

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1206

5 By: Joint Budget Committee
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
10 FUND GRANTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
11 DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION -
12 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE
13 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15
16 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
17 DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
18 EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND
19 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL
20 YEAR.
21
22
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25

26 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
27 SPECIAL PROGRAMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of
28 Education, to be payable from the Division of Elementary and Secondary
29 Education Public School Fund Account, for grants and aid to local school
30 districts and special programs of the Department of Education - Division of
31 Elementary and Secondary Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026,
32 the following:
33

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2025-2026
(01) 98% URT ACTUAL COLLECTION ADJUSTMENT	\$34,500,000



1	(02)	ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE	1,275,000
2	(03)	ALTERNATIVE LEARNING	35,783,095
3	(04)	ARKANSAS EASTER SEALS	193,113
4	(05)	ASSESSMENT/END OF LEVEL TESTING	20,309,189
5	(06)	AT RISK	1,688,530
6	(07)	BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM	114,000,000
7	(08)	BONDED DEBT ASSISTANCE	28,455,384
8	(09)	COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE	3,500,000
9	(10)	CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE	5,981,400
10	(11)	CONTENT STANDARDS	161,000
11	(12)	CONTENTS STANDARDS CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS	50,000
12	(13)	COOP EDUCATION TECH CENTERS	1,200,000
13	(14)	COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH	2,000,000
14	(15)	DECLINING ENROLLMENT	13,963,389
15	(16)	DEPT OF CORRECTION	8,702,425
16	(17)	DISTANCE LEARNING	4,760,000
17	(18)	DISTANCE LEARNING OPERATIONS	7,575,000
18	(19)	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION	22,897,920
19	(20)	ECONOMIC EDUCATION	400,000
20	(21)	EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVES	6,129,270
21	(22)	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	19,075,847
22	(23)	ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING	246,723,439
23	(24)	ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING	8,000,000
24	(25)	ESA MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM	5,300,000
25	(26)	GIFTED & TALENTED	1,560,381
26	(27)	GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS	67,856
27	(28)	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER EDUCATION AID	526,150
28	(29)	INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS	302,000
29	(30)	ISOLATED FUNDING	7,896,000
30	(31)	LEADERSHIP ACADEMY-MASTER PRINCIPAL	1,400,000
31	(32)	MASTER PRINCIPAL BONUS	175,000
32	(33)	MATERNITY LEAVE	3,000,000
33	(34)	MERIT TEACHER INCENTIVE	10,000,000
34	(35)	MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY AND RAISES	190,000,000
35	(36)	NATIONAL BOARD OF PROF TEACHING STANDARDS	18,738,000
36	(37)	NON-TRADITIONAL LICENSURE	50,000

1	(38)	OE CHARTER FAC FUNDING AID PROGRAM	9,075,000
2	(39)	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING	37,175,911
3	(40)	PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	142,000,000
4	(41)	R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS	10,470,000
5	(42)	RESIDENTIAL CENTERS/JUVENILE DETENTION	16,345,087
6	(43)	SCHOOL FACILITY JOINT USE SUPPORT	500,000
7	(44)	SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES	7,650,000
8	(45)	SCHOOL FOOD-LEGISLATIVE AUDIT	75,000
9	(46)	SCHOOL FUNDING CONTINGENCY	25,000,000
10	(47)	SCHOOL RECOGNITION	7,000,000
11	(48)	SCHOOL WORKER DEFENSE	390,000
12	(49)	SERIOUS OFFENDER	1,716,859
13	(50)	SMART START/SMART STEP	10,666,303
14	(51)	SPECIAL EDUCATION - HIGH COST OCCURRENCES	17,498,150
15	(52)	SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	2,802,527
16	(53)	SPECIAL NEEDS ISOLATED FUNDING	3,000,000
17	(54)	STATE FOUNDATION FUNDING	2,206,861,456
18	(55)	STUDENT GROWTH	37,690,144
19	(56)	SURPLUS COMMODITIES	1,125,065
20	(57)	TEACHER LICENSING/MENTORING	6,065,758
21	(58)	TEACHER OF THE YEAR	100,000
22	(59)	TEACHER RETIREMENT MATCHING	14,776,754
23	(60)	TEACHER SALARY EQUALIZATION	60,000,000
24	(61)	TECHNOLOGY GRANTS	3,602,678
25	(62)	TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS	500,000
26	(63)	TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION GRANTS	5,000,000
27	(64)	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	450,000
28	(65)	YOUTH SHELTERS	<u>165,000</u>
29		TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$3,454,041,080</u>

30

31 SECTION 2. REGULAR SALARIES - ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK.

32 There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of
 33 Elementary and Secondary Education - Arkansas Public School Computer Network
 34 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular
 35 employees.

