

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2026
4

As Engrossed: H4/22/26

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1007

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, 2027; 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 2026-2027 FISCAL
20 YEAR.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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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, 2027,
32 the following:
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ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(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	21,309,189
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	4,200,000
14	(15)	DECLINING ENROLLMENT	23,963,389
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	600,000
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	5,776,183
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	10,775,000
2	(39)	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING	37,175,911
3	(40)	PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	292,000,000
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 FUNDING CONTINGENCY	25,000,000
8	(45)	SCHOOL RECOGNITION	7,000,000
9	(46)	SCHOOL WORKER DEFENSE	390,000
10	(47)	SERIOUS OFFENDER	1,716,859
11	(48)	SMART START/SMART STEP	10,666,303
12	(49)	SPECIAL EDUCATION - HIGH COST OCCURRENCES	18,378,763
13	(50)	SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	2,802,527
14	(51)	SPECIAL NEEDS ISOLATED FUNDING	3,000,000
15	(52)	STATE FOUNDATION FUNDING	2,206,861,456
16	(53)	STUDENT GROWTH	37,690,144
17	(54)	TEACHER LICENSING/MENTORING	6,065,758
18	(55)	TEACHER OF THE YEAR	100,000
19	(56)	TEACHER RETIREMENT MATCHING	14,776,754
20	(57)	TEACHER SALARY EQUALIZATION	60,000,000
21	(58)	TECHNOLOGY GRANTS	3,602,678
22	(59)	TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS	500,000
23	(60)	TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION GRANTS	5,000,000
24	(61)	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	450,000
25	(62)	YOUTH SHELTERS	165,000
26	(63)	HIGH IMPACT TUTORING	20,000,000
27	(64)	IMAGINATION LIBRARY	1,500,000
28	(65)	LITERACY COACHES	19,000,000
29	(66)	SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION SERVICES	8,030,000
30	(67)	TEACHER ACADEMY	<u>2,089,000</u>
31		TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$3,662,266,811</u>

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

34 There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of
35 Elementary and Secondary Education - Arkansas Public School Computer Network
36 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular

1 employees.

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Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	EES02P	EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL II	1	GRADE SPC04
(2)	EEPO6P	EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE SGS10
(3)	PAS02P	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS04
(4)	IIS07C	IT INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER	1	GRADE IST10
(5)	IIA06C	IT MANAGER	1	GRADE IST10
(6)	IDN02P	DATA ANALYST SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE IST09
(7)	IIP02P	IT PROJECT MANAGER	4	GRADE IST08
(8)	IAS01P	APPLICATIONS ANALYST I	3	GRADE IST07
(9)	IDN01P	DATA ANALYST	1	GRADE IST07
(10)	IDM02P	DATABASE ANALYST	1	GRADE IST07
(11)	IDM03P	DATABASE SPECIALIST	2	GRADE IST05
(12)	IUS04P	USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	26	GRADE IST02
(13)	EEPO3P	EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS07
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, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$2,633,280
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	946,438
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	34,845,839
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	7,250

1	(C) PROF. FEES	0
2	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	200,000
3	(E) DATA PROC.	0
4	(04) DATA ACCESS IMPLEMENTATION	<u>300,000</u>
5	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$38,932,807</u></u>

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 7 SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There
 8 is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of
 9 Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Education Renewal Zones for
 10 the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.
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12		Maximum Annual
13		Salary Rate
14	Item Class	Fiscal Year
15	<u>No. Code Title</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
16	(1) EEP03P EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	3 GRADE SGS07
17	(2) PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	<u>1</u> GRADE SGS04
18	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	4

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 20 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There is
 21 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the
 22 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account,
 23 for personal services, operating expenses, and grants by the Department of
 24 Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of
 25 Education Renewal Zones for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the
 26 following:
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28	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
29	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
30	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$145,568
31	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	58,129
32	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
33	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	25,000
34	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	3,000
35	(C) PROF. FEES	0
36	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0

1	(E) DATA PROC.	0
2	(04) EDUCATIONAL RENEWAL ZONE GRANTS	<u>1,101,150</u>
3	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,332,847</u>

5 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM.

