

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
GENERAL OPERATIONS & PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND (AGENCY #500)  
FISCAL YEAR 2018  
AS ENACTED BY ACTS 834 AND 1044 OF 2017**

**I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES**

**MISSION**

The Department of Education administers the programs and financial assistance to the State's public elementary and secondary schools. The Arkansas Constitution requires the state to maintain a general, suitable and efficient system of free public schools and to adopt all suitable means to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education.

**TOTAL APPROPRIATION**

**Department:** The total appropriation is \$852,966,866 in FY2018.

**Public School Fund:** The total appropriation is \$3,006,562,684 for FY2018.

**FUNDING SOURCE**

**Department:** The appropriations for ADE are funded by federal revenue, general revenue/Educational Excellence Trust Fund/Educational Adequacy Fund, cash funds, trust funds and fund balances.

**Public School Fund:** The ADE - Public School Fund Account appropriations are funded by general revenue through the Revenue Stabilization Act allocations, the Educational Adequacy Fund, Educational Excellence Trust Fund, fund balances, "Off-the-Top" state funding for court ordered desegregation expenses, a Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program fund transfer from the Department of Workforce Services, and Transit Tax funding.

**II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS**

**DEPARTMENT :**

**MEDICAID ADMINISTRATION - CASH IN TREASURY (APPROPRIATION 4HF)**

This appropriation provides for the management of a statewide Medicaid administrative claiming program that allows school districts to receive reimbursements for providing therapies to students. The total appropriation is \$18,000,000 and includes an increase of \$3,000,000 in unfunded appropriation due to the increase in the number of Medicaid eligible students requiring additional appropriation to process reimbursements to school districts.

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD (APPROPRIATION 56P)**

This appropriation provides for the operation of the state professional licensure and standards board that develops minimum requirements and code of ethics for teachers and administrators. The total appropriation is \$1,307,415. This appropriation includes an increase of \$50,000 in capital outlay to restore some of the FY2017 appropriated amount.

**STATE OPERATIONS (APPROPRIATION 620)**

This appropriation provides state funded resources for the operation of the

Department of Education and assistance to public schools and is funded by general revenue, Educational Excellence Trust Fund, and the Educational Adequacy Fund. The total appropriation is \$23,997,211 in FY2018 which is an increase of \$3,516,785 and includes the following changes:

**Regular Salaries and Matching** - Decrease of (\$185,482) in appropriation for the reduction of four unfilled positions.

**Extra Help** - Increase of \$149,382 to restore appropriation to sufficiently meet funding needs for extra help positions.

**Operating Expenses** - Increase of \$1,823,786 to restore FY2017 appropriation.

**Conference and Travel Fees** - Increase of \$82,133 to restore FY2017 appropriation.

**Professional Fees** - Increase of \$96,966 in appropriation only for curriculum frameworks meetings, scholastic audit training and other projects for school district and charter schools.

**Grants and Aid** - Increase of \$450,000 in appropriation only for support of programs affiliated with the National Math and Science Initiative to support the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program.

**Capital Outlay** - Increase of \$100,000 to restore FY2017 appropriation.

**Reading Recovery** - Increase of \$100,000 to restore FY2017 appropriation.

**AR Leadership Academy** - Increase of \$900,000 to restore FY2017 appropriation.

**CHILD NUTRITION (APPROPRIATION 637)**

This appropriation provides administrative services and reimbursement to the local school districts that participate in school lunch, school breakfast or special milk programs. It also promotes nutrition education by conducting courses in methods and materials for teaching nutrition education. It is funded with federal funds. The total appropriation is \$258,405,024 in FY2018 and includes the following changes:

**Grants and Aid** - Increase of \$70,000,000 or increased program participation to allow schools that serve predominantly low-income children to offer free school meals to all students.

**Capital Outlay** - Increase of \$50,000 to restore FY2017 appropriation.

**FEDERAL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (APPROPRIATION 650)**

This appropriation contains the majority of the federally funded entitlement programs for elementary and secondary education, including Title 1 Compensatory Education, Title 2 Block Grant, Special Education, Early Childhood, AIDS Education, Drug Education, and Migrant Education. The total appropriation is \$523,496,348 in FY2018 and includes the following changes:

**Regular Salaries and Matching** - Increase of \$95,635 to transfer the ADE - Office of Education Renewal Zones Director positions from the Public School Fund to provide administrative and oversight duties for federal programs.

