

# ARKANSAS REGISTER

## Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State  
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Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094  
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Name of Department \_\_\_\_\_

Agency or Division Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Rule \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publishing \_\_\_\_\_

Final Date for Public Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Location and Time of Public Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

**DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING THE  
STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM  
Effective Date:**

**1.00 Program Definitions**

- 1.01 “Alternative Educator Preparation Program” means ~~N~~non-traditional licensure program resulting in a valid Arkansas teaching license.
- 1.02 “Approved institution” means a state-supported institution of higher education, a nursing school, or a private nonprofit institution of higher education that:
- 1.02.1 Maintains its primary headquarters in the state;
- 1.02.2 Is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid program funds; and
- 1.02.3 Is approved by the Division of Higher Education as eligible to participate in the State Teacher Education Program;
- 1.03 “Arkansas Resident” means ~~to be considered an Arkansas resident ADHE,~~ an applicant ~~must be~~ that has been an Arkansas resident for twelve (12) months prior to the application deadline for the financial aid program.
- 1.03.1 Further, the recipient may be asked to provide evidence of a permanent connection with the State of Arkansas, ~~ADHE~~ in which the division will look to one or more of the following to determine residency ~~in those cases:~~
- 1.03.1.1 ~~(A)~~ Valid Arkansas Driver’s License;
- 1.03.1.2 ~~(B)~~ Proof of payment for Arkansas personal ~~and~~ or real taxes for previous year;
- 1.03.1.3 ~~(C)~~ Proof of Arkansas vehicle registration;
- 1.03.1.4 ~~(D)~~ Proof of Arkansas voter registration; and
- 1.03.1.5 ~~(E)~~ Other forms of proof of Arkansas residency.
- 1.04 “Award Year” means ~~T~~the award-year that begins on July 1 of one calendar year, and extends to June 30 of the next calendar year.
- 1.05 “Eligible student” means a student who:
- 1.05.1 Meets the criteria set out in this subchapter; and

1.05.2 Is found to be eligible by rules promulgated by the Division of Higher Education.

1.06 “Geographical Areas of the State Designated as Having Critical Shortages of Teachers” means Any Arkansas school district designated by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education division as having critical teacher shortages.

1.07 “Lawful Permanent Resident” means An individual who can provide documentation from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that he or she is in the U.S. United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident.

1.07.1 Valid documentation is an I-551, I-151, I-181, I-94, or passport stamped with the notation "Processed for I-551, Temporary Evidence of Lawful Admission for Permanent Residence".

1.07.2 A completed Form G-641 can also be used to document permanent resident status.

1.08 “Subject Matter Designated as Critical Needs in the State of Arkansas” means subject matter shortage areas Annually the Arkansas Department of Education certifies annually by the division subject matter shortage areas based upon the results of surveys obtained from school districts in the state of Arkansas.

1.09 “Teach on a Full-time Basis” means to Teach the same number of hours required of teachers who have full-time contracts, as determined by the institution or agency in which an individual is teaching, for a minimum of one academic term, as defined by the institution or agency in which an individual is teaching.

1.10 “Teacher Education Program” means a program administered by the Division of Higher Education that provides loan repayments to a licensed teacher who teaches in a subject area or a geographic area with teacher shortage as determined by the Division of Higher Education in consultation with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. A program of study that has been completed at a college or university and results in the receipt of an initial Arkansas teaching license or an additional licensure area to an existing Arkansas teaching license.

1.11 “U.S. United States Citizen” means The term "U.S. citizen" includes persons born or who have become naturalized citizens of:

1.11.1 †The 50 States;

1.11.2 the District of Columbia;

1.11.3 Puerto Rico;

1.11.4 ~~the~~ Virgin Islands;

1.11.5 Guam;

1.11.6 ~~the~~ Northern Mariana Islands; and

1.11.7 Trust Territory- Palau.

1.12 ~~The term "a~~ National" means ~~includes~~ citizens of:

1.12.1 American Samoa; or

1.12.2 Swain's Island.

## **2.00 ~~Rule 1~~– Organization and Structure**

2.01 ~~F.~~ The Arkansas Department Division of Higher Education (~~ADHE~~) shall administer the State Teacher Education Program (~~STEP~~), hereafter known as ~~STEP~~, within the policies set by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

2.01.1 All formal communications shall be addressed to or signed by the ~~Director~~ commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education division or his/ or her designee.

