

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

A Bill

SENATE BILL 58

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - GENERAL OPERATIONS. There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	EEX13A	COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION	1	GRADE EXE03
(2)	EEA03C	HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC09
(3)	FAC10C	CONTROLLER	1	GRADE SPC06



(4)	EEP04C EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC06
(5)	EES03P EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL SUPV/EXP	2	GRADE SPC06
(6)	FAC03P ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SPC03
(7)	EES01P EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL I	15	GRADE SPC02
(8)	EEP06P EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPV/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS10
(9)	EEP03P EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	14	GRADE SGS07
(10)	EEP05P EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
(11)	FGM02P GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS05
(12)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS04
(13)	FGM01P GRANTS ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS04
(14)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	3	GRADE SGS02
(15)	IIS07C IT INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER	4	GRADE IST10
(16)	IIS01P IT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE IST08
(17)	IIP02P IT PROJECT MANAGER	1	GRADE IST08
(18)	IIS04P IT INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYST	1	GRADE IST06
(19)	IIS09P IT INFRASTRUCTURE SPECIALIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST04
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	52	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - GENERAL OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: fifteen (15) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division of Higher Education Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - General Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$2,368,390

(02)	EXTRA HELP	75,000
(03)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	777,152
(04)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	909,346
	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	49,659
	(C) PROF. FEES	25,000
	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	50,000
	(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05)	STATEWIDE PROMOTION	<u>295,000</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$4,549,547</u></u>

SECTION 4. EXTRA HELP - STATE BOARD OF PRIVATE CAREER EDUCATION. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - State Board of Private Career Education for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: two (2) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF PRIVATE CAREER EDUCATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Private Career Education Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - State Board of Private Career Education - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR	
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>	
(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	\$163,983
(02)	EXTRA HELP	20,000
(03)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	55,427
(04)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	63,000
	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	4,000

(C) PROF. FEES	6,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$312,410</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS AND VARIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for providing student assistance grants and various scholarships as provided by law of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Student Assistance Grants and Various Scholarships for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) ARKANSAS FUTURE GRANTS	\$5,000,000
(02) NATIONAL GUARD TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	4,400,000
(03) SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	175,000
(04) STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM	4,000,000
(05) TEACHER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM	2,500,000
(06) AR GEOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL NEEDS MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS	150,000
(07) ARKANSAS HEROES SCHOLARSHIP	5,500,000
(08) GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	2,000,000
(09) SREB MINORITY DOCTORAL SCHOLARS	175,000
(10) WASHINGTON CENTER SCHOLARSHIPS	150,000
(11) TUITION ADJUSTMENT	350,000
(12) AR ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIPS	25,000,000
(13) AR GOVERNOR'S SCHOLAR	22,000,000
(14) STUDENT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM(SURF)	<u>150,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$71,550,000</u></u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - TECHNICAL EDUCATION - FEDERAL PROGRAMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the

State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Technical Education - Federal Programs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$139,791
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	49,594
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	108,271
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	80,000
(C) PROF. FEES	157,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$534,656</u></u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Research Development Fund, for providing Arkansas Research Development Program Grants to Institutions of Higher Education by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Research Development Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS	<u><u>\$750,000</u></u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - HEALTH EDUCATION GRANTS AND LOANS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for payments of contracts and loans with participating out-of-state institutions of higher learning in the fields of dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, and podiatry for the education of Arkansas citizens by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Health Education Grants and Loans for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) CHIROPRACTIC AID	\$260,000
(02) DENTAL AID - GRANTS	2,950,000
(03) OPTOMETRY AID - GRANTS	650,000
(04) PODIATRY AID	130,400
(05) VETERINARY AID FORGIVENESS PROGRAM	1,750,000
(06) DENTAL AID - LOANS	987,370
(07) OPTOMETRY AID - LOANS	140,000
(08) VETERINARY MED. LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM	<u>250,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$7,117,770</u></u>

SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$269,233
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	32,865
(C) PROF. FEES	63,932
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) SCHOLARSHIPS	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$416,030</u></u>

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - PRIVATE CAREER EDUCATION BOARD - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Private Career Education Board - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$9,500
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	6,000
(C) PROF. FEES	5,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$20,500</u></u>

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - STUDENT PROTECTION TRUST. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Private Career School Student Protection Trust Fund, for expenses, claims, and fees of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - State Board of Private Career Education - Student Protection Trust for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) EXPENSES/CLAIMS/FEES	<u><u>\$300,000</u></u>

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - TANF PROGRAM - FEDERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services, operating expenses, grants and aid by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - TANF Program - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$292,016
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	100,134
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	80,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	60,000
(C) PROF. FEES	70,000

(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) SELF SUFFICIENCY/JOB TRAINING GRANTS	6,547,850
(05) ENROLLMENT AND EDUCATION	<u>3,000,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$10,150,000</u>

SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - WEB BASED APPLICATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses associated with web based applications of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Web Based Applications for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) WEB BASED APPLICATIONS PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$500,000</u>