**Capital Outlay** - Increase of \$200,000 to restore FY2017 appropriation.

**MULTIPLE GRANT AWARD PROGRAM (APPROPRIATION 885)**

This appropriation is used to administer the 16-20 grants and awards from private foundations or individuals the Department receives each year. The total appropriation is \$2,726,375. Change level includes an increase of \$100,000 in Capital Outlay to restore FY2017 appropriation.

**MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT - CASH IN TREASURY (APPROPRIATION 893)**

This appropriation is for monies collected from school districts to provide school district match as Medicaid providers to be paid to the State Medicaid Office. Reimbursements are for targeted case management, psychological services and reimbursements for various therapies. The agency is requesting a total appropriation of \$7,010,500 and includes a \$2,000,000 appropriation increase each year in Refunds/Reimbursements due to increasing Medicaid matching funds from school districts for reimbursement for various therapies and case management.

**SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -CASH IN TREASURY (APPROPRIATION U58)**

This appropriation provides for the payment of scholarships for students with special needs to attend private schools. The agency is requesting a total appropriation of \$1,300,000 to restore appropriation to FY2017 level and to provide additional appropriation for the payment of scholarship to students in the Arkansas Foster Care System.

**Fish/Wildlife Conservation Appropriation-** This appropriation is discontinued for FY2018 at the Department's request. This appropriation is authorized instead for the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND (PSF) :** The PSF provides the primary state financial assistance to Arkansas' public elementary and secondary schools. It is funded primarily by general revenue, Educational Excellence Trust Fund, and the Educational Adequacy Fund. The total appropriation is \$3,006,562,684 in FY2018 and includes the following changes:

**ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (APPROPRIATION 311)**

This appropriation is used to fund the Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) Programs school districts are required to offer which are student intervention programs that seek to eliminate traditional barriers to learning for students. The appropriation is \$26,394,317 which is an increase of \$453,956 over base level which provides for an increase in FTEs, and to provide for a 1.75% increase in the per FTE student rate from \$4,560 to \$4,640 in FY2018.

**ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE (APPROPRIATION 652)**

This appropriation provides for the funding and administration of the states Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood Programs. The total appropriation is \$114,000,000 for FY2018 which includes a \$3 Million increase for additional support of the Pre-K programs.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE (APPROPRIATION V30)**

This new appropriation provides \$2,500,000 in FY2018 for professional development in computer science for teachers and administrators.

**CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE (APPROPRIATION 421)**

This appropriation provides incentive payments to each school district that is administratively consolidated or annexed by the State Board of Education pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-11-105, § 6-13-1401 and applicable rules of the State Board of Education. The total appropriation and increase over base level is \$5,981,400 which provides for two new consolidations to be paid in FY2018 as

well as two consolidations from the prior year (FY2017) which are still entitled to payments.

**COOP ED TECHNICAL CENTER OPERATIONS (APPROPRIATION 434)**

This appropriation provides for grants to each of the State's 15 Education Service Cooperatives for Technology Coordinators located in the Education Service Cooperatives and assist local school districts by providing technology training, advising school districts in software/hardware purchases and overseeing technology initiatives. This appropriation is a restoration of the FY2017 authorized appropriation of \$1.2 million.

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (APPROPRIATION 380)**

This appropriation is to provide the ADE portion of the cost of running the Department of Correction School. The total appropriation is \$6,543,752 and includes an increase of \$946,077 to restore most of the appropriation to FY2017 authorized amounts and provide for growth of the program over the biennium.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION (APPROPRIATION 697)**

This appropriation provides special education services through local education agencies for 11,500 3 to 5 year old preschool children with disabilities, funding to Cooperatives for behavioral intervention services to preschool programs, coordination of transition services between 0-2 year-old and 3-5 year-old services, and Medicaid matching funds for preschool physical, occupational, and speech therapy. The appropriation is \$16,897,920 for FY2018 which is an increase of \$1,274,841 to restore the FY2017 authorized appropriation.

