

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1007

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
FUND GRANTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION -
PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE
30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND
APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL
YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
SPECIAL PROGRAMS. 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 grants and aid to local school
districts and special programs of the Department of Education - Division of
Elementary and Secondary Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,
the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(01) 98% URT ACTUAL COLLECTION ADJUSTMENT	\$34,500,000



(02)	ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE	1,275,000
(03)	ALTERNATIVE LEARNING	35,783,095
(04)	ARKANSAS EASTER SEALS	193,113
(05)	ASSESSMENT/END OF LEVEL TESTING	20,309,189
(06)	AT RISK	1,688,530
(07)	BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM	114,000,000
(08)	BONDED DEBT ASSISTANCE	28,455,384
(09)	COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE	3,500,000
(10)	CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE	5,981,400
(11)	CONTENT STANDARDS	161,000
(12)	CONTENTS STANDARDS CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS	50,000
(13)	COOP EDUCATION TECH CENTERS	1,200,000
(14)	COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH	2,000,000
(15)	DECLINING ENROLLMENT	23,963,389
(16)	DEPT OF CORRECTION	8,702,425
(17)	DISTANCE LEARNING	4,760,000
(18)	DISTANCE LEARNING OPERATIONS	7,575,000
(19)	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION	22,897,920
(20)	ECONOMIC EDUCATION	400,000
(21)	EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVES	6,129,270
(22)	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	19,075,847
(23)	ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING	246,723,439
(24)	ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING	8,000,000
(25)	ESA MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM	5,636,400
(26)	FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM	14,700,000
(27)	GIFTED & TALENTED	1,560,381
(28)	GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS	67,856
(29)	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER EDUCATION AID	526,150
(30)	INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS	302,000
(31)	ISOLATED FUNDING	7,896,000
(32)	LEADERSHIP ACADEMY-MASTER PRINCIPAL	1,400,000
(33)	MASTER PRINCIPAL BONUS	175,000
(34)	MATERNITY LEAVE	3,000,000
(35)	MERIT TEACHER INCENTIVE	10,000,000
(36)	MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY AND RAISES	190,000,000
(37)	NATIONAL BOARD OF PROF TEACHING STANDARDS	18,738,000

(38)	NON-TRADITIONAL LICENSURE	50,000
(39)	OE CHARTER FAC FUNDING AID PROGRAM	10,275,000
(40)	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING	37,175,911
(41)	PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	142,000,000
(42)	R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS	10,470,000
(43)	RESIDENTIAL CENTERS/JUVENILE DETENTION	16,345,087
(44)	SCHOOL FACILITY JOINT USE SUPPORT	500,000
(45)	SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES	7,650,000
(46)	SCHOOL FOOD-LEGISLATIVE AUDIT	75,000
(47)	SCHOOL FUNDING CONTINGENCY	25,000,000
(48)	SCHOOL RECOGNITION	7,000,000
(49)	SCHOOL WORKER DEFENSE	390,000
(50)	SERIOUS OFFENDER	1,716,859
(51)	SMART START/SMART STEP	10,666,303
(52)	SPECIAL EDUCATION - HIGH COST OCCURRENCES	17,934,000
(53)	SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	2,802,527
(54)	SPECIAL NEEDS ISOLATED FUNDING	3,000,000
(55)	STATE FOUNDATION FUNDING	2,206,861,456
(56)	STUDENT GROWTH	37,690,144
(57)	SURPLUS COMMODITIES	1,125,065
(58)	TEACHER LICENSING/MENTORING	6,065,758
(59)	TEACHER OF THE YEAR	100,000
(60)	TEACHER RETIREMENT MATCHING	14,776,754
(61)	TEACHER SALARY EQUALIZATION	60,000,000
(62)	TECHNOLOGY GRANTS	3,602,678
(63)	TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS	500,000
(64)	TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION GRANTS	5,000,000
(65)	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	450,000
(66)	YOUTH SHELTERS	<u>165,000</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$3,480,713,330</u>

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

There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Arkansas Public School Computer Network 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)	EES02P	EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL II	1	GRADE SPC04
(2)	EEP06P	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)	EEP03P	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	29,245,839
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	7,250
(C) PROF. FEES	0

(D) CAP. OUTLAY	200,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) DATA ACCESS IMPLEMENTATION	<u>300,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$33,332,807</u></u>

SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Education Renewal Zones 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)	EEP03P EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	3	GRADE SGS07
(2)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS04
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	4	

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONES. 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, operating expenses, and grants by the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Education Renewal Zones for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$145,568
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	58,129
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	25,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	3,000
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0

(04) EDUCATIONAL RENEWAL ZONE GRANTS	<u>1,101,150</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,332,847</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM.