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Scholarship Administration for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$283,079
(02) EXTRA HELP	10,000
(03) ADDITIONAL FRINGE BENEFITS	0
(04) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	107,410
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	285,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	30,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0

(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$715,489</u></u>

SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION - WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2015. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 Fund, for workforce education grants, administrative and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2015 EXPENSES	<u><u>\$8,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - VETERAN'S APPROVING AGENCY - FEDERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Veteran's Approving Agency - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$241,441
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	88,805
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	53,546
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	9,623
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$393,415</u></u>

SECTION 18. APPROPRIATION - AMERICORPS - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division of Higher Education Fund Account, for personal services, operating expenses,

and grants and aid by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - AmeriCorps - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR
	2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$324,617
(02) EXTRA HELP	30,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	126,827
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	363,650
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	85,650
(C) PROF. FEES	2,500
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) GRANTS AND AID	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$983,244</u></u>

SECTION 19. APPROPRIATION - AMERICORPS - GRANTS AND AID. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division of Higher Education Fund Account, for grants and aid by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - AmeriCorps - Grants and Aid for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR
	2026-2027
(01) GRANTS AND AID	<u><u>\$2,010,704</u></u>

SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION - OSTEOPATHIC RURAL MEDICAL PRACTICE STUDENT LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for for Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan & Scholarship Program loans and/or scholarships of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan & Scholarship Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(01) OSTEOPATHIC RURAL MEDICAL PRACTICE STUDENT LOANS/SCHOLARSHIP	<u>\$400,000</u>

SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY EXPANSION BOARD. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Graduate Medical Education Fund, for planning grants to eligible entities for graduate medical education residency program expansion or new programs, and for board expenses and reimbursements of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(01) GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY EXPANSION BOARD	<u>\$10,000,000</u>

SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION - HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES GRANTS AND EXPENSES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, for grants for scholarships to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and for personal services and operating expenses as determined by the Division of Higher Education for outreach programs to promote awareness of those scholarships of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - HBCU Grants and Expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(01) HBCU GRANTS AND EXPENSES	<u>\$4,000,000</u>

SECTION 23. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS TEACHER ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be

payable from the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program Fund, for scholarships, personal services, and operating expenses necessary to create and maintain the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) AR TEACHER ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	<u>\$12,000,000</u>

SECTION 24. APPROPRIATION - SUSTAINABLE BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROGRAM FOR STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Sustainable Building Maintenance Program for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education Revolving Loan Fund, for transfers or loans to a state-supported institution of higher education for deferred maintenance, critical maintenance, or renovation of state-owned property of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Sustainable Building Maintenance Program for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) LOANS	<u>\$7,437,405</u>

SECTION 25. REGULAR SALARIES - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE. There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Northwest Technical Institute for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item Class No. Code Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1) NWT10C NWTI DIRECTOR	1	\$169,298

(2)	NWT07C NWTI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	2	\$127,195
(3)	NWT19P NWTI NURSE INSTRUCTOR	6	\$124,726
(4)	NWT06P NWTI AMMONIA & INDUST TRNG SUPV/EXP	1	\$112,976
(5)	NWT12P NWTI EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPV/EXP	3	\$112,976
(6)	NWT09P NWTI CAREER & TECHNICAL FACULTY II	7	\$95,564
(7)	NWT01P NWTI ACCOUNTANT II	1	\$95,564
(8)	NWT05P NWTI AMMONIA & INDUSTRIAL TRAINER	2	\$93,367
(9)	NWT21P NWTI USER SUPPORT ANALYST	2	\$89,613
(10)	NWT08P NWTI CAREER & TECHNICAL FACULTY I	28	\$86,876
(11)	NWT11P NWTI EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	3	\$84,879
(12)	NWT13P NWTI EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	\$84,879
(13)	NWT15P NWTI HR COORDINATOR	1	\$84,879
(14)	NWT20P NWTI TRAINER	3	\$84,879
(15)	NWT17P NWTI MAINT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	\$77,163
(16)	NWT02P NWTI ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	2	\$70,148
(17)	NWT03P NWTI ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	5	\$63,770
(18)	NWT14P NWTI FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	\$63,770
(19)	NWT16P NWTI HR SPECIALIST	1	\$63,770
(20)	NWT18P NWTI MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	3	\$57,973
(21)	NWT04P NWTI ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	<u>4</u>	\$52,703
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	79	

SECTION 26. EXTRA HELP - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Northwest Technical Institute for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: one hundred thirty-five (135) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 27. APPROPRIATION - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - STATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Northwest Technical Institute Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher

Education - Northwest Technical Institute - State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,201,793
(02) EXTRA HELP	453,411
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,199,562
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	668,564
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	44,866
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$5,568,196</u>

SECTION 28. APPROPRIATION - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - FEDERAL.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Northwest Technical Institute - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$82,696
(02) EXTRA HELP	171,492
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	47,690
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	14,278
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$316,156</u>

