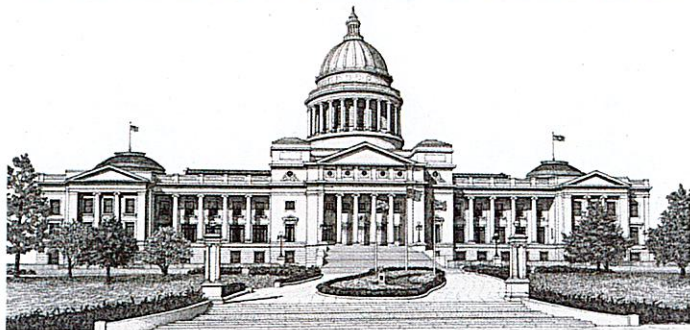


ARKANSAS REGISTER

Transmittal Sheet

Use only for FINAL and EMERGENCY RULES



Secretary of State

Mark Martin

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094

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For Office

Use Only:

Effective Date _____ Code Number _____

Name of Agency Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Department Department of Education

Contact Andres Rhodes E-mail andres.rhodes@ade.arkansas.gov Phone 501-682-4234

Statutory Authority for Promulgating Rules Ark. Code Ann. 6-11-105, 25-15-201 et seq.

Rule Title: Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing the Educator Compensation Reform Program

Intended Effective Date
(Check One)

Date

☐ Emergency (ACA 25-15-204)

Legal Notice Published

05/10/2024

☒ 10 Days After Filing (ACA 25-15-204)

Final Date for Public Comment

06/10/2024

☐ Other _____
(Must be more than 10 days after filing date.)

Reviewed by Legislatice Council

07/30/2024

Adopted by State Agency

06/13/2024

Electronic Copy of Rule e-mailed from: (Required under ACA 25-15-218)

Stephen Reynolds

stephen.reynolds@ade.arkansas.gov

July 31, 2024

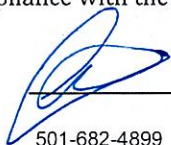
Contact Person

E-mail Address

Date

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER

I Hereby Certify That The Attached Rules Were Adopted
In Compliance with the Arkansas Administrative Act. (ACA 25-15-201 et. seq.)



Signature

501-682-4899

stephen.reynolds@ade.arkansas.gov

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Associate Legal Counsel

Title

07/30/2024

Date

**Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Rules Governing the Educator Compensation Reform Program
Effective January 1, 2020**

~~1.00—PURPOSE~~

- ~~1.01—These rules shall be known as the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (“Division”) Rules Governing the Educator Compensation Reform Program.~~
- ~~1.02—The purpose of these rules is to provide the process and procedures necessary to calculate and allocate Educator Compensation Reform Program funds to eligible school districts.~~

~~2.00—AUTHORITY~~

- ~~2.01—The Arkansas State Board of Education promulgated these rules pursuant to the authority granted to it by Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 25-15-201 et seq., and Acts 170 and 877 of 2019.~~

~~3.00—DEFINITIONS~~

~~As used in these rules:~~

- ~~3.01—“Educator Compensation Reform Program fund” means a fund established within the Public School Fund, for the Division, made available to school districts to assist with the cost of increasing teacher salaries as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-2403.~~
- ~~3.02—“Foundation Funding” means the same as the definition set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-2303(7) and is the amount set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-2305(a)(2).~~
- ~~3.03—“Teacher” means an individual who is required to hold a teaching license from the Division and who is engaged directly in instruction with students in a classroom setting for more than seventy percent (70%) of the individual’s contracted time, a guidance counselor, or a librarian.~~
- ~~3.03.1 “Teacher” also includes a nonlicensed classroom teacher employed in a position under a waiver from licensure.~~

~~4.00—IMPLEMENTATION~~

- ~~4.01—The Educator Compensation Reform Program (“Program”) was established to provide additional funding to school districts currently below the minimum teacher salary schedule set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-2403, and assist school districts in ensuring that all educators in public school districts receive~~

~~a minimum annual salary of \$36,000 over a four year period.~~

- ~~4.02 School districts that adhered to a teacher compensation schedule at or above \$36,000 for a teacher with a bachelor's degree and zero (0) years of experience in the 2018-2019 school year shall not be eligible for funds under the Program.~~
- ~~4.03 School districts that implement a teacher compensation schedule at or above \$36,000 for a teacher with a bachelor's degree and zero (0) years of experience prior to the 2022-2023 school year shall not be eligible to receive funding under the Program the year after the \$36,000 minimum salary schedule becomes effective and thereafter.~~
- ~~4.04 Any public school district or open enrollment public charter school that has or receives a waiver of the teacher minimum salary schedule during implementation of the Program shall not be eligible to receive Program funds and shall be responsible for repayment of any Program funds received prior to receiving the waiver.~~
- ~~4.05 School districts requesting Program funds shall provide information documenting eligibility for Program funds to the Division, including without limitation, the school district's plan for implementation of required salary increases and any anticipated or projected adjustments to staff, by completing and submitting the editable application form available on the Division's website at: <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/fiscal-and-administrative-services/educator-compensation-reform-program>.~~