36

Item	Class	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	D105C ADE STATE NETWORK ENGINEER	1	GRADE IT09
(2)	D022N IT SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	1	GRADE IT09
(3)	D104C ADE STATE SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE IT08
(4)	D007C INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER	1	GRADE IT08
(5)	D042C DATA WAREHOUSE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT06
(6)	D037C ADE APSCN APPLICATIONS MANAGER	3	GRADE IT05
(7)	D063C COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT05
(8)	D055C ADE APSCN FIELD ANALYST	25	GRADE IT04
(9)	D079C COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE IT02
(10)	N047N ADE APSCN DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS15
(11)	G012C ADE ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR	3	GRADE GS12
(12)	G050C ADE APSCN DIVISION MANAGER	3	GRADE GS10
(13)	C020C STUDENT APPLICATIONS SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS06
(14)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS04
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	45	

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK.
 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Arkansas Public School Computer Network for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$2,629,680
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	945,587
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	25,245,839
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	7,250
(C) PROF. FEES	0

1	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	200,000
2	(E) DATA PROC.	0
3	(04) DATA ACCESS IMPLEMENTATION	<u>300,000</u>
4	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$29,328,356</u></u>

5
 6 SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There
 7 is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of
 8 Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Education Renewal Zones for
 9 the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

10				Maximum Annual
11				Salary Rate
12				Fiscal Year
13	Item Class	Maximum	No. of	2025-2026
14	<u>No. Code Title</u>	<u>Employees</u>		
15	(1) E020C ADE OERZ TECHNICAL ASSIST SPECIALIST	3		GRADE GS08
16	(2) C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	<u>1</u>		GRADE GS04
17	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	4		

18
 19 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There is
 20 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the
 21 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account,
 22 for personal services, operating expenses, and grants by the Department of
 23 Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of
 24 Education Renewal Zones for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the
 25 following:

26			FISCAL YEAR
27	ITEM		2025-2026
28	<u>NO.</u>		
29	(01) REGULAR SALARIES		\$145,568
30	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING		58,129
31	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION		
32	(A) OPER. EXPENSE		25,000
33	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL		3,000
34	(C) PROF. FEES		0
35	(D) CAP. OUTLAY		0
36	(E) DATA PROC.		0

1	(04) EDUCATIONAL RENEWAL ZONE GRANTS	<u>1,101,150</u>
2	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,332,847</u></u>

3

4 SECTION 6. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
 5 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

6 FUND ALLOCATION. The appropriation for the Isolated Funding line item in the
 7 Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this
 8 Act may be fully funded. Any funding and appropriation for Isolated Funding
 9 that is not utilized shall be transferred to the appropriation for Special
 10 Needs Isolated Funding in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and
 11 Special Programs section of this Act and shall be used there for fully
 12 funding each subsection (c) through (f) of Arkansas Code § 6-20-604 on a pro
 13 rata basis until the available funds are exhausted. Pro rata basis is defined
 14 as providing each district qualifying for additional funding under
 15 subsections (c) through (f) a proportionate share based on how each
 16 district's additional funding amount bears to the total additional funding
 17 amounts for all qualifying districts. If any funding and appropriation
 18 remains after funding each subsection (c) through (f) of Arkansas Code § 6-
 19 20-604 the remaining balance shall be used to fund the provisions of Arkansas
 20 Code § 6-20-604 (h) on an equal basis until the available funds are
 21 exhausted.

22 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2024
 23 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

24

25 SECTION 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
 26 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

27 GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS. For the purposes of distributing the Grants To
 28 School Districts appropriation in the Grants and Aid to Local School
 29 Districts and Special Programs section of this Act, "school district" means a
 30 school district which contracts with a school district in an adjoining state
 31 for the education of some of the pupils within the Arkansas school district
 32 because the portion of the school district wherein such pupils live is
 33 completely separated from the remainder of the school district by a reservoir
 34 covering at least 12,000 acres at normal water level, and where to attend
 35 school in their own district, the pupils of said portion would be required to
 36 travel or to be transported a distance (measured by the nearest highway or

1 road route) of more than 35 miles round trip and pass through another school
2 district or districts. The Department of Education shall distribute the
3 monies appropriated for Grants to School Districts in the Grants and Aid to
4 Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this Act to such
5 school districts as reimbursement for expenses incurred in educating the
6 pupils residing in the separated portion of the school district. The payments
7 are to be limited to the amount of available appropriation. Such school
8 districts shall file a request for reimbursement with the Department of
9 Education and provide the Department of Education with such documentation as
10 is deemed necessary.