2.02 ~~H.~~ When functioning under Act 1215 of 2009, and any subsequent legislation, ~~ADHE~~ the division shall follow the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

## **3.00 ~~Rule 2~~– Eligibility Criteria**

3.01 ~~F.~~ Eligibility Criteria

3.01.1 ~~A.~~ Applicants must be bona fide Arkansas residents, as defined by the Arkansas Department Division of Higher Education, for at least twelve (12) months prior to the application deadline.

3.01.2 ~~B.~~ Applicants must be a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident.

3.01.3 ~~C.~~ Applicant must have graduated from a teacher education program after April 2004; or

3.01.3.1 ~~a.~~ Earned a teaching license upon completion of an alternative educator preparation program.

3.01.4 ~~D~~. Applicant must have outstanding federal student loans.

3.01.5 ~~E~~. Applicant must hold a valid Arkansas teacher's license.

3.01.6 ~~F~~. Applicants must teach full-time at a public school district in Arkansas during the award year and meet one of the additional criteria:

3.01.6.1 ~~a~~. Teach in a subject area with a teacher shortage, as identified by the ~~Arkansas Department of Higher Education~~ division in consultation with the ~~Arkansas Department~~ Division of Elementary and Secondary ~~of Education~~; or

3.01.6.2 ~~b~~. Teach in a geographic area with a teacher shortage, as identified by the ~~Arkansas Department of Higher Education~~ division in consultation with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education ~~Arkansas Department of Education~~;

3.02 II. Continued Eligibility

3.02.1 Recipients shall re-apply for the State Teacher Education Program ~~STEP program~~ annually and continue to meet the eligibility criteria set forth above.

3.02.1.1 A recipient may receive an annual award for a maximum of three (3) years.

**4.00 Rule 3– Selection Process**

4.01 I. Applications.

4.01.1 ~~A~~. Solicitation of Applicants

4.01.1.1 ~~I~~. Program information will be mailed to the following:

4.01.1.1.1 ~~a~~. K-12 school administrators and other interested personnel;<sub>;</sub>

4.01.1.1.2 ~~b~~. Colleges<sub>;</sub> Schools<sub>;</sub> and Departments of Education<sub>;</sub>

4.01.1.1.3 ~~c~~. Financial Aid Directors<sub>;</sub> and Officers<sub>;</sub>

4.01.1.1.4 ~~d~~. Other college campus personnel, such as advisors, ~~etc.~~ who express an interest in disseminating information to prospective applicants;<sub>;</sub>

4.01.1.1.5 ~~e~~- Information is also available upon request from the ~~Arkansas Department~~ Division of Higher Education.

4.01.1.2 ~~2~~. The ~~Arkansas Department of Higher Education~~ division staff will disseminate program information through workshops, meetings, press releases, the ~~Departmental~~ division newsletter, and other means deemed appropriate.

4.01.2 ~~B~~- An online application will be available at the ~~ADHE~~ division's website.

4.01.2.1 The application deadline shall be stated on the application form each year.

4.01.2.2 The ~~ADHE~~ division shall have the authority to extend the deadline as needed to ensure a quality applicant pool so long as sufficient public notice is provided.

4.01.3 ~~C~~- Upon receipt by the division ~~ADHE~~, applications are reviewed to ensure that all pertinent data is included.

4.01.3.1 Each applicant will receive confirmation of the receipt and completeness of the application.

4.01.3.2 For those whose application is either incomplete or ineligible, a notification will be made identifying the reason for incompleteness or ineligibility.

4.01.3.3 The applicant will then have the opportunity to provide the missing information or correct any inaccurate information.