~~5.00 CALCULATION~~

- ~~5.01 The number of all licensed full-time equivalents (FTEs) not paid with federal funds in each school district will be used to calculate the amount of Program funds a school district is eligible to receive.~~
- ~~5.02 The amount of Program funds a school district is eligible to receive each year shall be calculated as follows:~~
 - ~~5.02.1 Subtract each school district's minimum teacher salary for the prior school year for a teacher with a bachelor's degree and zero (0) years of experience from the minimum salary indicated by the school district for the current year, up to \$36,000.~~
 - ~~5.02.2 Multiply the amount in 5.02.1 by the school district's 2017-2018 FTE count for licensed personnel not paid with federal funds.~~
 - ~~5.02.3 Multiply the result from 5.02.2 by the current rate of Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax and teacher retirement employer matching rate.~~
 - ~~5.02.4 Add the result of 5.02.3 to the result of 5.02.2 to determine the total~~

~~amount necessary for the district to increase salaries and fringe.~~

~~6.0 DISBURSEMENT~~

~~6.01 School districts that qualify for Program funds will be notified of the amount the school district is eligible to receive.~~

~~6.02 The superintendent of a school district that receives Program funds shall certify acceptance of the funds, adherence to these rules, and expenditure of the funds for the specified purpose.~~

~~6.03 The Division shall disburse each school district's allocation of Program funds on or before February 15 each year of implementation, in accordance with the approved application form.~~

~~6.03.1 A school district may request that an adjustment be made to its disbursement of Program funds during implementation of the Program by submitting a new application form to the Division.~~

~~6.03.2 A request to change the disbursement of Program funds must be approved by the Commissioner of Education.~~

~~6.04 If funds are not sufficient to fully fund the Program, the Division shall distribute the available funding to eligible school districts on a pro rata basis.~~

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY.

DEPARTMENT _____
BOARD/COMMISSION _____
PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT _____
TELEPHONE NO. _____ **EMAIL** _____

To comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e), please complete the Financial Impact Statement and email it with the questionnaire, summary, markup and clean copy of the rule, and other documents. Please attach additional pages, if necessary.

TITLE OF THIS RULE _____

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule have a financial impact?
Yes No

2. Is the rule based on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, or other evidence and information available concerning the need for, consequences of, and alternatives to the rule?
Yes No

3. In consideration of the alternatives to this rule, was this rule determined by the agency to be the least costly rule considered? Yes No

If no, please explain:

(a) how the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional cost;

(b) the reason for adoption of the more costly rule;

(c) whether the reason for adoption of the more costly rule is based on the interests of public health, safety, or welfare, and if so, how; and

(d) whether the reason for adoption of the more costly rule is within the scope of the agency's statutory authority, and if so, how.

4. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a *federal* rule or regulation, please state the following:
(a) What is the cost to implement the federal rule or regulation?

Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
 Federal Funds _____
 Cash Funds _____
 Special Revenue _____
 Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
 Federal Funds _____
 Cash Funds _____
 Special Revenue _____
 Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

(b) What is the additional cost of the state rule?

Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
 Federal Funds _____
 Cash Funds _____
 Special Revenue _____
 Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
 Federal Funds _____
 Cash Funds _____
 Special Revenue _____
 Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any private individual, private entity, or private business subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule? Please identify those subject to the rule, and explain how they are affected.

Current Fiscal Year

\$ _____

Next Fiscal Year

\$ _____

6. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to a state, county, or municipal government to implement this rule? Is this the cost of the program or grant? Please explain how the government is affected.

Current Fiscal Year

\$ _____

Next Fiscal Year

\$ _____

7. With respect to the agency's answers to Questions #5 and #6 above, is there a new or increased cost or obligation of at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year to a private individual, private entity, private business, state government, county government, municipal government, or to two (2) or more of those entities combined?

Yes No

If yes, the agency is required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e)(4) to file written findings at the time of filing the financial impact statement. The written findings shall be filed simultaneously with the financial impact statement and shall include, without limitation, the following:

- (1) a statement of the rule's basis and purpose;
- (2) the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule, including a statement of whether a rule is required by statute;
- (3) a description of the factual evidence that:
 - (a) justifies the agency's need for the proposed rule; and
 - (b) describes how the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule's costs;
- (4) a list of less costly alternatives to the proposed rule and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (5) a list of alternatives to the proposed rule that were suggested as a result of public comment and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (6) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule and, if existing rules have created or contributed to the problem, an explanation of why amendment or repeal of the rule creating or contributing to the problem is not a sufficient response; and
- (7) an agency plan for review of the rule no less than every ten (10) years to determine whether, based upon the evidence, there remains a need for the rule including, without limitation, whether:
 - (a) the rule is achieving the statutory objectives;
 - (b) the benefits of the rule continue to justify its costs; and
 - (c) the rule can be amended or repealed to reduce costs while continuing to achieve the statutory objectives.