

Helping Your Child Succeed in School

A Guide for Parents



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*Created through
a partnership of
Arkansas Advocates
for Children &
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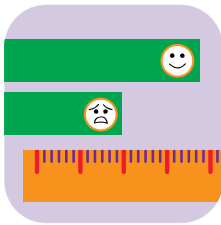
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The Parent's Role



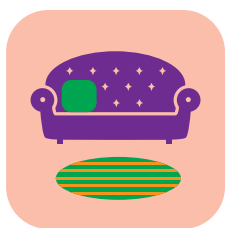
All Arkansas students deserve an opportunity to learn. But not all students in our state enjoy the same opportunities. Some young people have access to high-quality education, while others do not. This creates wide gaps in student achievement among different groups of students.

Many people in Arkansas play a role in making sure that students in Arkansas have access to a good education. These people include elected officials, business leaders, community groups, and concerned citizens. But your role as parent and caretaker is perhaps the most important of all.

There are things that you can do at home that will help your student to be successful in school. You can work with teachers and other school officials to make your child's school better. But parents and caregivers can be powerful advocates with public officials, too. Local and state officials make decisions every day that affect your child's education. This guide will help parents and caregivers learn to influence those decisions.

You have the power to make sure your child has the opportunity to learn. And by learning to be an advocate, you can help make schools better for all of Arkansas's children.





What Parents Can Do at Home

Children begin the process of learning as soon as they are born. There are many ways that caregivers can help infants enter Kindergarten ready to learn.

Children need to develop strong language skills to be successful in school. Gaining language skills will help your child become a confident reader. You can help your child develop these important skills.



First, talk to your children from the moment they are born. Tell them stories. Language is as important to a young child's brain development as healthy food is to his or her body. The number of different words a young child hears helps them to learn, use, and read new words in school.

Second, read to your child each day. Homes need a variety of books to keep youngsters excited about reading. A young person's interests change as they learn and grow. It's okay if you don't own a houseful of books. Your community library is a great source for a variety of books to keep your child's active mind growing.

Sometimes parents do not feel that they are ready to be their child's "first teachers." The Home Instruction Program for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, or HIPPY, can help. HIPPY staff help parents prepare their children for school, using age-appropriate materials and lessons. Studies have shown that children from HIPPY homes perform better once they start school. And they behave better, too. To see if HIPPY is available in your area, call the state office at (501) 364-3671.

Read to your child each and every day.



If HIPPY is not available near your home, there are other programs that help parents prepare kids for school. These include Reach Out and Read Arkansas and Imagination Library.

Another great resource for parents is the Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (www.ar-qlr.net). Visit the website to find information about age-appropriate books, high-quality pre-K programs, the importance of school attendance and summer learning, and much more.

After your child begins school, it is important to know what they are studying. You should also keep up with their homework assignments. School websites such as Edline allow teachers to keep parents informed about student grades. They also allow teachers to share materials that parents can use to help their kids with homework. You must get on the Internet at home, through a mobile device, or at your local library, to use this resource.



Schoolwork becomes more complicated as students move into later grades. This may make it harder for you to help your child with his or her homework. Still, it's important to take an interest in what your child is working on at school. Your children may try harder when they know that their schoolwork matters to you.

Of course, for students to learn in school, they have to show up! Many students often miss school, even in the earliest grades. Such chronic absences can have a negative effect on their school performance. Good attendance is especially important in the early grades. Young children are developing the building blocks – such as reading skills – that will help them later in school. Students who miss school more often are more likely to drop out of school later. Illness and transportation problems can make getting your child to school difficult. Still, it's important for your child to miss as little school as possible. Parents can make a big impact in their child's school life by making school attendance a priority.



One of the most common reasons for students to be absent from school is illness. If a major illness or accident causes a long-term absence, teachers can help a student stay caught up. But regular doctor visits can prevent illnesses that often cause students to miss school. Almost all Arkansas children have access to preventative care through the ARKids First program. This program covers children in families up to two-and-a-half times the poverty level. Many children can also receive dental care, vision screening, and mental health care. These services are available to most Arkansas children for free or at a minimal cost. It is important that parents take full advantage of these programs. If children stay healthy, they'll be less likely to miss school. Plus, they'll perform better.

Finally, after-school programs can help promote learning and keep kids out of trouble. High-quality after-school and summer programs are not available in all places in our state. But many community groups and schools do offer programs after school hours. These programs help keep kids safe and learning when school is not in session.

Most children look forward to summer break, but time out of school can contribute to "summer learning loss." In other words, children lose ground over the summer break, and have to catch up in the first few weeks of the year. Finding the right summer program in your area may not be easy. The Arkansas Out of School Network (www.aosn.org) can help. Search the website to find activities for your child that are in, or close to, your community. This way, your child can continue learning, even when he or she is not in school.



Creating the Best School Environment for Your Student

There are many things that parents can do for their children at home to help them be successful in school. But there are many things parents can do to shape their child's school environment, too. Every child has a different way of learning. It is important to match the school environment to your child's learning style. Of course, you can do this by choosing where your student goes to school. But it's also important to advocate for your child in school. You can make sure that your chosen school continues to meet your child's needs.