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, operating expenses, and grants and aid for the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program by the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

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

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

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

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

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

GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS. For the purposes of distributing the Grants To School Districts appropriation in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this Act, "school district" means a school district which contracts with a school district in an adjoining state for the education of some of the pupils within the Arkansas school district because the portion of the school district wherein such pupils live is completely separated from the remainder of the school district by a reservoir covering at least 12,000 acres at normal water level, and where to attend school in their own district, the pupils of said portion would be required to travel or to be transported a distance (measured by the nearest highway or road route) of more than 35 miles round trip and pass through another school district or districts. The Department of Education shall distribute the monies appropriated for Grants to School Districts in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this Act to such school districts as reimbursement for expenses incurred in educating the pupils residing in the separated portion of the school district. The payments are to be limited to the amount of available appropriation. Such school districts shall file a request for reimbursement with the Department of Education and provide the Department of Education with such documentation as is deemed necessary.

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

SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES. The funds appropriated in the line item "Special Education Services" in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this Act shall be used to provide extended year summer programs for handicapped students in need of such services, to provide special education services to foster children who are wards of the State, and to provide funds for the payment of salaries of special education supervisors. The Department of Education shall distribute such funds in the manner necessary to carry out the intent of this Section.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~

2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER AUTHORITY. The Commissioner of the Department of Education, with the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and after approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, is hereby authorized to request necessary appropriation transfers and any other budget related adjustments necessary within the Department of Education. Provided, however, that the Department of Education shall be limited to submitting no more than two transfer requests during any fiscal year.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency 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 the Department of Education may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Commissioner of the Department of Education authorizing broad powers under the Transfer Authority provision herein. 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 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 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. AETN DOCUMENTED QUIZ BOWL COSTS. Of the total amount of appropriation and funds authorized herein to the Department of Education for the Quiz Bowl each fiscal year, an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) each fiscal year may be made available to the Department of Education -

Educational Television Division for its documented costs associated with the Quiz Bowl.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. 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 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

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

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

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

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

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

its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EAST FUNDING PROVISION. Of the total amount appropriated for Technology Grants each fiscal year, an amount of not less than three million five thousand dollars (\$3,005,000) or eighteen percent (18%), whichever is greater each fiscal year, shall be awarded through a grant or professional services contract for the EAST Initiative. Not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) of the three million five thousand dollars (\$3,005,000) or eighteen percent (18%) of the Technology Grants Line Item awarded to the EAST Initiatives shall be used for EAST infrastructure and personnel growth for the establishment of new programs. The remaining funding shall be used for existing EAST infrastructure, personnel, and operating expenses of the EAST Initiative. The EAST infrastructure grant or contract for personal services and operating expenses shall be awarded to an entity that has personnel or experience, or both, in implementing the EAST Initiative.

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

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

INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANTS FUNDING RESTRICTION. The Department of Education shall make available from the Intervention Block Grants appropriation authorized by this Act, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal year for the annual expenses of the Quiz Bowl, thirteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$13,500) each fiscal year for Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for grants up to \$1,000 each for students and chaperones, thirteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$13,500) each fiscal year for Destination Imagination, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal year for the State History Day Competition, and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) each fiscal year for a grant to the Arkansas Science Fair Association for grants to regional and the state science fairs. The Department of Education shall allocate General Revenue funding totaling no less than three hundred two thousand dollars (\$302,000) each fiscal year from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account to support the annual expenses of the Quiz Bowl, the Creativity in Arkansas, Inc. for grants up to \$1,000 each for students and chaperones, Destination Imagination, the State History

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,

~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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

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

(2) These programs shall be limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS. The appropriation for the R.I.S.E. Arkansas line item in the Grants and Aid to Local School Districts and Special Programs section of this Act shall be used for the coordination of a statewide reading campaign with community partners, parents, and teachers to establish the importance of reading in homes, schools, and communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,

~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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

(1) The report shall summarize the current total fund balance and the past five Fiscal Year ending total fund balances of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Public School Fund.

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

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

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

(2) The report shall contain the following:

(A) Monthly beginning fund balance;

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

(C) Amount of certified funding obligation remaining to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account and the Division of Elementary and

Secondary Education Fund Account for the fiscal year.

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

SECTION 26. 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 27. 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 28. 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.