

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (0513)

FISCAL YEAR 2016

As Enacted by Act 70 of 2015 and Act 274 of 2016 Fiscal Session

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

The school operates as a day school with residential facilities and provides educational services and opportunities for students Birth through the age of 21. Programming includes academic, vocational, social-emotional, transition, residential, extra-curricular, family training, audiological services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, psychological services, health services, and nutritional meals. The School also functions as a Resource Center on Deafness, coordinating programs that identify and provide services to students who are deaf and hard of hearing throughout the State through partnerships with agencies such as the Department of Career Education, Department of Education, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and the Little Rock Adult Education Center.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION

The total appropriation is \$12,449,298.

FUNDING SOURCES

The appropriations for the School for the Deaf are funded by general revenue, federal funds, cash funds, day care lease payments and fund balances.

II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS

STATE OPERATIONS (APPROPRIATION 056)

This appropriation provides for the operating costs of the school and includes all of the security, transportation and maintenance needs. This appropriation is primarily general revenue funded. The total appropriation is \$10,877,808 and includes the following changes:

**Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching** - Net **Decrease** of \$378,243 (Increase of \$3,420; **decrease** of \$381,663) due to transfer of appropriation from the Arkansas School for the Deaf to the Arkansas School for the Blind to cover costs associated with the transfer of 9 positions.

**Operating Expenses** - Increase of \$829 in appropriation only (\$260,000 increase in appropriation only) for increases in fuel prices, supplies and materials and (\$259,171 **decrease**) due to transfer of appropriation from the Arkansas School for the Deaf to the Arkansas School for the Blind for transportation, security, and maintenance costs.

**Capital Outlay** - Increase of \$75,000 in appropriation only for replacement of equipment that is beyond repair, obsolete, or too expensive to maintain.

**Special Maintenance** - Increase of \$85,000 in appropriation only (\$150,000 increase) to purchase new and replacement items for equipment that is beyond repair, obsolete, or too expensive to maintain, and (**decrease** of \$65,000) due to transfer from the Arkansas School for the Deaf to the Arkansas School for the Blind.

**SCPI/ASL** - Increase of \$15,000 in appropriation only due to more employees passing the proficiency test.

**Miscellaneous Activities** - Increase of \$15,000 in appropriation only due to an increase in the number and classification of staff necessary for the Summer

Enrichment Program.

**Per Act 274 of 2016 Fiscal Session:** A supplemental appropriation of \$400,000 is added including \$200,000 for Operating Expenses and \$200,000 in Special Maintenance. Increases will provide for the higher costs in the school's electric and gas bills as well as new textbooks for the implementation of the new Arkansas K-12 Science Standards. Special Maintenance appropriation is requested to repair various facilities and classrooms on the school campus.

**III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS (Total FY2015 Authorized Positions: 170)**

Total Authorized Positions FY 2016: 161

Total Base Level Positions FY2015: 170

Increase / (Decrease) over FY2015 Base Level: (9)

Extra Help Positions FY2016: 55 (Total FY2015 Authorized Extra Help: 55)

- a. Nine (9) positions were transferred from the School for the Deaf to the School for the Blind to provide maintenance, personnel, transportation and security services.
- b. Three (3) positions were given up as a result of the discontinuation of positions being transferred and budgeted in the Deaf School Budget pursuant to special language that allows the Blind school to transfer positions, appropriation and funding to a shared services paying account.
- c. Reclassification of 3 positions: ASD/ASB Business Manager (C126) to a Fiscal Support Manager (C123), Personnel Manager (C121) to an Assistant Personnel Manager (C118), and ASD/ASB Transportation Services Coordinator (C119) to a Transit Operations Supervisor (C115).

**IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE**

**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. Adds Audiologist (C119), Certified Master's Degree Librarian (C119) and Licensed Professional Counselor (C119) to the list.

**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.

**SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL:** Establishes the hours for shift work must begin not earlier than 2:00 p.m. and end no later than 8:00 a.m. the following day.

**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 Deaf, upon certification of the prior service by the Superintendent to the Office of Personnel Management.

**TRANSFER PROVISION:** Authorizes transfer of appropriation from the Miscellaneous Activities special line item to Personal Salaries and Matching and Maintenance & General Operating Expenses line items to compensate staff who work during the summer months, for other summer project expenses, to pay for interpreting services, and shift differential pay, upon Chief Fiscal Officer approval.

\*LANGUAGE TO BE DELETED\* **MAINTENANCE/TRANSPORTATION/SECURITY:** Requires the Arkansas School for the Deaf to be responsible for providing maintenance, transportation, and security for the Arkansas School for the Blind, and authorizes the School to spend general revenue for these services.

\*LANGUAGE TO BE DELETED\* **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.

**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 2015