implement this section.*

2

3 *SECTION 32. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 19-27-*  
4 *341(c)-(f), concerning the Food Insecurity Fund, are amended to read as*  
5 *follows:*

6 *(c)(1) By July 31 each fiscal year:*

7 *(A) The Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture shall submit a*  
8 *certification to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State of the amount expensed*  
9 *by the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture the prior fiscal year to comply*  
10 *with § 6-18-722(b) to eliminate a charge to students for a reduced-price*  
11 *copayment for a school breakfast or a school lunch, which shall be reviewed*  
12 *by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State; and*

13 *(B) The Department of Human Services shall submit a*  
14 *certification to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State of the estimated*  
15 *amount required to fund the state matching funds requirement for the federal*  
16 *Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children, commonly known as*  
17 *“Summer EBT”, for the current fiscal year, which shall be reviewed by the*  
18 *Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.*

19 *(2) After reviewing the certifications submitted under*  
20 *subdivision (c)(1) of this section, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may*  
21 *deny, modify, or approve the certifications based on the:*

22 *(A) Estimated amount of funding needed and available;*

23 *(B) Purpose; and*

24 *(C) Preferred spending priority.*

25 *(3) Based on the certifications from the Department of ~~Education~~*  
26 *Agriculture and the Department of Human Services in subdivision (c)(1) of*  
27 *this section, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall instruct the*  
28 *Treasurer of State to transfer those amounts on a pro rata basis to the fund*  
29 *or fund accounts designated by the Secretary of the Department of ~~Education~~*  
30 *Agriculture and the Secretary of the Department of Human Services.*

31 *(d) Any unexpended balance of moneys in the fund accounts designated*  
32 *by the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture and the Department of Human*  
33 *Services to be allocated for the purposes under subsection (c) of this*  
34 *section that are remaining at the end of each fiscal year shall be designated*  
35 *and retained for the purposes under subsection (c) of this section for the*  
36 *following fiscal year, and certifications required under subdivision (c)(1)*

1 of this section shall be adjusted to reflect the remaining balances.

2 (e) After making the transfers under subdivision (c)(3) of this  
3 section, the Treasurer of State shall then transfer the remainder of the  
4 balance of the Food Insecurity Fund to the fund account designated by the  
5 Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture to be used by the Department of ~~Education~~  
6 Agriculture to comply with § 6-18-722(f).

7 (f) Any unexpended balance of moneys in the fund account designated by  
8 the Department of ~~Education~~ Agriculture allocated for the purposes under  
9 subsection (e) of this section that are remaining at the end of each fiscal  
10 year shall be designated and retained for the purposes outlined under  
11 subsection (e) of this section for the following fiscal year.

12  
13 SECTION 33. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds  
14 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency  
15 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and  
16 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and  
17 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary  
18 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal  
19 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by  
20 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be  
21 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

22  
23 SECTION 34. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General  
24 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations  
25 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for  
26 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive  
27 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget  
28 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or  
29 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative  
30 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

31  
32 SECTION 35. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
33 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits  
34 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the  
35 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of  
36 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in

1 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the  
2 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm  
3 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental  
4 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act  
5 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health  
6 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

7  
8 */s/Joint Budget Committee*

9  
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11 **APPROVED: 5/1/26**  
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