**ECONOMIC EDUCATION (APPROPRIATION 1XE)**

This appropriation is used to provide training for teachers and administrators in economic principles to support the integration of economics into the K-12 curriculum. The appropriation is \$400,000 which is an increase of \$50,000 in appropriation only due to an increase in the number of teachers receiving training.

**EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES (APPROPRIATION 2HY)**

This appropriation provides for the operation of Education Renewal Zones throughout the state. The total appropriation is \$1,337,237 for FY2018 and includes a change level reduction of (\$95,635) to provide for the transfer of one position from this appropriation to a separate appropriation within the department.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELLs) (APPROPRIATION 082)**

This appropriation enables school districts to provide specially trained staff, instructional materials, and training for teachers for ELLs. The appropriation is \$115,715,105 which is an increase of \$1,144,675 to provide for growth in students and a 2.1% increase in the funding rate for ELLs from \$331 to \$338.

**ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION (APPROPRIATION N55)**

This appropriation provides for a supplemental transportation funding program for districts with high transportation costs. The appropriation is for \$3,000,000 for FY2018.

**GIFTED AND TALENTED (APPROPRIATION 457)**

This appropriation provides salary support for 15 Gifted and Talented supervisors in the Cooperatives, funding for the Governor's School, funding for

Outstanding Gifted Program Awards, and an annual contribution to the Arkansans for Gifted and Talented Education Conference. The appropriation is \$1,335,381 which is an increase of \$250,000 to restore appropriation to the FY2017 authorized level.

**INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANT (APPROPRIATION 565)**

This appropriation provides grants to encourage parental involvement through the following student competitions: Arkansas Governor's Quiz Bowl, State History Day Competition, Creativity in Arkansas, Arkansas Destination Imagination, and Arkansas Science Fair. The appropriation is \$302,000 which is an increase of \$75,000 to restore the FY2017 authorized appropriation level.

**MASTER PRINCIPAL BONUS (APPROPRIATION 2ZM)**

This appropriation pays a salary bonus of \$9,000 annually for principals receiving a master principal designation and \$25,000 annually for those serving in high-need schools for no more than five (5) years. The appropriation is \$208,000 which is an increase of \$118,000 to provide for program growth.

**NATIONAL BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS (APPROPRIATION 438)**

This appropriation provides bonuses to National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT), participation fees and substitute pay required for candidacy, and a support system for candidacy. The appropriation is \$15,322,100 which is an increase of \$4,883,768 in appropriation only to provide for increasing candidate support costs and increased participation.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH STUDENT FUNDING (APPROPRIATION 2HR)**

This appropriation provides additional funding to districts based on the number of students from low socio-economic backgrounds who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The appropriation is \$223,783,349, which is an increase of \$5,962,206 in appropriation due projected growth in the number of students as well as increased participation in community eligibility. Community Eligibility is a new program that provides district or school wide free lunches to all enrolled students of areas that have a poverty level of 85% or greater.

**NSL MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM (APPROPRIATION V33)**

This new appropriation provides for a new matching grant program that provides funding for school districts to provide tutoring services, pre-k programs, and before and after school programs on a one-for-one state/local match. The total appropriation is \$4,300,000 in FY2018.

**OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER FACILITIES AID (APPROPRIATION N68)**

This appropriation provides funding to open-enrollment public charter schools for lease, purchase, renovation, repair, construction, restoration, alteration, modification, and operation and maintenance for approved academic facilities. The appropriation and increase for FY2018 is for \$5,000,000 which restores appropriation to the FY2017 level.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING (APPROPRIATION 2HS)**

This appropriation currently provides funding per Average Daily Membership (ADM) to school districts for professional development activities. Special Language allows the Department to retain up to \$4 million for statewide PD support systems. The appropriation is \$20,617,836 which is an increase of \$4,324,717 to

provide for the recommended increase of ADM rates from \$32.40 (FY2017) to \$41 (FY2018) per ADM.

