



STATE OF ARKANSAS
ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

March 1, 2017

Senator Larry Teague, 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 amendment to SB156, the operating appropriation for the Department of Education for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018.

Please amend SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES – as follows:

| Item No. | Class Code | Title | Maximum No. of Employees | Maximum Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2017-2018 |
|----------|----------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| (7) | N010N | ASST COMMR HUMAN RESOURCES ASST COMMR EDUC EFFECTIVENESS | 1 | GRADE N912 |
| (52) | G180C E007N | GRANTS ANALYST DIRECTOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE | ± 2 1 | GRADE C117 GRADE N905 |

The title change for the Assistant Commissioner Human Resources is needed because of a reorganization of duties within the Arkansas Department of Education.

The creation of the Director of Computer Science position and the Grants Analyst position is necessary due to these positions being established after the agency budget request was submitted. The positions are needed as the Governor's Computer Science Initiative continues to expand and the Department assists more school districts in growing their computer science classes and curriculum. No additional appropriation or funding will be required.

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Please amend SECTION 3 – STATE OPERATIONS as follows:

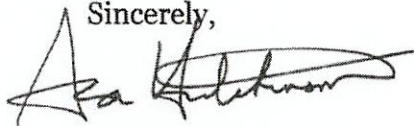
| ITEM NO. | | FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| (04) | MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| | (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 3,479,443 |
| | TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u>\$23,997,211</u> |

This change is needed to restore the Department of Education's operating expense appropriation to the FY17 level, which will meet the Department's operating needs in FY18. No additional funding will be required with this request.

I respectfully request these changes in Section 1 and Section 3 be considered for fiscal year 2019 as well.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Asa Hutchinson

AH:db:jh