

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING
THE STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION OF A
RKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

The proposed changes amend the Standards for Accreditation and seek to streamline the process and make it easier to understand the requirements a school/district must follow in order to be accredited. The changes include corrections/deletions based in legislation, removes inconsistencies in reporting dates and requirements, and removes obsolete requirements to ensure schools/districts are being held to measureable standards.

The current Standards for Accreditation includes many outdated requirements, does not include current legal requirements, and has several requirements which are inconsistent with each other, with state law, or are unable to be measured for compliance by the districts.

The proposed Standards for Accreditation clarifies the process for determination of cited and probationary status, and streamlines the accreditation process including the timeframe for citations and probations and the enforcement and appeal rights. The proposed rules also outline the bi-annual process for the review and approval of the standards. This bi-annual review will ensure the Standards for Accreditation stay current with applicable law and rules.

Additionally, the Standards are realigned to match the systems prescribed by Act 930 of 2017, and are written such that each standard can be clearly measured by the school/districts and the Department. These measurable Standards allow for better monitoring by the Department in order to provide assistance to the districts. The Standards also incorporate other rules promulgated by the Department ensuring the schools and districts are held to consistent measures and requirements, in addition to, reducing the need for waivers from the Standards for Accreditation.