**RESIDENTIAL CENTERS/JUVENILE DETENTION (APPROPRIATION 394)**

This appropriation provides reimbursement to school districts for the educational costs associated with disabled and non-disabled students placed in approved residential psychiatric and drug and alcohol treatment facilities or juvenile detention centers. The appropriation is \$16,345,087 which is an increase of \$1,156,833 for restoration to the FY2017 authorized level.

**R. I. S. E ARKANSAS**

This new appropriation adds \$1,100,000 for the implementation of the Governor's Reading Initiative for Student Excellence implementation.

**SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES (APPROPRIATION 447)**

This appropriation, combined with the Surplus Commodities program, provides for the state match for the total school food program in local schools. The match is required to continue to receive federal funding for the Child Nutrition program. Grants are paid to school districts at a rate based on the number of lunches served. The appropriation is \$1,650,000 which restores the appropriation to the FY2017 authorized amount.

**SCHOOL FUNDING CONTINGENCY (APPROPRIATION 2ZH)**

This appropriation is an authorization of unfunded appropriation that is used to address unforeseen problems that arise during the course of a biennium. The Department of Education has special language allowing the transfer of this appropriation to address problem areas. This appropriation is \$25,000,000 which restores the FY2017 authorized appropriation level.

**SCHOOL WORKER DEFENSE (APPROPRIATION 458)**

This appropriation provides for claims and legal fees for liability suits against school personnel, and is \$390,000 which restores the appropriation to the FY2017 authorized level.

**SERIOUS OFFENDER PROGRAM (APPROPRIATION 566)**

This appropriation provides for educational costs of those students located in Serious Offender Units for juveniles, now referred to as Juvenile Treatment Centers (JTCs), located in Colt, Harrisburg, Lewisville, Mansfield, and Dermott. The total appropriation is \$1,716,859 which is an increase of \$665,913 and restores the FY2017 authorized appropriation level.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (APPROPRIATION 668)**

This program provides extended year summer programs for students with disabilities, provides special education services to foster children who are wards of the State placed in out-of-state residential facilities, and provides funds for the partial reimbursement of special education supervisors. This appropriation is \$2,802,527 which is an increase of \$1,657,242 to restore the FY2017 appropriation amount.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION CATASTROPHIC (APPROPRIATION 091)**

This appropriation provides state funding to school districts for local occurrences when costs of special education and related services required by an individual child are unduly expensive, extraordinary, or beyond the routine and normal costs associated with special education. The appropriation for FY2018 is

\$13,000,000 and includes a \$2,000,000 increase for the program per the Adequacy subcommittee recommendation.

**STATE FOUNDATION FUNDING (SFF) (APPROPRIATION 2HP)**

SFF is the amount of state financial aid provided to school districts on a per Average Daily Membership (ADM) basis. The amount of State (funded) Foundation Funding is computed as the difference between the Foundation Funding Amount (\$6,584 for FY2016) times the ADM of the previous school year, less the sum of 98% of the uniform rate of tax (25 mills) times the property assessment of the school district plus miscellaneous funds. The appropriation is \$2,085,908,817 which is an increase of \$36,663,979 in appropriation in FY2018 to provide for a projected student population growth in local public and charter schools, as well as increase in the state foundation rate from \$6,646 to \$6,712 per ADM as recommended by the Adequacy Subcommittee.

**STUDENT GROWTH FUNDING (APPROPRIATION 332)**

This appropriation provides supplemental funding to school districts that have a growth in students over the previous school year (based on four calculations), excluding any increase resulting solely from consolidation or annexation with another district. The appropriation is \$37,690,144 which includes an increase of \$9,190,144 to restore appropriation to the FY2017 level.

**SURPLUS COMMODITIES (APPROPRIATION 450)**

This appropriation provides funding to supplement transportation costs resulting from delivery of surplus commodities to school districts. The appropriation is \$1,125,065 which is an increase of \$345,065 to restore appropriation to the FY2017 level.

**TEACHER LICENSING/MENTORING (APPROPRIATION 699)**

This appropriation provides funds for mentoring, support, retention, and professional growth of new teachers and administrators. The total appropriation is \$6,065,758 each year, which includes an increase of \$1,057,000 each year in appropriation to restore appropriation to the FY2017 level and to provide for the implementation of proposed new federal regulations for evaluation of educator preparation programs.