11 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
12 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

13

14 SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
15 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
16 SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES. The funds appropriated in the line item "Special
17 Education Services" in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and
18 Special Programs section of this Act shall be used to provide extended year
19 summer programs for handicapped students in need of such services, to provide
20 special education services to foster children who are wards of the State, and
21 to provide funds for the payment of salaries of special education
22 supervisors. The Department of Education shall distribute such funds in the
23 manner necessary to carry out the intent of this Section.

24 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
25 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

26

27 SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
28 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
29 TRANSFER AUTHORITY. The Commissioner of the Department of Education, with the
30 approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and after approval by the
31 Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, is hereby authorized
32 to request necessary appropriation transfers and any other budget related
33 adjustments necessary within the Department of Education. Provided, however,
34 that the Department of Education shall be limited to submitting no more than
35 two transfer requests during any fiscal year.

36 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of

1 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year
2 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by
3 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and
4 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by
5 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly
6 has determined that the Department of Education may operate more efficiently
7 if some flexibility is provided to the Commissioner of the Department of
8 Education authorizing broad powers under the Transfer Authority provision
9 herein. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General
10 Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative
11 Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The
12 requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee
13 is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by
14 the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional
15 by a court jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

16 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
17 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

18

19 SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
20 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

21 AETN DOCUMENTED QUIZ BOWL COSTS. Of the total amount of appropriation and
22 funds authorized herein to the Department of Education for the Quiz Bowl each
23 fiscal year, an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) each
24 fiscal year may be made available to the Department of Education -
25 Educational Television Division for its documented costs associated with the
26 Quiz Bowl.

27 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
28 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

29

30 SECTION 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
31 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

32 RETIREMENT MATCHING. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, Local School
33 Districts shall pay the teacher retirement employer contribution rate for any
34 eligible employee in accordance with rules and regulations established by the
35 Teacher Retirement Board of Directors. The appropriation contained herein for
36 Teacher Retirement Matching each fiscal year shall be used to provide the

1 employer matching for employees of the Cooperative Education Services Areas,
2 Vocational Centers, Arkansas Easter Seals and the school operated by the
3 Department of Correction.

4 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
5 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

6
7 SECTION 12. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
8 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

9 BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE FEES. The Department of Education is
10 hereby authorized to expend a maximum of two percent (2%) of available funds
11 for administration of the Better Chance Program. Up to 1.8% of available
12 funds shall be used to administer the program and to monitor program grantees
13 to ensure compliance with programmatic standards. Prior to the utilization of
14 the remaining 0.2% of available funds, the Department of Education shall seek
15 prior review and approval of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget
16 Committee by providing a written request to include the following: a) the
17 Department's reason(s) for the use of the funds and b) the amount of funds
18 that will be expended. The Department may contract with the Division of
19 Elementary and Secondary Education to administer the program.

20 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of
21 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year
22 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by
23 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and
24 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by
25 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Therefore, it is both necessary
26 and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring
27 prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as
28 provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative
29 Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section.
30 If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget
31 Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction,
32 this entire section is void.

33 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
34 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

35
36 SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS

1 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

2 CARRY FORWARD - ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE. Any unexpended balance of monies
3 allocated for the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program remaining
4 on June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026, in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
5 Public School Fund Account shall be designated and retained for the Arkansas
6 Better Chance for School Success Program.

7 Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein,
8 may be carried forward under the following conditions:

9 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026 the Agency shall by written statement set
10 forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the
11 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

12 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall
13 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee all
14 amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or
15 Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the
16 Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding
17 carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that
18 appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;

19 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written
20 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee
21 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written
22 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for
23 which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30)
24 days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents
25 its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget
26 Committee; and

27 (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include
28 all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a
29 statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

30 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
31 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

32
33 SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
34 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

35 ARKANSAS/STRIVE PROGRAM TRANSFER. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State
36 shall transfer on his books and those of the State Treasurer and the State

1 Auditor, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) during each
2 fiscal year from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public
3 School Fund Account to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Fund,
4 specifically to provide funding for the Arkansas/STRIVE Program. The total
5 amount of funds transferred each fiscal year pursuant to this section shall
6 not be subject to any indirect costs by the University of Arkansas at Little
7 Rock.