4.01.3.4 Before an applicant can be considered for an award, the corrected/ or missing information must be received by the division ~~ADHE~~ by the deadline indicated in the ~~Incomplete/ or Ineligible~~ Notice.

4.02 ~~H~~- Selection and Notification of Recipients

4.02.1 ~~A~~- The ~~ADHE~~ division shall review applicants and select recipients based on the eligibility criteria for the State Teacher Education Program (~~STEP~~).

4.02.2 ~~B~~- Selected recipients will receive award notices stating their eligibility for the program and the conditions of their award.

4.03 ~~III~~- Ranking of Applicants

4.03.1 Priority for the State Teacher Education Program ~~STEP~~ Repayment grants is as follows:

4.03.1.1 ~~1.~~ First priority is Arkansas teachers teaching in both subject and geographic shortage areas.

4.03.1.2 ~~2.~~ Second priority is Arkansas teachers teaching in subject shortage areas.

4.03.1.3 ~~3.~~ Third priority is Arkansas teachers teaching in geographic shortage areas.

4.03.1.4 ~~4.~~ Fourth priority is Arkansas public school teachers who have completed an alternative educator preparation program.

4.04 ~~III.~~ Disbursement of Award

4.04.1 The award will be disbursed in one (1) disbursement to the federal student loan holder indicated by the applicant.

4.04.1.1 If the award amount is larger than the outstanding loan balance, the award amount will be reduced to the amount of the loan balance.

## **5.00 ~~Rule 4-~~ Limitations of Loan Repayment**

5.01 ~~I.~~ The State Teacher Education Program (~~STEP~~) shall be used to provide:

5.01.1 ~~A.~~ A loan repayment for federal student loans in the amount of ~~three~~ six thousand dollars (~~\$3,000~~ 6,000) per year, for a maximum of three (3) years for each year a licensed teacher who graduated from a teacher education program after April 2004 and teaches in a public school in this state or successfully completed an alternative educator preparation program after April 2004 and teaches in a public school in the program:

5.01.1.1 In a subject matter area designated by the Division of Higher Education, in consultation with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, as having a critical shortage of teachers; and

5.01.1.2 Located in a geographical area of the state designated by the Division of Higher Education, in consultation with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, as having a critical shortage of teachers ~~OR in a subject matter area designated as having a critical shortage of teachers.~~

5.01.2 A licensed teacher who is given intensive support status under the Teacher Excellence and Support System, § 6-17-2801 et seq., shall be ineligible for receipt of funds under the program for the school year.

~~Total term of federal student loan repayment shall not exceed three years.~~

~~B. An additional loan repayment for federal student loans in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per year for each year a licensed minority teacher, who graduated from a teacher education program after April 2004, teaches in a public school located in a geographical area of the state designated as having a critical shortage of teachers and/or in a subject matter area designated as having a critical shortage of teachers in Arkansas.~~

~~The total term of federal student loan repayment shall not exceed three years.~~

~~For guidance purposes, the terms African American, Hispanic, Asian American, and Native American are based on the Race/Ethnic classifications utilized by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) as follows:~~

~~i. African American = Black/Non-Hispanic: a person having origins in any other black racial groups of Africa.~~

~~ii. Hispanic: a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.~~

~~iii. Asian American = Asian or Pacific Islander: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast.~~

## **6.00 Rule 5-- Recipient Responsibility**

### 6.01 ~~I~~ Recipient's Responsibility

6.01.1 It is the recipient's responsibility to notify the ~~Arkansas Department~~ Division of Higher Education of any change in status within twenty-one (21) days.

6.01.2 This will include:

6.01.2.1 Change in name;



6.01.2.2 Change in residence;

6.01.3 Failure to notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education division of a change in status will affect future eligibility or collection status.

