

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND (0510)  
2011-13 BIENNIUM

**I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES**

**MISSION**

The School for the Blind provides education and training for all children and young people (birth through age twenty-one) who are visually impaired so they possess the required skills to become personally productive and self-sufficient citizens. The School's programs include academic and vocational training, residential living, extra curricular activities, low vision evaluation services, physical and occupational therapy, psychological evaluations, orientation and mobility services, life skills training, nutritional meals, vocational work study program, Braille publications, adaptive technology training, evaluation and weekly statewide transportation.

**TOTAL APPROPRIATION**

The total appropriation is \$7,689,850 for FY2012 and \$7,787,588 for FY2013, which is an increase of \$665,495 for FY2012 and \$763,233 for FY2013.

**FUNDING SOURCES**

The appropriations for the School for the Blind are funded by general revenue, federal funds, cash funds and fund balances.

**II) SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**

**SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND OPERATIONS (APPROPRIATION 076)**

This appropriation provides for the operating costs of the school, and is funded by general revenue. The total appropriation is \$6,367,793 for FY2012 and \$6,464,007 for FY2013 which is an increase of \$509,091 in FY2012 and \$605,305 in FY2013 in the following line items:

**Regular Salaries and Matching** - Provides an increase of \$193,092 for FY2012 and \$289,306 for FY2013 for a 1.86% Cost of Living adjustment and to reclassify an Administrative Specialist III (C112) to an Administrative Analyst (C117).

**Operating Expenses** - Provides an increase of \$93,499 each year for increased utility costs and increased travel reimbursement costs for staff.

**Capital Outlay** - Provides \$25,000 each year to restore the FY2011 authorized level to allow replacement of obsolete equipment.

**Special Maintenance** - Provides \$150,000 each year for preventive maintenance on the school's 15 buildings.

**Vocational Work Study** - Provides \$2,500 each year to restore the FY2011 authorized level and allow more students to work in a business environment.

**Summer Projects** - Provides \$45,000 each year to cover increased costs of providing a 3-week summer school.

**SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND - FEDERAL OPERATIONS (APPROPRIATION 077)**

This appropriation provides federal support for the school's operations and receives its funding from Rehabilitation Act Chapter VI-B Pass Through, Carl Perkins Federal Vocational Grants, Medicaid Reimbursements, and an Adaptive Technology Grant through the Arkansas Department of Education. The total appropriation is \$749,525 for FY2012 and \$751,049 for FY2013, which includes an increase of \$2,404 for FY2012 and \$3,928 for FY2013 for a Cost of Living Adjustment, and an increase of \$154,000 each year for Capital Outlay for equipment.

**III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS**

Total Positions for 2011-13 Biennium: 97  
Total Budgeted Positions for FY 2010-11: 97  
Increase/(Decrease): 0

**IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE**

**TRANSFER PROVISION:** Authorizes a transfer of appropriation from the Summer projects special line item in the State Operations appropriation to Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching and Maintenance and General Operating Expenses within the same appropriation, to compensate staff who work during the summer months on summer projects, cover other expenses of summer project activities, and pay shift differential pay, upon Chief Fiscal Officer approval.

**SPECIAL ALLOWANCE:** Allows the School to provide up to \$3,500 per school term/per fiscal year in special allowances to employees who complete any of the following in addition to their regular duties:

- Teach adult education classes, parent training, or student tutorial services on weekends or evenings
- Coach one or more sports
- Sponsor a club or organization outside of normal working day
- Provide interpretative services

**ADDITIONAL SALARY/COMPENSATION PROVISION:** Prohibits employees from receiving an additional salary from the School or other state agency without written certification from the Superintendent and approval by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State that the additional position does not interfere with their primary duties and that the combined salaries do not exceed the maximum salary for the highest salary of the two positions. Provides for termination upon knowingly violating this provision, and the employee is barred from employment for three (3) years or until the salary in violation of this provision has been repaid including 10% interest.

**SHARED SERVICES:** Authorizes a joint paying account in the State Treasury between the School for the Blind and School for the Deaf for the purpose of serving both schools in the areas of Accounting, Personnel, Inventory, Safety and Health Services upon direction by the Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf. Authorizes the Board to transfer positions, funds and appropriations with the funding and appropriation to be divided proportionately from each agency based on student population. Supervision of this account and the positions may come from either school as determined by the Board of Trustees.

**BRILLE AND LARGE PRINT TEXTBOOKS:** Authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules and regulations for the implementation of the Braille and Large Print Textbooks program and allows the Board to negotiate directly with publishers for the purchase of such books. Also authorizes the School to use this appropriation and funds for costs of providing the books to public schools, such as copying, postage and freight costs.

**SUMMER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES:** Authorizes additional compensation not to exceed 1/12 of their annual salary each month or part thereof worked to selected classifications of employees who work during the summer months in addition to working during the regular school term.

**CERTIFIED MASTERS OR BACHELOR TEACHERS ENTERING STATE SERVICE:** Allows teachers entering state service to teach sensory impaired individuals to be paid not less than what they would have received from their previous employer effective on their employment with the Arkansas School for the Blind, upon certification of the prior service by the Superintendent to the Office of Personnel Management.

**TEACHER SALARY INCREASE:** Provides that if an act is passed to provide funds to the public schools to raise salaries of teachers, the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf are also included.

**SPECIAL RATES OF PAY:** Authorizes the School to adjust specified classifications of new or current employees to at least the minimum level of compensation for public school employees, up to the maximum for the assigned grade, upon Office of Personnel Management and Arkansas Legislative Council Personnel Committee review and Chief Fiscal Officer Approval of the plan for the adjustments. Authorizes the use of Merit Adjustment funding for these increases, but also requires the School to use salary savings.

Revised April 2011