

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Fiscal Session, 2026

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1055

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, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 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 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)	EEA02C	EDUCATION DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SPC09
(2)	EEP02C	EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SPC07
(3)	EES01P	EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL I	1	GRADE SPC02
(4)	FAC01P	ACCOUNTANT I	1	GRADE SPC01
(5)	EEC01C	EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM ADMIN	3	GRADE SGS10
(6)	FFS03C	FISCAL SUPPORT MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09



(7)	PQA02C QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	3	GRADE SGS09
(8)	EEC05P EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM SUPV/EXP	8	GRADE SGS08
(9)	HDH05P HR COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS07
(10)	PQA01P QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	5	GRADE SGS07
(11)	CTR02P TRAINER	1	GRADE SGS07
(12)	EEC02P EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM COORD	22	GRADE SGS06
(13)	IIV04P INVESTIGATOR III	5	GRADE SGS06
(14)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	7	GRADE SGS05
(15)	FGM02P GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS05
(16)	IIV03P INVESTIGATOR II	7	GRADE SGS05
(17)	PPR04P PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS05
(18)	PPE02P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST I	2	GRADE SGS05
(19)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	8	GRADE SGS04
(20)	EEC04P EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM SPECIALIST	83	GRADE SGS04
(21)	FFS04P FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	2	GRADE SGS04
(22)	FGM01P GRANTS ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS04
(23)	TIW01P INVENTORY COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS04
(24)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	4	GRADE SGS02
(25)	IDM02P DATABASE ANALYST	1	GRADE IST07
(26)	IUS02P USER SUPPORT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE IST05
(27)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	4	GRADE IST02
(28)	FFS02P FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS06
	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 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: 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, operating expenses, and grants of the Department of Education - Office of Early Childhood - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,482,755
(02) EXTRA HELP	20,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	668,714
(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><u>\$15,365,314</u></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, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) EARLY CHILDHOOD FEDERAL EXPENSES	<u>\$268,667,976</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, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(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, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(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, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(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>\$139,676</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, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(01) CHILDCARE FACILITY GRANTS	<u>\$200,000</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, 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.