### **Rule 6 – Program Definitions**

The following definitions are used in the State Teacher Education Program:

~~Alternate Educator Preparation Program~~

~~Non-traditional licensure program resulting in a valid Arkansas teaching license.~~

~~Arkansas Resident~~

~~To be considered an Arkansas resident by ADHE, an applicant must be an Arkansas resident for twelve (12) months prior to the application deadline for the financial aid program. Further, the recipient may be asked to provide evidence of a permanent connection with the State of Arkansas. ADHE will look to one or more of the following to determine residency in those cases:~~

- ~~(A) Valid Arkansas Driver's License;~~
- ~~(B) Proof of payment for Arkansas personal and/or real taxes for previous year;~~
- ~~(C) Proof of Arkansas vehicle registration;~~
- ~~(D) Proof of Arkansas voter registration; and~~
- ~~(E) Other forms of proof of Arkansas residency.~~

~~Award Year~~

~~The award year begins on July 1 of one calendar year, and extends to June 30 of the next calendar year.~~

~~Geographical Areas of the State Designated as Having Critical Shortages of Teachers~~

~~Any Arkansas school district designated by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education as having critical teacher shortages.~~

~~Lawful Permanent Resident~~

~~An individual who can provide documentation from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that he or she is in the U.S. for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident. Valid documentation is an I-551, I-151, I-181, I-94, or passport stamped with the notation "Processed for I-551, Temporary Evidence of Lawful Admission for Permanent Residence". A completed Form G-641 can also be used to document permanent resident status.~~

~~Subject Matter Designated as Critical Needs in the State of Arkansas~~

~~Annually the Department of Education certifies subject matter shortage Arkansas areas based upon the results of surveys obtained from school districts in the state of Arkansas.~~

~~Teach on a Full-time Basis~~

~~Teach the same number of hours required of teachers who have full-time contracts, as determined by the institution or agency in which an individual is teaching, for a minimum of one academic term, as defined by the institution or agency in which an individual is teaching.~~

~~Teacher Education Program~~

~~A program of study that has been completed at a college or university and results in the receipt of an initial Arkansas teaching license or an additional licensure area to an existing Arkansas teaching license.~~

~~U.S. Citizen~~

~~The term "U.S. citizen" includes persons born or who have become naturalized citizens of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Trust Territory Palau. The term "national" includes citizens of American Samoa or Swain's Island.~~

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FILING PROPOSED RULES WITH  
THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
 BOARD/COMMISSION \_\_\_\_\_  
 BOARD/COMMISSION DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME OF PRESENTER(S) AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRESENTER EMAIL(S) \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to file a proposed rule for legislative review and approval, please submit this Legislative Questionnaire and Financial Impact Statement, and attach (1) a summary of the rule, describing what the rule does, the rule changes being proposed, and the reason for those changes; (2) both a markup and clean copy of the rule; and (3) all documents required by the Questionnaire.

If the rule is being filed for permanent promulgation, please email these items to the attention of Rebecca Miller-Rice, [miller-ricer@blr.arkansas.gov](mailto:miller-ricer@blr.arkansas.gov), for submission to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee.

If the rule is being filed for emergency promulgation, please email these items to the attention of Director Marty Garrity, [garritym@blr.arkansas.gov](mailto:garritym@blr.arkansas.gov), for submission to the Executive Subcommittee.

Please answer each question completely using layman terms.

\*\*\*\*\*

1. What is the official title of this rule?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the subject of the proposed rule? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is this rule being filed under the emergency provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Yes      No

*If yes, please attach the statement required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(c)(1).*

If yes, will this emergency rule be promulgated under the permanent provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Yes      No

4. Is this rule being filed for permanent promulgation? Yes No

If yes, was this rule previously reviewed and approved under the emergency provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Yes No

If yes, what was the effective date of the emergency rule? \_\_\_\_\_

On what date does the emergency rule expire? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is this rule required to comply with a *federal* statute, rule, or regulation? Yes No

If yes, please provide the federal statute, rule, and/or regulation citation.

6. Is this rule required to comply with a *state* statute or rule? Yes No

If yes, please provide the state statute and/or rule citation.

