



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES

According to Arkansas statute, “the purpose of professional development (PD) is to improve teaching and learning in order to facilitate individual, school-wide, and system-wide improvements designed to ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency on state academic standards” (§6-17-704(b)).

### PD Requirements

Districts and open-enrollment public charters must include at least six PD days in educator contracts (§ 6-17-2402). Among those days, educators are required to complete two hours of the following on a rotating basis over four years: child maltreatment, parental involvement, teen suicide awareness and prevention, and Arkansas history (for those teaching Arkansas history).

Additionally, educators are required to receive professional awareness on dyslexia. Districts are required to make available thirty minutes of PD on human trafficking as well as provide PD in specific scientific instruction. Athletic coaches shall complete training pertaining to health emergencies, environmental issues affecting student safety, communicable diseases, and cardiac arrest every three years. Licensed public-school personnel must also receive PD in bullying prevention and recognition of the relationship between bullying and risk of suicide.

PD can be earned in the following ways: approved conferences, workshops, institutes, individual learning, mentoring, peer-coaching,

study groups, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification, distance learning, micro-credentialing approved by the department, internships, and college or university course work (§ 6-17-704(d)). Up to 12 hours of PD credit may also be earned by licensed personnel for time required at the beginning of the school year for planning and preparing a curriculum and other instructional materials (§ 6-17-705(a)).

### PD Funding

The state provides PD funding to districts and charters, the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN), and Solution Tree. Districts, charters, and AETN receive funding based on a per-student amount based on the average daily membership (ADM) calculated from the previous year. **In 2018-19, this rate was \$32.40, which has been the same since 2014-15.** Any PD funds remaining after being distributed to districts, charters, and AETN is then available for Solution Tree.

AETN receives PD funding to administer Arkansas IDEAS, a statewide online PD program for Arkansas educators. It was created in 2005 to pool statewide resources and create one online system that individual school districts and educational service cooperatives could use for PD at no charge. Special language currently authorizes AETN to receive only up \$3.5 million.

Solution Tree administers the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Pilot Program, which began in 2017-18. Solution Tree is a private organization that provides PD resources, training, and support to K-12 educators. As of 2018-19, 34 schools and districts were participating in the pilot program. Selected schools and districts participate in the program for three years.

The following table shows how PD funding was distributed in 2018-19.

Funding Type	2018-19	Funding Method
Total Appropriation	\$25.1 M	-
Districts and Charters	\$13.1 M	Per-Student
AETN (Arkansas IDEAs)	\$2.8 M	Per-Student
Solution Tree (PLC Pilot Program)	\$8.5 M	Flat Amount
Estimated Remaining PD Funds	\$731k	-

### PD Expenditures

PD funding is one of four restricted state categorical funds. PD funding, like other state categorical funds, is considered restricted. This means districts can only use the money on the programs for which it is intended.

School Year	Total PD Funding by Statute	Transfers from Other Categorical Funds to PD
2016-17	\$12.32 M	\$5.61M
2017-18	\$12.38 M	\$5.10 M
2018-19	\$13.08 M	\$4.69 M

**In 2018-19, districts and charters received a total of \$13.1 million in PD funding and spent \$16.9 million.** Districts and charters can also transfer money between categorical funds. **In 2018-19, districts and charters transferred \$4.7 million from other categorical funds into PD funds and \$772,216 out of PD funds into other categorical funds.**

School Year	Total PD Expenditure	Transfers from PD to Other Categorical Funds
2016-17	\$17.12M	\$772,216
2017-18	\$17.29 M	\$827,673
2018-19	\$16.93 M	\$783,219

**The most common PD expenditure in 2018-19 was purchased services** which were made up in large part by the costs of consultants, speakers, and course registration fees.