

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 1874

By: Representative B. McKenzie

By: Senator B. Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING ACT OF 2003; TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING THAT IS USED BY THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES; TO REQUIRE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING THAT EXCEEDS THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT AWARDED TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO BE USED TO IMPLEMENT ACTS 2023, NO. 237, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "LEARNS ACT"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO AMEND THE USE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING THAT EXCEEDS THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT AWARDED TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS UNDER THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING ACT OF 2003.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(5), concerning professional development funding under the Public School Funding Act of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

(5)(A) For each school year, professional development funding shall be equal to an amount of up to forty-one dollars (\$41.00) multiplied by the school district's previous school year average daily membership.

(B) Funding for professional development for teachers in Arkansas public schools required under the Teacher Excellence and Support



System, § 6-17-2801 et seq., other law or rule, or by the school district shall be used for professional development activities and materials that:

(i) Improve the knowledge, skills, and effectiveness of teachers;

(ii) Address the knowledge and skills of administrators and paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional strategies, methods, and skills;

(iii) Lead to improved student academic achievement; and

(iv) Provide training for school bus drivers as outlined in rules promulgated by the Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation.

~~(C)(i) For the 2023-2024 school year and each school year thereafter, additional funding up to sixteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$16,500,000) provided for professional development~~ Funding provided above the maximum amount in subdivision (b)(5)(A) of this section shall be used by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for the development and administration of professional learning communities for the benefit of public school districts implementation of the LEARNS Act to improve student academic outcomes.

~~(ii)(a)~~ The division may distribute funds under subdivision (b)(5)(C)(i) of this section through grants to eligible entities.

~~(iii)~~ The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall may promulgate rules to administer the additional professional development funding under subdivision (b)(5)(C)(i) (b)(5)(C) of this section.

~~(b) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may partner with or choose a person, firm, corporation, or education service cooperative to provide the knowledge, skills, experience, and expertise for the development of a research-based process for the implementation of professional learning communities.~~