[Ark. Code Ann. § 6-81-1601](#)

7. Are two (2) rules being repealed in accord with Executive Order 23-02? Yes No

If yes, please list the rules being repealed.

If no, please explain.

8. Is this a new rule? Yes No

Does this repeal an existing rule? Yes No

If yes, the proposed repeal should be designated by strikethrough. If it is being replaced with a new rule, please attach both the proposed rule to be repealed and the replacement rule.

Is this an amendment to an existing rule? Yes No

If yes, all changes should be indicated by strikethrough and underline. In addition, please be sure to label the markup copy clearly as the markup.

9. What is the state law that grants the agency its rulemaking authority for the proposed rule, outside of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Please provide the specific Arkansas Code citation(s), including subsection(s).

10. Is the proposed rule the result of any recent legislation by the Arkansas General Assembly?  
Yes      No

If yes, please provide the year of the act(s) and act number(s).

11. What is the reason for this proposed rule? Why is it necessary?

12. Please provide the web address by which the proposed rule can be accessed by the public as provided in Ark. Code Ann. § 25-19-108(b)(1).

13. Will a public hearing be held on this proposed rule? Yes No

If yes, please complete the following:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please be sure to advise Bureau Staff if this information changes for any reason.*

14. On what date does the public comment period expire for the permanent promulgation of the rule? Please provide the specific date. \_\_\_\_\_

15. What is the proposed effective date for this rule? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Please attach (1) a copy of the notice required under Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(a)(1) and (2) proof of the publication of that notice.

17. Please attach proof of filing the rule with the Secretary of State, as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e)(1)(A).

18. Please give the names of persons, groups, or organizations that you anticipate will comment on these rules. Please also provide their position (for or against), if known.

19. Is the rule expected to be controversial? Yes No

If yes, please explain.

**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.



## Division of Higher Education

101 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 300 • Little Rock, Arkansas • 72201-3827 • (501) 371-2000 • Fax (501) 371-2001

Jacob Oliva  
Secretary

Ken Warden, Ed.  
Commissioner

June 24, 2024

**Dr. Jim Carr**  
Secretary

### **PROPOSED RULES GOVERNING THE STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Higher Education  
Coordinating  
Board**

#### **PURPOSE**

The Division of Higher Education is seeking the Governor's review of proposed Rules Governing the State Teacher Education Program.

**Mrs. Graycen  
Bigger**  
*Academic/Finance  
Committees  
Chair*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to Act 237 of 2023, the Division is charged with updating the existing rules governing the State Teacher Education Program to allow an increase in the federal loan repayment from \$3000 to \$6000 per year, for max of three years, for which the Department believes rulemaking is required.

**Dr. Jerry Cash**  
*Academic  
Committee*

#### **KEY POINTS**

- Increases the federal loan repayment from \$3000 to \$6000 per year, for a maximum of three years for each year.
- Stipulates that licensed teachers given intensive support status under the Teacher Excellence Support System shall be ineligible for receipt of funds under the Program.

**Dr. Katherine  
Dudley**  
*Academic  
Committee*

#### **DISCUSSION**

Act 237 of 2023 amended the Rules Governing the State Teacher Education Program, which is codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 6-81-1601 et al. As part of the amendment, the Act increases the federal loan repayment from \$3000 to \$6000 per year, for a maximum of three years, for each year that a teacher who graduated from a teacher education program after 2004 and teaches in a public school this state.

**Mr. Chad Hooten**  
*Finance Committee*

**Mrs. Heather  
Maxey**  
*Finance Committee*

Alternatively, teachers who completed an alternative educator preparation program after 2004 and teach in a public school with a critical shortage of teacher, located in a geographical area of the state designated as having a critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the Division of Higher Education in consultation with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education also qualify for the increase in loan repayment from \$3000 to \$6000.

**Dr. Kyle Miller**  
*Finance Committee*

Act 237 also stipulates that licensed teachers given intensive support status under the Teacher Excellence Support System shall be ineligible for receipt of funds under the State Teacher Education Program.