**TEACHER RETIREMENT MATCHING (APPROPRIATION 437)**

This appropriation provides employer matching for employees of the Education Service Cooperatives, Vocational Centers, the Model Vocational-Technical Resource Center, Arkansas Easter Seals and the school operated by the Department of Correction. The appropriation is \$10,124,858 which is an increase of \$3,469,858 and will provide for the increase of participants in the program and increases in participant salaries.

**III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS**

**DEPARTMENT: (Total FY2017 Authorized Positions: 361)**

Total Positions FY2018: 357

Total Base Level Positions: 356

Increase / (Decrease) over Base Level: 1

Four unfilled positions are removed from the Operations appropriation and One

position is added to the Federal Secondary and Elementary Appropriation to provide for the Director of the Office of Education Renewal Zones, One Director of Computer Science Initiatives is added as well as One Grants Analyst to implement the Governor's new Computer Science Initiative. Also during the interim the Office of Personnel Management added an additional two positions to the FY2018 Appropriation that were previously obtained during the interim using the Personnel Growth Pool.

Extra Help Positions FY2018: 12 (Total FY2017 Authorized Extra Help: 12)

**PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND: (TOTAL FY2017 Authorized Positions: 56)**

Total Positions FY2018: 55

Total Base Level Positions: 56

Increase / (Decrease): (1)

The Office of Education Renewal Zones director is removed from the Public School Fund Appropriation and will be appropriated from a separate appropriation in the Department (Federal Secondary and Elementary Education)

Extra Help Positions FY2018: 0 (Total FY2017 Authorized Extra Help: 0 )

**IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE**

**DEPARTMENT :**

**CARRY FORWARD (YEAR-END FUND BALANCE):** Authorizes the Department of Education to carry forward its General Revenue Fund Balances in the Department of Education Fund Account at the end of a fiscal year. Requires prior statement of need, report to ALC or Joint Budget Committee (JBC) of all carried forward amounts, report of status of funds carried forward to ALC/JBC, and finally include all of the above information in the biennial budget manuals or a statement of non-compliance.

**SALARY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:** Provides that the Commissioner is not to receive outside salary or payments for personal services for any reason and requires the Commissioner to devote all of his/her working time to the performance of the duties of the Commissioner of ADE. This language does not prohibit the Commissioner from accepting or receiving expense reimbursements and employee benefits as provided in State Law.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A "POSITION POOL":** Establishes a pool of 5 Professional/Executive positions at a salary not to exceed the maximum for the grade N922 and a pool of 10 classified positions at up to a grade C130. Requires the Department to compare any proposed additions or adjustments to similar employees in school districts or other state education agencies. Authorizes the positions to be used upon determination of the Commissioner of ADE, and requires quarterly reports justifying and accounting for the use of the positions. Any pool positions the Department would like to continue in the next biennium must be requested as new positions in the biennial budget request. Classifies the legislative review language as non-severable and makes the entire section void



if the legislative review provision is found to be unconstitutional.

**ARKANSAS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY - REDUCTION OF FUNDS RESTRICTION:** Limits the funding reductions to the Arkansas Leadership Academy appropriation to the average percentage reduction in the other appropriations made to the Department of Education Fund Account.

**LEADERSHIP ACADEMY:** Requires the appropriation for the Leadership Academy will be used for the School Support Program which provides support to schools or school districts designated by the Department of Education as being in school improvement status and to provide for general operations of the Leadership Academy.

**STATE FUND RESTRICTIONS:** Reiterates that no state funds shall be used for abortion referral or services, and further states that the funds shall be expended in accordance with ACA §6-18-703 regarding school-based health clinics.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND:**

**\*LANGUAGE DELETED\* BROADBAND FACILITIES MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM - RESTRICTION AND MATCHING FUNDS:**

Language states funds appropriated for state match for the Broadband Facilities Matching Grant program shall not be used for the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (AREON) or Middle Mile Connectivity and those funds shall be paid on a one-to-one state/local matching basis.