6 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable
7 from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund
8 Account, for personal services, operating expenses, and grants and aid for
9 the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program by the Department of Education -
10 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Sexual Risk Avoidance
11 Education Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

13	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
14	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
15	(01) SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM	<u>\$4,000,000</u>

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

19 FUND ALLOCATION. The appropriation for the Isolated Funding line item in the
20 Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this
21 Act may be fully funded. Any funding and appropriation for Isolated Funding
22 that is not utilized shall be transferred to the appropriation for Special
23 Needs Isolated Funding in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and
24 Special Programs section of this Act and shall be used there for fully
25 funding each subsection (c) through (f) of Arkansas Code § 6-20-604 on a pro
26 rata basis until the available funds are exhausted. Pro rata basis is defined
27 as providing each district qualifying for additional funding under
28 subsections (c) through (f) a proportionate share based on how each
29 district's additional funding amount bears to the total additional funding
30 amounts for all qualifying districts. If any funding and appropriation
31 remains after funding each subsection (c) through (f) of Arkansas Code § 6-
32 20-604 the remaining balance shall be used to fund the provisions of Arkansas
33 Code § 6-20-604 (h) on an equal basis until the available funds are
34 exhausted.

35 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
36 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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2 SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
3 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
4 GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS. For the purposes of distributing the Grants To
5 School Districts appropriation in the Grants and Aid to Local School
6 Districts and Special Programs section of this Act, "school district" means a
7 school district which contracts with a school district in an adjoining state
8 for the education of some of the pupils within the Arkansas school district
9 because the portion of the school district wherein such pupils live is
10 completely separated from the remainder of the school district by a reservoir
11 covering at least 12,000 acres at normal water level, and where to attend
12 school in their own district, the pupils of said portion would be required to
13 travel or to be transported a distance (measured by the nearest highway or
14 road route) of more than 35 miles round trip and pass through another school
15 district or districts. The Department of Education shall distribute the
16 monies appropriated for Grants to School Districts in the Grants and Aid to
17 Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this Act to such
18 school districts as reimbursement for expenses incurred in educating the
19 pupils residing in the separated portion of the school district. The payments
20 are to be limited to the amount of available appropriation. Such school
21 districts shall file a request for reimbursement with the Department of
22 Education and provide the Department of Education with such documentation as
23 is deemed necessary.

24 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
25 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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27 SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
28 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
29 SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES. The funds appropriated in the line item "Special
30 Education Services" in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and
31 Special Programs section of this Act shall be used to provide extended year
32 summer programs for handicapped students in need of such services, to provide
33 special education services to foster children who are wards of the State, and
34 to provide funds for the payment of salaries of special education
35 supervisors. The Department of Education shall distribute such funds in the
36 manner necessary to carry out the intent of this Section.

1 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
2 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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

6 TRANSFER AUTHORITY. The Commissioner of the Department of Education, with the
7 approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and after approval by the
8 Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, is hereby authorized
9 to request necessary appropriation transfers and any other budget related
10 adjustments necessary within the Department of Education. Provided, however,
11 that the Department of Education shall be limited to submitting no more than
12 two transfer requests during any fiscal year.

13 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of
14 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year
15 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by
16 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and
17 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by
18 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly
19 has determined that the Department of Education may operate more efficiently
20 if some flexibility is provided to the Commissioner of the Department of
21 Education authorizing broad powers under the Transfer Authority provision
22 herein. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General
23 Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative
24 Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The
25 requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee
26 is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by
27 the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional
28 by a court jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

29 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
30 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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

34 AETN DOCUMENTED QUIZ BOWL COSTS. Of the total amount of appropriation and
35 funds authorized herein to the Department of Education for the Quiz Bowl each
36 fiscal year, an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) each

1 fiscal year may be made available to the Department of Education -
2 Educational Television Division for its documented costs associated with the
3 Quiz Bowl.

4 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
5 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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

9 RETIREMENT MATCHING. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, Local School
10 Districts shall pay the teacher retirement employer contribution rate for any
11 eligible employee in accordance with rules and regulations established by the
12 Teacher Retirement Board of Directors. The appropriation contained herein for
13 Teacher Retirement Matching each fiscal year shall be used to provide the
14 employer matching for employees of the Cooperative Education Services Areas,
15 Vocational Centers, Arkansas Easter Seals and the school operated by the
16 Department of Correction.

