



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Johnny Key**  
*Commissioner*

March 26, 2015

**State Board  
of Education**

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**Senator Uvalde Lindsey**  
**Representative Lanny Fite**  
**Arkansas Legislative Council**

Dear Senator Lindsey and Representative Fite:

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) has requested to establish a pool position from the Professional/Executive Pay Plan authorize in the current ADE appropriation act. The title of the position is ADE Deputy Commissioner, Pay Grade N912 with an annual salary of \$125,081. This request is authorized by Special Language in Act 291, Section 25(a), page 14 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Section 25(a) reads as follows:

“To address needs emerging from statewide education issues and the necessity of recruiting and retaining qualified personnel, the Arkansas Department of Education or its successor agency is authorized for the 2014-2015 fiscal year a pool of no more than five (5) Professional/Executive positions at a salary not to exceed the maximum salary for a grade N912. These positions are to be used by the Department of Education in the event that the personal services needs of the Department during the 2014-2015 fiscal year require additional positions, either by title or in number, that are not authorized by the General Assembly in Section 1 of this Act. These positions may also be used to properly classify positions when the Department does not have a vacant position available with the appropriate title and salary level.”

**Rationale and Justification:**

The ADE is a constitutional agency. The Department carries out its duties on behalf of Arkansas students in public, private, and nonpublic school systems. The Department operates under the authority of a State Board of Education and is organized into teams that interact to operate the agency and carry out the duties assigned by state and federal statutes and the policy directions of the State Board of Education.

The role of the ADE Deputy Commissioner will be to help provide overall leadership and management of the Department in implementing its services during this time of transition from Mr. Tony Wood to Senator Johnny Key. The ADE Deputy Commissioner manages the internal operations of the organization. The position provides leadership to the integrated work of the ADE and in implementing federal and state laws, regulation and guidance. The work involves planning, organizing, implementing and evaluating programs and services for K-12 schools in the state.

Four Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR  
72201-1019  
(501) 682-4475  
ArkansasEd.org

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Senator Uvalde Lindsey  
Representative Lanny Fite  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
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I wanted to share this information with you during this time of transition in order to maintain complete transparency during this transition. If you would like any other information or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at 501-682-4205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnny Key". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Johnny Key  
Commissioner of Education

c: Ivy Pfeffer, Assistant Commissioner for Licensure and Human Resources