**\*LANGUAGE REVISED\* R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS - CARRY FORWARD:** Language authorizes the Department to carry forward unexpended funding in the Department of Education Public School Fund Account to be designated and retained for the R.I.S.E. Arkansas Program at the end of each fiscal year. Requires prior statement of need, report to ALC or Joint Budget Committee (JBC) of all carried forward amounts, report of status of funds carried forward to ALC/JBC, and finally include all of the above information in the biennial budget manuals or a statement of non-compliance.

**FUND ALLOCATION:** Requires that any appropriation and funding not needed for the Isolated Funding appropriation be transferred to the Special Needs Isolated Funding appropriation and the funding is to be used to fund Arkansas Code 6-20-604 subsections (c) - (f) on a pro-rata basis until funds are exhausted or subsections are fully funded. Also provides that if any funding and appropriation remain after funding ACA §6-20-604 (c)-(f) the remaining balance shall be used to fund the provisions of ACA §6-20-604 (h) on an equal basis until all funds are exhausted.

**GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS:** Defines school districts eligible to receive these grants as districts that contract with a district in an adjoining state for the education of pupils within Arkansas due to separation of where the students live and where the remainder of the district is located. The grants are to reimburse these districts for the expense of educating students in the separated portion of the district, and payments are limited to the available appropriation.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES:** Requires Special Education Services funds to be used

for extended year summer programs for handicapped students, special education services for foster children, and payment of salaries of special education supervisors.

**DESEGREGATION EXPENSES:** Requires the Department to certify the amounts needed for desegregation expenses under any "Desegregation Settlement Agreement" to the Treasurer of State and the Chief Fiscal Officer, and requires the State Treasurer to deduct these certified amounts from net general revenue and make them available to the Department for the purpose of paying for desegregation expenses.

**CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE:** Requires appropriation allocations for Consolidation Incentive to adhere to rules and regulations established by the Board of Education.

**RESIDENTIAL CENTERS/JUVENILE DETENTION:** Requires appropriation allocations for Residential Centers/Juvenile Detention to adhere to rules and regulations established by the Board of Education.

**TRANSFER AUTHORITY:** Authorizes a maximum of two appropriation transfers and other related budget adjustments per fiscal year, within the Department of Education, as necessary with Chief Fiscal Officer approval and prior Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee approval. Classifies the legislative approval language as non-severable and makes the entire section void if the legislative approval provision is found to be unconstitutional.

**AETN DOCUMENTED QUIZ BOWL COSTS:** Allows AETN to receive up to \$40,000 of the total appropriation and funds for Quiz Bowl to recover AETN costs.

**DISTRESSED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT:** The Department may expend some of the funds appropriated for Distressed School District Support for technical assistance or programs to districts in academic distress, and provides that the money may be used for teacher specialists, principal specialists, other personnel assigned by the Department, and research-based technical assistance programs. Alternate staffing and compensation programs must be approved by at least a majority of the teachers in the school, schools, or district participating.

**RETIREMENT MATCHING:** Requires districts to pay teacher retirement employer contribution rates for eligible employees in accordance with rules of the Teacher Retirement Board and requires the Department to provide the employer matching for employees of the Education Cooperatives, Vocational Centers, Arkansas Easter Seals and the Department of Correction School.

**BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE FEES:** Authorizes the Department of Education to expend a maximum of 2% of the Better Chance Funding to administer the program and monitor grantees, and to contract with DHHS-Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education to administer the program. With the further requirement that DHHS - Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education must receive prior review and approval by ALC/JBC before spending the final .2% of the maximum 2% of the Arkansas Better Chance Program funds that are allowed

to be spent on administration of the program.

**AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY:** Requests the Department to calculate an average teacher salary without extra duty funds and in accordance with the National Education Association (NEA) definitions, and requires the Department to submit this teacher salary data annually to the NEA for the NEA "Rankings and Estimates" Report.

