

Proposed Recommendations for Adequacy, 2025-2027

The proposed recommendations for funding public school years for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years are noted below. If approved, they will be included as Chapter 16 in the 2024 Adequacy Study and will become the basis for draft legislation concerning education fund to be passed during the 2025 General Assembly.

	Topic	FY26	FY27
1.	Definition of Adequacy	<p>No change to current definition.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The standards included in the state's curriculum and career and technical frameworks, which define what Arkansas students are to be taught, including specific grade level curriculum, and a mandatory thirty-eight (38) Carnegie units defined by the Arkansas Standards of Accreditation to be taught at the high school level; The standards included in the state's testing system. The goal is to have all, or all but the most severely disabled, students perform at or above proficiency on these tests; and Sufficient funding to provide adequate resources as identified by the General Assembly. 	
2.	Adequacy Study	No change.	No change.
3.	MATRIX		
	Matrix Calculations	School Size: 500 students No change.	School Size: 500 students No change.
		Kindergarten: No change.	Kindergarten: No change.
		Grades 1-3: No change.	Grades 1-3: No change.
		Grades 1-4: No change.	Grades 4-12: No change.
4.	Staffing Ratios	Kindergarten: 20:1; 2 FTE No change.	Kindergarten: 20:1; 2 FTE No change.
		Grades 1-3: 23:1; 5 FTE No change.	Grades 1-3: 23:1; 5 FTE No change.
		Grades 4-12: 25:1; 13.8 FTE No change.	Grades 4-12: 25:1; 13.8 FTE No change.
		PAM: 4.14 FTE No change.	PAM: 4.14 FTE No change.
		Special Ed Teachers: 3.2 FTE to reflect need for more special education instruction funding	Special Ed Teachers: 3.2 FTE
		Instructional Facilitators: 2.5 FTE No change.	Instructional Facilitators: 2.5 FTE No change.
		Librarian/Media Spec.: 0.85 FTE No change.	Librarian/Media Spec.: 0.85 FTE No change.
		Guidance Counselor: 1.61 FTE to reflect need for more mental health services	Guidance Counselor: 1.61 FTE
		Nurse: 0.67 FTE No change.	Nurse: 0.67 FTE No change.
		Other Support Staff: 0.72 FTE No change.	Other Support Staff: 0.72 FTE No change.
		Principal: 1 FTE No change.	Principal: 1 FTE No change.
		Secretary: 1 FTE No change.	Secretary: 1 FTE No change.
5.	Public School Employee Insurance Line Item	\$150.6 million to reflect medical cost of living increases as recommended by consultants.	\$156.7 million to reflect medical cost of living increases as recommended by consultants.

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6.	Health Insurance All Employees	<i>This is the amount districts pay to EBD on behalf of each participating employee; however, actual funding is calculated using personnel identified in the school staffing section of the matrix (36.51 FTEs in 2026). The first six months of the school year (July-Dec) are to be funded at \$312 per participating employee and the last six months (Jan-June) are to be funded at \$324.48 per participating employee for a total of \$3,818.88 for the school year.</i>	<i>This is the amount districts pay to EBD on behalf of each participating employee; however, actual funding is calculated using personnel identified in the school staffing section of the matrix (36.51 FTEs in 2027). The first six months of the school year (July-Dec) are to be funded at \$324.48 per participating employee and the last six months (Jan-June) are to be funded at \$337.46 per participating employee for a total of \$3,971.64 for the school year.</i>
7.	Teacher School Level Salaries:	Base Salary: \$60,995 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year	Base Salary: \$62,508 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year
		Health Insurance: \$3,819 reflects increases explained above	Health Insurance: \$3,972 reflects increases explained above
		Other Benefits (23% of base salary): \$14,029	Other Benefits (23% of base salary): \$14,377
		Salary + All Benefits: \$78,843	Salary + All Benefits: \$80,856
		Per Student Matrix Amount: \$5,442	Per Student Matrix Amount: \$5,581
8.	Principal School Level Salaries:	Base Salary: \$85,650 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year	Base Salary: \$87,774 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year
		Health Insurance: \$3,819 reflects increases explained above	Health Insurance: \$3,972 reflects increases explained above
		Other Benefits (23% of base salary): \$19,699	Other Benefits (23% of base salary): \$20,188
		Salary + All Benefits: \$109,168	Salary + All Benefits: \$111,933
		Per Student Matrix Amount: \$218	Per Student Matrix Amount: \$224
9.	Secretary School Level Salaries:	Base Salary: \$36,151 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year	Base Salary: \$37,047 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year
		Health Insurance: \$3,819 reflects increases explained above	Health Insurance: \$3,972 reflects increases explained above
		Other Benefits (23% of base salary): \$8,315	Other Benefits (23% of base salary): \$8,521
		Salary + All Benefits: \$48,284	Salary + All Benefits: \$49,540
		Per Student Matrix Amount: \$97	Per Student Matrix Amount: \$99
10.	Technology	\$235 to reflect lower technology costs	\$235 to reflect lower technology costs
11.	Salary Enhancement Other Employees	\$50 to better meet needs of classified staff	\$52 to better meet needs of classified staff
12.	Other Personnel Health Insurance	\$41 to reflect changes in health insurance costs	\$43 to reflect changes in health insurance costs

