EDUCATING ARKANSAS

2021

[Image of children silhouettes and an apple]
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.
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.
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.