



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OK
- BRS

Tony Wood
Commissioner

July 10, 2014

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Mr. Brandon Sharp
Department of Finance and Administration
Office of Budget
1509 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Sharp:

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) needs to request a cash fund appropriation for the Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) for the 2015 fiscal year.

Capital Outlay (56P- 11 – NED0013)	\$100,000
Operating (56P – 02- NED0013)	\$55,000
Grants & Aid (56P – 04 – NED0013)	\$100,000

Capital Outlay

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is requesting Capital Outlay appropriation for SFY15 to fund the purchase of additional fingerprinting machines and additional video equipment for the conference room.

The fingerprinting machines (LiveScan stations) will be used at teacher job fairs to expedite the process of background checks on prospective teachers. The additional video conferencing equipment is needed to assist PLSB in complying with ACA 6-17-425 (a)(3)(C)(ii), which requires that witnesses subpoenaed for PLSB hearings be allowed to appear by video rather than in person should they so elect.

Operating

The increase in operating appropriation is needed due to annual maintenance of the MorphoTrak LiveScan stations (fingerprinting machines). The estimated cost for annual maintenance is \$45,000. Costs for supplies and travel for PLSB are also expected to increase by approximately \$5,000. Sales tax on two vehicles that will be purchased in SFY15 will be approximately \$5,000.

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Grants & Aid

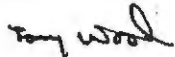
The Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) approved the edTPA (Education Teacher Performance Assessment) pilot program in March 2014.

edTPA is a multiple-measure assessment system aligned to state and national standards – including Common Core State Standards and the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC). ADE will pilot this assessment at Henderson State University and Williams Baptist College over the next two years.

A grant will be issued to the institutions of higher education (IHE) participating in the pilot during SFY15 and SFY16. The grant will cover costs associated with the pilot to include training of personnel, scoring of the assessment, student fee at \$300 per student, and funding for a select number of personnel to attend the fall 2014 implementation conference.

If you need any additional information or have any questions please contact Greg Rogers at 682-4476.

Sincerely,



Tony Wood
Commissioner of Education

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