

**EDUCATING ARKANSAS**

**2021**





# FUNDING



## ACT 614

RAISES THE FOUNDATION FUNDING AMOUNT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM THE CURRENT \$6,899 PER STUDENT TO \$7,182 PER STUDENT FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. IT INCREASES THE AMOUNT FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR TO \$7,349 PER STUDENT.

THE BILL OUTLINES ENHANCED FUNDING AMOUNTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHERE A LARGE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.



## ACT 909

ALLOWS A SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH DECLINING ENROLLMENT TO RECEIVE BOTH DECLINING ENROLLMENT FUNDING AND SPECIAL NEEDS ISOLATED FUNDING.



# CURRICULUM



**ACT 414** REQUIRES STUDENTS ENTERING THE NINTH GRADE CLASS OF 2022-2023 TO EARN ONE CREDIT IN A COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE BEFORE GRADUATION. IT STATES THAT BEGINNING WITH THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR, A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL EMPLOY A COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER AT EACH HIGH SCHOOL.

**ACT 611** STATES THAT IN THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, HOLOCAUST EDUCATION SHALL BE TAUGHT IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN A MANNER THAT GENERATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CAUSES, COURSE, AND EFFECTS OF THE HOLOCAUST.






# **TEACHERS**

## **ACT 680**

**SEEKS TO RAISE THE AVERAGE SALARY BY CREATING THE TEACHER SALARY EQUALIZATION FUND. THE ACT OUTLINES A STATEWIDE TARGET AVERAGE OF \$51,822 FOR THE 2021-2022 & 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEARS. THIS WOULD DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DISPERSE MONEY FROM THE EQUALIZATION FUND TO DISTRICTS WHOSE AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY FALLS BELOW \$51,822.**

## **ACT 646**

**STATES THAT BY AUGUST 1, 2022, EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL IN THE STATE SHALL PREPARE A 3 YEAR TEACHER & ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PLAN. THE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE GOALS FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF MINORITY RACES & ETHNICITIES WHO INCREASE DIVERSITY AMONG THE DISTRICT STAFF AND, AT A MINIMUM, REFLECT THE RACIAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT'S STUDENTS.**



# **PANDEMIC RESPONSE**



## **ACT 89**

**SUSPENDS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR DUE TO THE DISRUPTION TO EDUCATION CAUSED BY THE PANDEMIC.**

## **ACT 912**

**CREATES THE ARKANSAS TUTORING CORPS ACT. IT ALLOWS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY QUALIFIED TUTORS & A CURRICULUM TO SUPPORT ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN READING & MATH. THE BILL STATES THAT DATA SUGGESTS THAT LEARNING LOSS SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL, PARTICULARLY FOR THE STATE'S MOST VULNERABLE STUDENTS.**

