



Arkansas Department of Education

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Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Johnny Key
Secretary

August 31, 2021

Jessica Whittaker, Administrator
Administrative Rules Review Section
Bureau of Legislative Research
One Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Re: Act 595 Request (Act 959)

Dear Ms. Whittaker:

Based upon a review of newly enacted laws following the 2021 legislative session, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), noted that Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-108, as amended by Act 959 of 2021, requires the State Board of Education to adopt a policy requiring recitation of the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence. DESE has determined the rule to be unnecessary for the operation of the newly amended law and does not intend to adopt the required rule. In accordance with Act 595 of 2021, DESE respectfully requests that the rule referenced above be excluded from further reporting requirements and that this request be placed upon the next agenda of the ALC Administrative Rules & Regulations Subcommittee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (501) 682- 4752 should you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,

Courtney Salas-Ford

Courtney Salas-Ford
ADE Chief Legal Counsel