17 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
18 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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20 SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
21 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

22 BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE FEES. The Department of Education is
23 hereby authorized to expend a maximum of two percent (2%) of available funds
24 for administration of the Better Chance Program. Up to 1.8% of available
25 funds shall be used to administer the program and to monitor program grantees
26 to ensure compliance with programmatic standards. Prior to the utilization of
27 the remaining 0.2% of available funds, the Department of Education shall seek
28 prior review and approval of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget
29 Committee by providing a written request to include the following: a) the
30 Department's reason(s) for the use of the funds and b) the amount of funds
31 that will be expended. The Department may contract with the Division of
32 Elementary and Secondary Education to administer the program.

33 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of
34 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year
35 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by
36 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and

1 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by
2 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Therefore, it is both necessary
3 and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring
4 prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as
5 provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative
6 Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section.
7 If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget
8 Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction,
9 this entire section is void.

10 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
11 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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

15 CARRY FORWARD - ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE. Any unexpended balance of monies
16 allocated for the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program remaining
17 on June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027, in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
18 Public School Fund Account shall be designated and retained for the Arkansas
19 Better Chance for School Success Program.

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

22 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement set
23 forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the
24 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

25 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall
26 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee all
27 amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or
28 Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the
29 Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding
30 carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that
31 appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;

32 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written
33 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee
34 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written
35 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for
36 which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30)

1 days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents
2 its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget
3 Committee; and

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

7 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
8 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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

12 ARKANSAS/STRIVE PROGRAM TRANSFER. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State
13 shall transfer on his books and those of the State Treasurer and the State
14 Auditor, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) during each
15 fiscal year from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public
16 School Fund Account to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Fund,
17 specifically to provide funding for the Arkansas/STRIVE Program. The total
18 amount of funds transferred each fiscal year pursuant to this section shall
19 not be subject to any indirect costs by the University of Arkansas at Little
20 Rock.

21 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
22 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

23
24 SECTION 16. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
25 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

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

35 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
36 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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2 SECTION 17. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
3 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
4 EAST FUNDING PROVISION. Of the total amount appropriated for Technology
5 Grants each fiscal year, an amount of not less than three million five
6 thousand dollars (\$3,005,000) or eighteen percent (18%), whichever is greater
7 each fiscal year, shall be awarded through a grant or professional services
8 contract for the EAST Initiative. Not less than one million dollars
9 (\$1,000,000) of the three million five thousand dollars (\$3,005,000) or
10 eighteen percent (18%) of the Technology Grants Line Item awarded to the EAST
11 Initiatives shall be used for EAST infrastructure and personnel growth for
12 the establishment of new programs. The remaining funding shall be used for
13 existing EAST infrastructure, personnel, and operating expenses of the EAST
14 Initiative. The EAST infrastructure grant or contract for personal services
15 and operating expenses shall be awarded to an entity that has personnel or
16 experience, or both, in implementing the EAST Initiative.

17 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
18 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

19
20 SECTION 18. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
21 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
22 INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS FUNDING RESTRICTION. The Department of Education
23 shall make available from the Intervention Block Grants appropriation
24 authorized by this Act, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal
25 year for the annual expenses of the Quiz Bowl, thirteen thousand five hundred
26 dollars (\$13,500) each fiscal year for Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for
27 grants up to \$1,000 each for students and chaperones, thirteen thousand five
28 hundred dollars (\$13,500) each fiscal year for Destination Imagination, one
29 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal year for the State History
30 Day Competition, and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) each fiscal year
31 for a grant to the Arkansas Science Fair Association for grants to regional
32 and the state science fairs. The Department of Education shall allocate
33 General Revenue funding totaling no less than three hundred two thousand
34 dollars (\$302,000) each fiscal year from the Division of Elementary and
35 Secondary Education Public School Fund Account to support the annual expenses
36 of the Quiz Bowl, the Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for grants up to \$1,000

1 each for students and chaperones, Destination Imagination, the State History
2 Day Competition, and the Arkansas Science Fair Association for grants to
3 regional and state science fairs. The Department shall either expend or have
4 committed for expenditure the monies allocated for the Quiz Bowl, Creativity
5 in Arkansas, Inc., Destination Imagination, the State History Day
6 Competition, and Arkansas Science Fair Association grants as authorized
7 herein in order to fulfill the provisions of this section.

8 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
9 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

10
11 SECTION 19. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
12 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
13 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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

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

- 23 (1) Annual expenditure information;
- 24 (2) Statistical information pertaining to users of the
25 initiative;
- 26 (3) Course offerings;
- 27 (4) Course hours completed; and
- 28 (5) Certificates awarded.