**CARRY FORWARD - ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE:** Language authorizes the Department to carry forward unexpended funding allocated for the Better Chance Program at the end of each fiscal year. Requires prior statement of need, report to ALC or Joint Budget Committee (JBC) of all carried forward amounts, report of status of funds carried forward to ALC/JBC, and finally include all of the above information in the biennial budget manuals or a statement of non-compliance.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE:** Allows the Employee Benefits Division of the Dept of Finance and Administration to use \$11.20 from each contribution of \$131 made under Arkansas Code §6-17-1117 (a) to offset the cost of health insurance premiums for members of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System electing to participate in the public school employees' health insurance program as retirees.

**ARKANSAS/STRIVE PROGRAM TRANSFER LANGUAGE:** Requires a \$200,000 transfer each year from the Department's Public School Fund Account to UALR for the Arkansas/STRIVE Program, and further requires that these funds shall not be subject to any indirect cost charges by UALR.

**HEALTH INSURANCE:** Requires the Department to use the Public School Employee Insurance appropriation to provide the state contribution for insurance premiums for employees of Cooperatives, Vocational Centers, and the Department of Correction school who participate in the Arkansas Public School Life and Health Insurance Program.

**ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** Provides that the Department may provide funding for Alternative Learning Environment Programs in excess of the 6 hour regulatory limitation if a program operates more than 12 hours per day, in a proportionate manner and upon special request.

**STATE FUND RESTRICTIONS:** reiterates that no state funds shall be used for abortion referral or services, and further states that the funds shall be expended in accordance with ACA §6-18-703 regarding school-based health clinics.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDING PROVISION:** Requires the Department to pay up to \$15 million in quarterly installments to the DFA Employee Benefits Division (EBD) for PSE health insurance contributions. The actual amount to be paid shall be the amount the Uniform Rate of Tax (URT) funding used in the State Foundation Funding Formula, exceeds \$920,731,819, up to \$15 million, and adds that the funds provided to EBD shall be administered by the State And Public School Life And Health Insurance Board.

**ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FUNDING:** Requires the Department to allocate, budget

and commit for expenditure \$250,000 in additional funding for the Arkansas Governor's School to fund the extension of the program from four (4) to six (6) weeks.

**EAST FUNDING PROVISION:** Requires 18% or \$3,500,000, whichever is greater, of the Technology Grants appropriation to be awarded through a grant or a professional services contract for Environmental and Spatial Technologies (EAST) infrastructure, personnel, and operating expenses. The first \$1,000,000 of funding shall be used for EAST infrastructure and personnel growth for the establishment of new EAST programs. The remainder of funding shall be used for existing EAST infrastructure, personnel, and operating expenses of the EAST Initiative. The East Infrastructure grant contract shall be awarded to an entity with personnel or experience or both in implementing the EAST Initiative.

**INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS RESTRICTION:** States the Department shall allocate and expend \$302,000 funded by general revenue from the Public School Fund Account for the Intervention Block Grants appropriation to be distributed to the Quiz Bowl (\$100,000), Creativity in Arkansas, Inc., also known as Odyssey of the Mind (\$13,500), Destination Imagination (\$13,500), History Day (\$100,000) and Arkansas Science Fair Association (\$75,000).

**LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ISOLATED - BASE FUNDING UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES:**

Provides that an isolated school district will lose no more than 10% of their base funding amount in each school year in the event the current funding formula for isolated school districts (as of the 2015-2016 school year) in Arkansas Code 6-20-604 is changed.

**\*NEW LANGUAGE\* PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Language requires that of the total amount appropriated for Professional Development Funding, \$3,500,000 may be authorized by the Commissioner of ADE to develop and implement statewide professional development support systems for teachers that will benefit student achievement. The Department is also required to report to the Department of Finance and Administration and Arkansas Legislative Council and Joint Budget Committee the annual activities and expenditures of the online professional development program.

**\*NEW LANGUAGE\* NSL MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM:** This language requires \$4,300,000 of the Public School Fund to be used to fund a matching grant program to subsidize school districts for certain evidence-based programs including; tutoring, before and after school programs, and pre-kindergarten programs on a pro-rata basis.

**\*NEW LANGUAGE\* R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS:** This language requires the R.I.S.E. Arkansas appropriation line item to be used for the coordination of a statewide reading campaign with community partners, parents and teachers to establish the importance of reading in homes, schools, and communities.