

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

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S4/3/25

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 359

By: Senator J. Petty

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR COMPREHENSIVE  
OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM GRANTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION - DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -  
DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM  
GRANTS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026  
FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM 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 a grant program for comprehensive out-of-school time programs for school aged children which shall provide evidence-based academic enhancement programs and activities that align with and support state curriculum standards by the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2025-2026



(01) OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM GRANTS \$3,900,000

SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM GRANTS REQUIREMENTS. (a)Of the amount appropriated to the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for Out-Of-School Time Program Grants in this act, funding shall only be made available to eligible entities for comprehensive out-of-school time programs for school aged children.

(b) Eligible programs shall be limited to applicants meeting the following criteria:

(1) Provide out-of-school time programs during the school year to school aged children;

(2) Provide regular activities designed for evidence-based academic enhancement that aligns and supports state curriculum standards and will include a minimum of two of the following five activity areas:

(A)STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math);

(B)Academic support;

(C)Goal setting / leadership;

(D)Career exposure/Workforce Readiness; and

(E)Community service.

(3) Provide activities above as a part of a comprehensive out-of-school program;

(4) Operate for a minimum of 12 hours weekly during the school year; minimum of four days per week during the calendar school year; not including school breaks such as holiday or seasonal;

(5) Collect data on participants' demographics, attendance and program participation and compile statewide aggregated data;

(6) Implement rigorous safety standards including employee background checks, compliance with mandated reporting laws; and

(7) Must be a qualified 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization that has been in operation for more than 5 years and has a record of fiscal accountability. Organizations must also provide a sustainability model with a minimum of 50% of funding derived from non-state resources.

(c)The Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate rules for the determination of eligibility and

administration of the Out-Of-School Time Program Grants.

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

SECTION 3. 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 4. 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 5. 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.

*/s/J. Petty*