

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

A Bill

SENATE BILL 57

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 - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND 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 - Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum	Maximum Annual
			No. of Employees	Salary Rate Fiscal Year
				2026-2027
(1)	ESA04C	SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT	1	GRADE SPC08
(2)	ESA03C	PRINCIPAL	2	GRADE SPC05
(3)	EES02P	EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL II	1	GRADE SPC04
(4)	EES01P	EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL I	6	GRADE SPC02



(5)	SCM02P LICENSED ASSOCIATE COUNSELOR	1	GRADE SPC01
(6)	SCM07P SCHOOL COUNSELOR	2	GRADE SPC01
(7)	TFS03C FOOD SERVICES MANAGER	2	GRADE SGS09
(8)	SIA23P PUBLIC SAFETY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
(9)	TMA02C MAINTENANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS07
(10)	PRC02C RESIDENTIAL SERVICES MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS07
(11)	PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	GRADE SGS07
(12)	EEP03P EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR	5	GRADE SGS07
(13)	ETF06P TEACHER II	44	GRADE SGS07
(14)	EEP05P EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
(15)	ELI01P LIBRARIAN	1	GRADE SGS06
(16)	TST04P SKILLED TRADESMAN	4	GRADE SGS06
(17)	ETF05P TEACHER I	22	GRADE SGS06
(18)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	3	GRADE SGS05
(19)	FGM02P GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS05
(20)	TIW04P INVENTORY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS05
(21)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	4	GRADE SGS04
(22)	PRC05P RESIDENTIAL CARE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	4	GRADE SGS04
(23)	THT01I CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT	1	GRADE SGS03
(24)	EEP01P EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL	29	GRADE SGS03
(25)	TIW03P INVENTORY SPECIALIST	2	GRADE SGS03
(26)	TFS05P KITCHEN SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE SGS03
(27)	TMA05P MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	9	GRADE SGS03
(28)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	9	GRADE SGS02
(29)	TGR01P LANDSCAPE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS02
(30)	TFS01P COOK	16	GRADE SGS01
(31)	THO01P HOUSEKEEPER	7	GRADE SGS01
(32)	PRC04P RESIDENTIAL CARE SPECIALIST	30	GRADE SGS01
(33)	MLM01C AUDIOLOGIST	1	GRADE MED07
(34)	MLM07C SPEECH PATHOLOGIST	6	GRADE MED07
(35)	MNU08P REG. NURSE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE MED06
(36)	MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE	2	GRADE MED05
(37)	MNU01P LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE	4	GRADE MED02
(38)	IUS01P USER SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE IST04
(39)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	2	GRADE IST02
(40)	FAC11C DIVISION FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SPC07

(41) CPR04I INTERPRETER	1	GRADE SGS07
(42) SSE01P SECURITY GUARD	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS03
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	235	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind 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: seventy-two (72) 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 - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$11,043,181
(02) EXTRA HELP	120,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	4,322,375
(04) OVERTIME	35,000
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	3,172,510
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	36,329
(C) PROF. FEES	111,308
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	100,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(06) SPECIAL MAINTENANCE	2,719,627
(07) VOCATIONAL WORKSTUDY	20,000
(08) MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES	20,000
(09) SUMMER PROJECTS	<u>25,000</u>

TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED \$21,725,330

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL OPERATIONS. 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 and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind - Federal Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$127,405
(02) EXTRA HELP	69,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	55,446
(04) OVERTIME	8,393
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,360,020
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	120,000
(C) PROF. FEES	409,171
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	175,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$2,324,435</u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - CASH OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code §19-4-801, for operating expenses of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind - Cash Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$439,644
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	48,000
(C) PROF. FEES	126,864
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	145,000

(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) SPECIAL MAINTENANCE	<u>175,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$934,508</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - BRAILLE AND LARGE PRINT TEXTBOOKS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind Fund Account, for purchasing, copying, and shipping braille and large print textbooks for the blind and visually impaired students attending public schools in Arkansas by the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind - Braille and Large Print Textbooks for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) BRAILLE AND LARGE PRINT TEXTBOOKS	<u><u>\$223,024</u></u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - STUDENT NEEDS AND CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS. 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 student needs and campus enhancements of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind - Student Needs and Campus Enhancements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) STUDENT NEEDS AND CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS	<u><u>\$250,000</u></u>

SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND - TRANSFER PROVISION. Upon approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind shall transfer appropriation from the Summer Projects line item, in the State Operations Appropriation of this Act, to the Regular Salaries, Extra Help, Personal Services Matching, Overtime and Maintenance & General Operations line items in the State Operations Appropriation of this Act, to compensate

staff who work during the summer months on summer projects, and to cover other expenses of summer project activities. The Summer Projects line item may also be used for the annual cost related to the compensation of eligible staff for shift differential pay as well as compensation of employees for performance of duties assigned as referenced in the Special Allowance Special Language Section of this Act. Such additional compensation shall not be construed as exceeding the maximum salary authorized for said employees.

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. ADE - ASDB - SUMMER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES. Exempt employees who require job responsibilities less than 2080 hours may work during summer months with approval from school Superintendent. Said employees shall be authorized as additional compensation an amount not to exceed 1/12 of their annual salary for each month or part thereof worked. Such additional compensation shall not be construed as exceeding the maximum salary authorized for said employees.

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. CARRY FORWARD OF FUNDS - ASDB.

(a) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall cause to be transferred on his or her books and those of the State Treasurer and Auditor of State the balance of General Revenue funds remaining in the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind Fund Account on June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026 into a sub-fund created within the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind Fund Account to be used for special maintenance, renovations, or future construction projects of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind.

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

(1) The Office of Budget of the Department of Finance and Administration shall report to the Legislative Council all amounts carried

forward by the September meeting of the Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the agency, board, commission, or institution and the amount of funding carried forward, the program name or line item and the funding source; and

(2) The Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind shall provide a written report to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in subdivision (b)(1) of this section no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time the Department presents its budget request to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, or both; and

(3) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in subdivision (b)(2) of this section in the budget manuals.

(c) 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. ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND - TRANSFER PROVISION. Upon approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind shall transfer appropriation from the Miscellaneous Activities line item in the State Operations Appropriation of this Act, to the Regular Salaries, Extra Help, Personal Service Matching, Overtime, and Maintenance and General Operations line items also in the State Operations Appropriation, to compensate staff who work during the summer months on summer projects and to cover other expenses of summer project activities. The Miscellaneous Activities line item may also be used for the annual cost related to the payment of contracted interpreter services, compensation of eligible staff for shift differential pay, and compensation of employees for performance of duties assigned as referenced in the Special Allowance Special Language of this Act. Such additional compensation shall not be construed as exceeding the maximum salary authorized for said employees.

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

SECTION 12. 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 13. 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 14. 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.