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13.	Instructional Materials	<i>\$210 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>	<i>\$216 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>
14.	Extra Duty Funds	<i>\$74 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>	<i>\$76 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>
15.	Supervisory Aides	<i>\$59 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>	<i>\$61 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>
16.	Substitutes	<i>\$85 to reflect increased need for substitutes</i>	<i>\$90 to reflect increased need for substitutes</i>
17.	Operations and Maintenance	<i>\$809 to reflect 3% increase in operational expenses</i>	<i>\$833 to reflect 3% increase in operational expenses</i>
18.	Central Office	<i>\$495 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>	<i>\$507 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>
19.	Transportation	<i>\$345 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>	<i>\$354 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>
20.	Additional Matrix item(s)	<i>No new matrix items other than FTEs noted above.</i>	<i>No new matrix items.</i>
21.	Total Foundation Funding Rate	<i>\$8,162</i>	<i>\$8,371</i>
22.	Categorical Funding		
23.	Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) Funding	<i>\$5,212 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>	<i>\$5,341 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>
24.	English Learner (EL) Funding	<i>\$375 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>	<i>\$384 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>
	Enhanced Student Achievement (ESA) Funding	<i>\$551 per ESA student, <70% ESA concentration; \$1,103 per ESA student, 70%-90% ESA concentration; \$1,653 per ESA student, >90% ESA concentration; includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>	<i>\$565 per ESA student, <70% ESA concentration; \$1,130 per ESA student, 70%-90% ESA concentration; \$1,694 per ESA student, >90% ESA concentration; includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>
25.	Professional Development (PD) Funding	<i>\$41 No change.</i>	<i>\$41 No change.</i>
26.	Supplemental Funding		
27.	Additional Categorical Funds	<i>No new categorical funds.</i>	<i>No new categorical funds.</i>
28.	ESA Grants	<i>\$5,636,400 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>	<i>\$5,776,183 includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>

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29.	Additional PD (PLCs)	\$16,500,000 <i>No change.</i>	\$16,500,000 <i>No change.</i>
30.	Enhanced Transportation	\$8 million <i>No change.</i>	\$8 million <i>No change.</i>
31.	Special Education High-Cost Occurrences	\$17,934,000 <i>includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>	\$18,378,763 <i>includes COLA increase of 2.48% from previous year</i>
32.	Teacher Salary Equalization	\$60 million <i>No change.</i>	\$60 million <i>No change.</i>
33.	Student Growth Funding	<i>No change.</i> Formula based on per-student foundation funding amount.	<i>No change.</i> Formula based on per-student foundation funding amount.
34.	Declining Enrollment Funding	<i>No change.</i> Formula based on per-student foundation funding amount.	<i>No change.</i> Formula based on per-student foundation funding amount.
35.	Isolated Funding	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
36.	Additional Supplemental Funding Stream(s)	<i>No new supplemental funds streams.</i>	<i>No new supplemental funds streams.</i>