8 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
9 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

10

11 SECTION 15. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
12 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

13 ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FUNDING. The Department of Education shall
14 allocate, budget and commit for expenditure two hundred fifty thousand
15 dollars (\$250,000), in addition to funds already being provided for the
16 Arkansas Governor's School, to fund the appropriation authorized from general
17 revenue for the Gifted and Talented program as appropriated in the Grants and
18 Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section herein. With this
19 additional funding either the department shall increase the number of grants
20 for AEGIS summer enrichment programs, or the duration of the Arkansas
21 Governor's School shall be extended from four (4) weeks to six (6) weeks.

22 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
23 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

24

25 SECTION 16. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
26 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

27 EAST FUNDING PROVISION. Of the total amount appropriated for Technology
28 Grants each fiscal year, an amount of not less than three million five
29 thousand dollars (\$3,005,000) or eighteen percent (18%), whichever is greater
30 each fiscal year, shall be awarded through a grant or professional services
31 contract for the EAST Initiative. Not less than one million dollars
32 (\$1,000,000) of the three million five thousand dollars (\$3,005,000) or
33 eighteen percent (18%) of the Technology Grants Line Item awarded to the EAST
34 Initiatives shall be used for EAST infrastructure and personnel growth for
35 the establishment of new programs. The remaining funding shall be used for
36 existing EAST infrastructure, personnel, and operating expenses of the EAST

1 Initiative. The EAST infrastructure grant or contract for personal services
2 and operating expenses shall be awarded to an entity that has personnel or
3 experience, or both, in implementing the EAST Initiative.

4 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
5 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

6
7 SECTION 17. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
8 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

9 INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS FUNDING RESTRICTION. The Department of Education
10 shall make available from the Intervention Block Grants appropriation
11 authorized by this Act, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal
12 year for the annual expenses of the Quiz Bowl, thirteen thousand five hundred
13 dollars (\$13,500) each fiscal year for Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for
14 grants up to \$1,000 each for students and chaperones, thirteen thousand five
15 hundred dollars (\$13,500) each fiscal year for Destination Imagination, one
16 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal year for the State History
17 Day Competition, and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) each fiscal year
18 for a grant to the Arkansas Science Fair Association for grants to regional
19 and the state science fairs. The Department of Education shall allocate
20 General Revenue funding totaling no less than three hundred two thousand
21 dollars (\$302,000) each fiscal year from the Division of Elementary and
22 Secondary Education Public School Fund Account to support the annual expenses
23 of the Quiz Bowl, the Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for grants up to \$1,000
24 each for students and chaperones, Destination Imagination, the State History
25 Day Competition, and the Arkansas Science Fair Association for grants to
26 regional and state science fairs. The Department shall either expend or have
27 committed for expenditure the monies allocated for the Quiz Bowl, Creativity
28 in Arkansas, Inc., Destination Imagination, the State History Day
29 Competition, and Arkansas Science Fair Association grants as authorized
30 herein in order to fulfill the provisions of this section.

31 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
32 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

33
34 SECTION 18. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
35 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
36 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

1 (a) Of the total amount appropriated for Professional Development
2 Funding, three million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) may be
3 authorized by the Commissioner of the Department of Education to be used by
4 the Department of Education to develop and implement statewide professional
5 development support systems for teachers that will benefit student
6 achievement.

7 (b)(1) The Department of Education shall annually report the following
8 information concerning the Arkansas Online Professional Development
9 Initiative under § 6-17-707:

- 10 (1) Annual expenditure information;
- 11 (2) Statistical information pertaining to users of the
12 initiative;
- 13 (3) Course offerings;
- 14 (4) Course hours completed; and
- 15 (5) Certificates awarded.

16 (2) The report under subsection (b)(1) of this section shall be
17 annually submitted by August 1 to the:

- 18 (1) Governor;
- 19 (2) Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is
20 in session, the Joint Budget Committee;
- 21 (3) Senate Committee on Education;
- 22 (4) House Committee on Education; and
- 23 (5) Department of Finance and Administration.

24 (c) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
25 ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

26
27 SECTION 19. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
28 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
29 ESA MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM.

30 (a)(1) Of the appropriation and funding for the ESA MATCHING GRANT
31 PROGRAM Item in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special
32 Programs section of this Act, five million three hundred thousand dollars
33 (\$5,300,000) shall be set aside by the Department of Education and shall be
34 used for school district expenditures for evidence-based programs to improve
35 academic achievement of identified national school lunch students.

36 (2) These programs shall be limited to:

1 (A) Tutors as set out in § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(C)(i)(b)(4);

2 (B) Before-school academic programs and after-school academic
3 programs, including transportation to and from the programs
4 under § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(C)(i)(b)(2); and

5 (C) Prekindergarten programs under § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(C)(i)(b)(3).

