



GL #18 HB1041

STATE OF ARKANSAS
SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS
GOVERNOR

April 3, 2024

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
Representative Lane Jean, Co-Chair
Joint Budget Committee
Arkansas General Assembly
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request the following amendments to the 2024-2025 Appropriation bill for the Department of Education – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education – Public School Fund.

Please amend SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION – GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS as follows and renumber accordingly:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR
		2024-2025
(25)	ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING	7,200,000
(46)	SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES	1,650,000
(54)	SPECIAL EDUCATION - CATASTROPHIC	
	<u>HIGH-COST OCCURRENCES</u>	13,998,150
(XX)	<u>TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION</u>	
	<u>GRANTS</u>	5,000,000
	TOTAL AMOUNT APROPRIATED	<u>\$3,434,241,080</u>
		<u>\$3,449,541,080</u>

This request will increase the Enhanced Transportation Funding appropriation by \$800,000 and the Special Education – Catastrophic appropriation by \$3,500,000 to align with the 2022 Educational Adequacy Recommendations. It will also update the Special Education – Catastrophic program name to align

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
Representative Lane Jean, Co-Chair
Page 2

with Ark. Code Ann. Title 6.

This request will also provide an additional \$6,000,000 in School Food Services appropriation to reimburse school districts the difference between the cost of meals and the federal reimbursement of free and reduced-price meals. Act 656 of 2023 eliminated the ability of public schools to charge a copayment to students who qualify for reduced-price meals.

The final request adds a new \$5,000,000 appropriation for the Transportation Modernization Grants program, as established by Act 237 of 2023, the LEARNS Act. These grants are intended to improve access to transportation for students attending a public school district, an open-enrollment charter school, or a licensed childcare center serving publicly funded students by supporting the development of transportation innovations and efficiency solutions.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Hall of the House of Representatives

94th General Assembly - Fiscal Session, 2024

Amendment Form

DRAFT

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1041

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR.

Amendment No. ___ to House Bill No. 1041

Amend House Bill No. 1041 as originally introduced:

Page 2, line 24, delete "7,200,000" and substitute "8,000,000"

AND

Page 3, line 10, delete "1,650,000" and substitute "7,650,000"

AND

Page 3, line 18, delete "CATASTROPHIC" and substitute "HIGH COST OCCURRENCES"

AND

Page 3, line 18, delete "13,998,150" and substitute "17,498,150"

AND

Page 3, immediately following line 28, insert a new line to read as follows:

" (64.1) TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION GRANTS 5,000,000"

AND

Page 3, line 31, delete "\$3,434,241,080" and substitute "\$3,449,541,080".

DRAFT

The Amendment was read _____
By: Joint Budget Committee
KMW/WKM - 04-05-2024 14:36:20
KMW076

Chief Clerk