SECTION 29. APPROPRIATION - NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - CASH.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code §19-4-801, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education - Northwest Technical Institute - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,006,351
(02) EXTRA HELP	556,450
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	440,787
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,894,530
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	15,000
(C) PROF. FEES	275,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	200,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) RESALE	<u>325,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$4,713,118</u></u>

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

DHE - REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Upon determination by the president or chancellor of an institution of higher education that a reallocation of resources for purposes of reorganization or consolidation of administrative functions within the institution is necessary for efficient and effective operations of the institution, the president or chancellor, with approval of the institution's board of trustees, may have the authority to transfer positions, appropriations and related funds between campuses, divisions, branches, and other budgetary units of the institution, after receiving prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee. The transfers of positions, programs, or activities shall be used for those purposes for which the appropriations were approved by the General Assembly. The transfers, consolidations, or reorganizations which involve academic programs shall be reviewed by the Division of Higher Education prior

to submission to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee. Provided, however, that the institution shall be limited to submitting no more than two (2) individual transaction transfer requests during any fiscal year and shall be further limited to no more than five percent (5%) of the total General Revenue and Special Revenue appropriation, funding, positions specific to each institution, and no Tobacco Settlement funds or appropriations may be reallocated pursuant to this section.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for institutions of higher education each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for institutions of higher education and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that institutions of higher education may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to institutions of higher education authorizing broad powers under this section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

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

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

DHE - BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND. After the sum of \$13,200,000 has been deposited into the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund, any additional deposits are to be transferred to the Research Development Fund there to be used as provided by law.

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

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

DHE - TRANSFER PROVISION. Upon certification by the Director of the Division of Higher Education that transfers are needed to make maximum utilization of funds and appropriations provided for financial aid programs, and with the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and a review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, funds and appropriations may be transferred between financial aid programs to more adequately align the appropriation with the number of eligible students.

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

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

DHE - TRANSFER OF HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS FUND APPROPRIATIONS - HEALTH EDUCATION GRANTS AND LOANS. Upon certification to and with the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, surplus funds and appropriations may be transferred between the appropriations provided for "Health Education Grants and Loans" by this Act by the General Assembly for Dental Aid Grants and Loans, Optometry Aid Grants and Loans, Veterinary Aid, Veterinary Med. Loan Forgiveness Program, Podiatry Aid, and Chiropractic Aid.

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

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

DHE - CONTINGENCY APPROPRIATIONS - TRANSFERS AND REPORTS. (a) Upon approval by the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, institutions of higher education may transfer appropriation from the cash contingency appropriation to any other appropriation made to the institution from cash funds including the establishment of commitment items, and may transfer appropriation from the contingency appropriation made payable from each institution's State Treasury Fund to the state operations appropriation made payable from each institution's State Treasury Fund including the establishment of commitment items, and may transfer appropriation from the contingency appropriation made

payable from the Tobacco Settlement Program Fund Accounts to any other appropriation made to the institution from Tobacco Settlement Program Fund Accounts including the establishment of commitment items.

(b) Contingency appropriation transfers shall only establish and supplement commitment items that were recommended by the Higher Education Coordinating Board in the budget manuals presented to the Legislative Council and Joint Budget Committee.

(c) The Department of Education - Division of Higher Education shall report contingency appropriation transfers and the establishment of any commitment items authorized by this Section to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee for review during its July meeting. The report shall include, by institution, the establishment of, and the amounts transferred to, each commitment item, the reasons therefor and the source of funds. Institutions shall submit contingency appropriation transfer and commitment item establishment requests authorized by this Section to the Division of Higher Education no later than July 1. Upon the failure of an institution to submit the required information by the July 1 deadline, the Department of Education - Division of Higher Education shall immediately notify by written notification the chairpersons of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

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

SECTION 35. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

DHE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ACT FUNDING. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may transfer, on his or her books and those of the State Treasurer and the Auditor of the State, funding up to the amount authorized in the Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 appropriation section in this Act, from the Division of Higher Education Fund Account to the Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 Fund in order to finance the distribution of grants identified under §6-60-107.

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

SECTION 36. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

DHE - STATEWIDE PROMOTION. Of the general revenue that is received by and distributed from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall transfer two hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$295,000) to the Division of Higher Education Fund Account to be allocated, budgeted, committed and distributed to the Statewide Promotion line item in the General Operations section of this Act for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the programs and initiatives offered by the State through the Arkansas Department of Education - Division of Higher Education. The Department shall utilize a minimum of one hundred forty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$147,500) of the aforementioned total specifically for the promotion of the Arkansas Future Grant Program.

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

SECTION 37. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. The Department of Education - Division of Higher Education shall provide for the administration of the "Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program" as appropriated in the Student Assistance Grants and Various Scholarships Appropriation section of this Act to assist students accepted into transitional programs for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities at state institutions of higher education and shall promulgate rules for the implementation of the program and for the disbursement of scholarships to eligible students.

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

SECTION 38. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be

strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 39. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 40. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

APPROVED: 4/29/26