

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

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1126

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 - OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Office of Early Childhood for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	N249N	DHS DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SE02
(2)	D061C	INFORMATION SYSTEMS COORD SPECIALIST	2	GRADE IT05
(3)	D057C	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER	1	GRADE IT05
(4)	D062C	DATABASE ANALYST	1	GRADE IT04
(5)	D071C	COMPUTER SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE IT03
(6)	D075C	SOFTWARE SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT03



(7)	N122N DHS/DCC ASSIST DIR FINANCE & ADMIN	1	GRADE GS14
(8)	G056C DHS/DCC ASST DIR OPS & PROG SUPV	3	GRADE GS13
(9)	E013C EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER	2	GRADE GS10
(10)	G099C DHS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR	6	GRADE GS09
(11)	A082C ACCOUNTANT II	1	GRADE GS08
(12)	G152C DHS PROGRAM MANAGER	14	GRADE GS08
(13)	R014C PERSONNEL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(14)	X062C QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	5	GRADE GS08
(15)	E023C TRAINING PROJECT MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(16)	A089C ACCOUNTANT I	1	GRADE GS07
(17)	G183C DHS PROGRAM COORDINATOR	21	GRADE GS07
(18)	X125C FRAUD INVESTIGATOR COORDINATOR	4	GRADE GS07
(19)	G147C GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(20)	M025C PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY COORDINATOR I	1	GRADE GS07
(21)	C037C ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	4	GRADE GS06
(22)	M053C CHILD CARE SERVICE SPECIALIST	36	GRADE GS06
(23)	G210C DHS PROGRAM SPECIALIST	3	GRADE GS06
(24)	E038C EDUCATION & INSTRUCTION ANALYST	1	GRADE GS06
(25)	M051C FAMILY SERVICE WORKER	3	GRADE GS06
(26)	G214C GRANTS SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS06
(27)	G178C POLICY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS06
(28)	M066C PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST	43	GRADE GS06
(29)	X136C QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEWER	1	GRADE GS06
(30)	B076C RESEARCH PROJECT ANALYST	1	GRADE GS06
(31)	C050C ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS05
(32)	A088C ASSETS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS05
(33)	V012C FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY SUPV	1	GRADE GS05
(34)	E051C STAFF DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS05
(35)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	6	GRADE GS04
(36)	V022C PURCHASING TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE GS04
(37)	C073C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	<u>3</u>	GRADE GS03
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	177	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Office of Early Childhood for the 2025-2026 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: thirteen (13) 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 - OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD - OPERATIONS.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Child Care and Early Childhood Education Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Office of Early Childhood - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,482,755
(02) EXTRA HELP	20,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	668,974
(04) OVERTIME	4,850
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	7,585,752
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	103,243
(C) PROF. FEES	3,000,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(06) GRANTS AND AID	<u>2,500,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$15,365,574</u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD - OPERATIONS -

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, and grants of the Department of Education - Office of Early Childhood - Operations - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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NO.	2025-2026
(01) EARLY CHILDHOOD FEDERAL EXPENSES	<u>\$268,670,324</u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD - CHILD CARE PROGRAM GRANTS AND EXPENSES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Child Care Grant Fund Account, for operating expenses and grants of the Department of Education - Office of Early Childhood - Child Care Program Grants and Expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) CHILD CARE PROGRAM GRANTS AND EXPENSES	<u>\$9,000,000</u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD - LOAN GUARANTEES AND GRANTS. 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 loan guarantees and grants of the Department of Education - Office of Early Childhood - Loan Guarantees and Grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) LOAN GUARANTEES & GRANTS	<u>\$36,786</u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD - COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION AND SALVAGE CONTAINER - 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 - Office of Early Childhood - Commodity Distribution and Salvage Container - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	

(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$130,186
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	9,490
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$139,676</u></u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD - CHILDCARE FACILITY GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Child Care Fund, for providing grants to childcare facilities as provided by law of the Department of Education - Office of Early Childhood - Childcare Facility Grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) CHILDCARE FACILITY GRANTS	<u><u>\$200,000</u></u>

SECTION 9. 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 10. 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 11. 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, 2025 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, 2025 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, 2025.