**Mr. Lucas Pointer**  
*Finance Committee*

**Mrs. Carolyn  
Rhinehart**  
*Academic  
Committee*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Division of Higher Education recommends Governor's Office approval of this rule.

Notice of Rulemaking  
Public Comment Period: July 28-August 28

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 25-15-201 et seq., notice is hereby given that the Division of Higher Education is considering new administrative rules. Public comment hearings will be held for the following rules:

- DHE Rule Governing Military Dependents Scholarship;
- DHE Rule Governing Sustainable Buildings Loan Fund;
- DHE Rule Governing Financial Aid Appeals Committee;
- DHE Rule Governing State Teacher Education Program;
- DHE Rule Governing Teacher Opportunity Program;
- DHE Rule Governing Washington Center Scholarship;
- DHE Rule Governing Law Enforcement Dependents Scholarship.

All hearings will be held August 21, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Arkansas Department of Education, Arch Ford Building, Four Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR, 72201. The public comment period for these rules ends on August 28, 2024. Written comments regarding these proposed rules may be mailed to ADE Legal Services, Four Capitol Mall, Room 302A, Little Rock, AR, 72201.

Comments may be emailed to [ADE.RulesComments@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:ADE.RulesComments@ade.arkansas.gov). A copy of the proposed rules can be found on the Division of Higher Education's website at: <https://adhe.edu/data-publications/pending-policies>. Copies also may be obtained by contacting ADE's Office of Legal Services at the above address, via phone at (501) 683-1390, or via email at [legal@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:legal@ade.arkansas.gov).

**From:** [Legal Ads](#)  
**To:** [Alisha N. Price \(ADE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Department of Education Rules for Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, July 26, 2024 2:39:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**Caution:** This is an external email and may contain a suspicious subject or content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact [ADE IT Services](#).

Done, but just barely (deadline was 12 noon today).

You will receive separate bills: one for Sun 7/28, the other for Mon 7/29 & Tues 7/30.

Thank you.

Gregg Sterne, Legal Advertising  
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette  
[legalads@arkansasonline.com](mailto:legalads@arkansasonline.com)

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**From:** "Alisha N. Price, ADE" <[Alisha.Price@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:Alisha.Price@ade.arkansas.gov)>  
**To:** "Legal Ads" <[legalads@arkansasonline.com](mailto:legalads@arkansasonline.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 26, 2024 2:21:47 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Department of Education Rules for Public Comment

Good afternoon,

Can we please have this run Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>, Monday 29<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> rather than just Sunday?

Thanks!



**Alisha Price**  
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Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
Office: (501) 682-7590  
Email: [alisha.price@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:alisha.price@ade.arkansas.gov)

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**From:** Legal Ads <[legalads@arkansasonline.com](mailto:legalads@arkansasonline.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 4:40 PM  
**To:** Alisha N. Price (ADE) <[Alisha.Price@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:Alisha.Price@ade.arkansas.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Department of Education Rules for Public Comment

**Caution:** This is an external email and may contain a suspicious subject or content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact [ADE IT Services](#).

Will run Sun 7/28.

Thank you.

Gregg Sterne, Legal Advertising  
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette  
[legalads@arkansasonline.com](mailto:legalads@arkansasonline.com)

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**From:** "Alisha N. Price (ADE)" <[Alisha.Price@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:Alisha.Price@ade.arkansas.gov)>  
**To:** "legalads" <[legalads@arkansasonline.com](mailto:legalads@arkansasonline.com)>  
**Cc:** "Andres Rhodes (ADE)" <[Andres.Rhodes@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:Andres.Rhodes@ade.arkansas.gov)>, "LaBria Brown, ADE" <[LaBria.Brown@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:LaBria.Brown@ade.arkansas.gov)>, "Daniel Shults, ADE" <[Daniel.Shults@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:Daniel.Shults@ade.arkansas.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 11:52:11 AM  
**Subject:** Department of Education Rules for Public Comment

Good morning,

Please see the attached regarding ADE's rules going for public comment. Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else from us.

Thanks, and have a great day!



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