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

- 31 (1) Governor;
- 32 (2) Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is
33 in session, the Joint Budget Committee;
- 34 (3) Senate Committee on Education;
- 35 (4) House Committee on Education; and
- 36 (5) Department of Finance and Administration.

1 (c) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
2 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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4 SECTION 20. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
5 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
6 ESA MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM.

7 (a)(1) Of the appropriation and funding for the ESA MATCHING GRANT
8 PROGRAM Item in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special
9 Programs section of this Act, five million three hundred thousand dollars
10 (\$5,300,000) shall be set aside by the Department of Education and shall be
11 used for school district expenditures for evidence-based programs to improve
12 academic achievement of identified national school lunch students.

13 (2) These programs shall be limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (e) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
34 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

35
36 SECTION 21. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS

1 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
2 R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS. The appropriation for the R.I.S.E. Arkansas line item in
3 the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of
4 this Act shall be used for the coordination of a statewide reading campaign
5 with community partners, parents, and teachers to establish the importance of
6 reading in homes, schools, and communities.

7 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
8 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

9

10 SECTION 22. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
11 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
12 ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING NAME CHANGE. Any appropriation titled
13 "ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING" or abbreviated as "ESA" as named by
14 SB605 of 2019 may also be known as "NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH" funding or
15 abbreviated as "NSL" and shall be used for the same purposes as set out in
16 law.

17 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
18 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

19

20 SECTION 23. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
21 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
22 ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL CURRICULUM. Prior to the beginning of the
23 Arkansas Governor's School Program each year, the Arkansas Department of
24 Education shall review and approve the proposed curriculum for the program
25 year and shall maintain oversight of its implementation for consistency and
26 accuracy.

27 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
28 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

29

30 SECTION 24. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
31 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. HIGH
32 QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS. Of the amount appropriated from the
33 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Public School Fund for
34 R.I.S.E. Arkansas, up to nine million five hundred thousand dollars
35 (\$9,500,000) may be used for the purchase and distribution of high quality
36 instructional materials in accordance with Arkansas Code § 6-17-429(f).

1 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
2 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

3
4 SECTION 25. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
5 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. DIVISION
6 OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND AND EDUCATIONAL
7 ADEQUACY FUND DISTRIBUTION AND FUND BALANCE REPORT. (a) The Department of
8 Education shall submit quarterly a "Division of Elementary and Secondary
9 Education Public School Fund Distribution and Balance" report to the Arkansas
10 Legislative Council PEER Subcommittee or, if meeting in a Legislative
11 Session, the Joint Budget Committee PEER/Review Subcommittee no later than
12 ten days prior to the 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 Division of
15 Elementary and Secondary Education - Public School Fund.

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

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

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

29 (2) The report shall contain the following:

30 (A) Monthly beginning fund balance;

31 (B) Monthly Distribution report with total distributions to
32 the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public
33 School Fund Account and the Division of Elementary and
34 Secondary Education Fund Account; and

35 (C) Amount of certified funding obligation remaining to the
36 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public

1 School Fund Account and the Division of Elementary and
2 Secondary Education Fund Account for the fiscal year.

3 (c) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
4 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

5

6 *SECTION 26. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 6-17-*
7 *1117(a), concerning the health insurance contribution rate for public school*
8 *employees, is amended to read as follows:*

9 ~~(a)(1) Beginning January 1, 2023, a school district shall pay each~~
10 ~~month for each eligible employee electing to participate in the public school~~
11 ~~employees' health insurance program the health insurance contribution rate~~
12 ~~enacted by the General Assembly.~~

13 ~~(2) The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on~~
14 ~~Education through the biennial adequacy review process required by § 10-3-~~
15 ~~2102 shall provide a health contribution rate recommendation to the General~~
16 ~~Assembly.~~

17

18 *SECTION 27. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 6-20-*
19 *2305(b)(6)(B)(iv), concerning the continuation of teacher salary equalization*
20 *funds, is repealed.*

21 ~~(iv) A school district shall continue to receive~~
22 ~~teacher salary equalization funds in the same amount as the preceding fiscal~~
23 ~~year in addition to the amount eligible for the current fiscal year.~~

24

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

34

35 *SECTION 29. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General*
36 *Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations*

1 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
2 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
3 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
4 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
5 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
6 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.
7

8 SECTION 30. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
9 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
10 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
11 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of
12 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
13 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
14 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm
15 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
16 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
17 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
18 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.
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20 */s/Joint Budget Committee*
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