6 (b)(1) Set aside funds authorized in subsection (a) of this section
7 shall be distributed to school districts on a dollar for dollar matching
8 basis of school district expenditures for programs under subsection (a) of
9 this section on a pro rata basis until the available funds are exhausted.

10 (2) As used in this subsection, "pro rata basis" means providing
11 each district qualifying for additional funding in a proportionate share
12 based on how each district's expenditure bears to the total of funding
13 provided in subsection (a) of this section for all qualifying districts as
14 determined by the Department of Education.

15 (c) If any funding remains after funding subsection (b) of this
16 section, that remaining balance shall be carried over to the following fiscal
17 year for the same purposes as provided in this section.

18 (d) The Department of Education shall adopt rules as necessary to
19 implement this section.

20 (e) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
21 ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

22
23 SECTION 20. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
24 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

25 R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS. The appropriation for the R.I.S.E. Arkansas line item in
26 the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of
27 this Act shall be used for the coordination of a statewide reading campaign
28 with community partners, parents, and teachers to establish the importance of
29 reading in homes, schools, and communities.

30 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
31 ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

32
33 SECTION 21. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
34 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

35 ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING NAME CHANGE. Any appropriation titled
36 "ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING" or abbreviated as "ESA" as named by

1 SB605 of 2019 may also be known as "NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH" funding or
2 abbreviated as "NSL" and shall be used for the same purposes as set out in
3 law.

4 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
5 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

6
7 SECTION 22. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
8 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

9 ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL CURRICULUM. Prior to the beginning of the
10 Arkansas Governor's School Program each year, the Arkansas Department of
11 Education shall review and approve the proposed curriculum for the program
12 year and shall maintain oversight of its implementation for consistency and
13 accuracy.

14 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
15 ~~2024-2025~~ through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

16

17 SECTION 23. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
18 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. HIGH
19 QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS. Of the amount appropriated from the
20 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Public School Fund for
21 R.I.S.E. Arkansas, up to nine million five hundred thousand dollars
22 (\$9,500,000) may be used for the purchase and distribution of high quality
23 instructional materials in accordance with Arkansas Code § 6-17-429(f).

24 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
25 ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

26

27 SECTION 24. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
28 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. DIVISION
29 OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND AND EDUCATIONAL
30 ADEQUACY FUND DISTRIBUTION AND FUND BALANCE REPORT. (a) The Department of
31 Education shall submit quarterly a "Division of Elementary and Secondary
32 Education Public School Fund Distribution and Balance" report to the Arkansas
33 Legislative Council PEER Subcommittee or, if meeting in a Legislative
34 Session, the Joint Budget Committee PEER/Review Subcommittee no later than
35 ten days prior to the Subcommittee's scheduled meeting date.

36 (1) The report shall summarize the current total fund balance and

1 the past five Fiscal Year ending total fund balances of the Division of
2 Elementary and Secondary Education - Public School Fund.

3 (2) The report shall contain, cumulatively over the course of the
4 fiscal year, by quarter a summary of the itemized totals distributed from
5 each subfund of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Public
6 School Fund and each subfund shall be organized as restricted or unrestricted
7 in spending purpose.

8 (b) The Department of Education shall submit monthly an "Educational
9 Adequacy Fund Distribution and Balance" report to the Arkansas Legislative
10 Council PEER Subcommittee or, if meeting in a Legislative Session, the Joint
11 Budget Committee PEER/Review Subcommittee no later than ten days prior to the
12 Subcommittee's scheduled meeting date.

13 (1) The report shall summarize the current total fund balance and
14 the past five Fiscal Year ending total fund balances of the Educational
15 Adequacy Fund.

16 (2) The report shall contain the following:

17 (A) Monthly beginning fund balance;

18 (B) Monthly Distribution report with total distributions to
19 the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public
20 School Fund Account and the Division of Elementary and
21 Secondary Education Fund Account; and

22 (C) Amount of certified funding obligation remaining to the
23 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public
24 School Fund Account and the Division of Elementary and
25 Secondary Education Fund Account for the fiscal year.

26 (c) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
27 ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

28
29 SECTION 25. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
30 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
31 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
32 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
33 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
34 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
35 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
36 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be

1 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

2
3 SECTION 26. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
4 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
5 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
6 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
7 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
8 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
9 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
10 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

11
12 SECTION 27. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
13 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
14 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
15 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2025 is essential to the operation of
16 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
17 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
18 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2025 could work irreparable harm
19 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
20 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
21 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
22 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2025.