Pre-K

A child's participation in high-quality pre-Kindergarten helps to ensure success in Kindergarten and beyond. In Arkansas, we have the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program for 3- and 4-year-olds. This program is available for free to Arkansas children in families up to 200 percent of poverty. (Higher-income families do pay a fee for the program.) Public schools or regional health cooperatives run about half of the ABC programs in Arkansas. HeadStart sites or private organizations house ABC programs as well. All ABC programs must meet the same high standards set by the state.

There are a limited number of spots in the ABC program. It is important to contact your local program early to ensure that your child will have a spot. Call the Arkansas Department of Human Services at (800) 445-3316 for more information.

Choosing the Right School

Your child may attend the public school in your community, whether you are a U.S. citizen or not. Based on your address, your student will be assigned to a particular school in your district. But there are state laws which may allow you to have more choices about where your child attends school. You can find data on

Your child may attend public school whether you are a U.S. citizen or not.

each Arkansas public school on “school report cards.” These are available on the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) website (adesrc.arkansas.gov).



The State Board of Education may place a school or district in “academic distress” if it doesn’t meet achievement goals. If your child’s school is in academic distress, your child may attend any other public school in the state. This is true as long as that school has space and is not also in academic distress. The school district where you live helps with the cost of your child’s transportation to the new school. The limit for this help is \$400 per year. Your child could continue to attend the new school, even if the original school comes off the academic distress list. Transportation costs would then be yours. This transfer is available under the Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act. You can apply for the transfer using a form from the ADE, which you must complete and send back to the ADE, the school district you wish to leave, and the district to which you want your child to transfer, by July 30 each year.



Under a separate school transfer program, the Arkansas Public School Choice Act of 2015, any parent can apply by May 1 for his or her child to transfer to another district, even if your child’s school or district is not on the academic distress list. You must file the application with the receiving district and send a copy to your current district you wish to leave. The receiving district may refuse the transfer if it does not have space. Districts may also be exempt from either of the school choice laws if they are subject to an active desegregation order by a federal court. Parents can learn more and find transfer applications at arkansased.gov/divisions/public-school-accountability/equity-assistance/school-choice.

The student's family handles transportation to a charter school.



Public Charter Schools

Charter schools are state public schools sanctioned by the state charter authorizing agency. Any Arkansas student may attend if there is space in the student's grade. The student's family handles transportation to and from school. There are two different types of charter schools: open enrollment and conversion charter schools.

Open enrollment charter schools are available in some places in Arkansas. These charter schools receive waivers to standards required of traditional public schools. Some of them may have an academic theme that is a good fit for your student. If too many students wish to attend a particular school, a lottery system may help determine which students get in.

Sometimes a traditional public school receives a set of waivers to certain state standards. Then it becomes a "conversion" charter school. Conversion charter schools respond to a particular school challenge, or adopt an experimental theme.

Just as the state can create a charter school, the state can also revoke a school's charter. When this happens to a conversion charter school, the school returns to being a traditional public school. But when an open enrollment charter school loses its charter, that school must close.

Some public schools are deemed "schools of innovation." Like conversion charter schools, these schools wish to experiment with an innovative theme. But in the case of "schools of innovation," a majority of school personnel have voted for the experiment. The Arkansas Commissioner of Education may release these schools from certain state requirements.

Communicating helps your child stay on track.

Finally, a public school with at least one student in its district attending an open enrollment charter school may apply for an “Act 1240 waiver.” This waiver would provide it any or all of the waivers received by the open enrollment charter school. These waivers must have approval by the State Board of Education.

Parents: Your Involvement Matters

No matter where your child goes to school, it’s important for you to stay engaged at all grade levels. Communicating often with teachers and school officials helps your child stay on track.

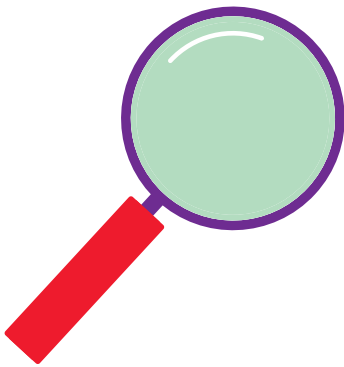


Arranging your schedule so that you can attend parent-teacher conferences is essential. School districts must host two parent-teacher meetings per year. These meetings let you talk to your child’s teacher about how things are going in the classroom. Bring a list of questions with you so that you can get the most out of the short time you have. Schools sometimes host group workshops to help parents get more involved. Work schedules can often make it difficult to attend every meeting. But try to at least have a family member attend. If you can, volunteering to help in the classroom or on field trips is a great way to learn about your child’s school. (State law provides state employees eight hours of paid leave a year to volunteer in a child’s school.) Volunteering shows your child how important his or her education is to you. To volunteer, contact your child’s teacher or the school Parent Resource Center.

You can also become involved in the Arkansas Consolidated School Improvement Planning (ACSIP) process. The ACSIP looks at all aspects of a school’s operations and focuses on improving student achievement. This planning must take place each year, according to state and federal law. The law also requires that parents have a place on the planning team and any committees created to do this work. This can be a great way for parents to engage in important work on behalf of their student’s school.

What If Your Child Has Special Needs?

It's even more important for parents to get involved if their child has learning disabilities of any kind. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensures that all children get a "free and appropriate education." Each child receives an individual learning plan (IEP) tailored to that child's unique needs. This plan should occur in the least restrictive manner possible. In other words, your child should receive the special attention he or she needs, without separation from other students.



How do you determine whether your child has a learning disability? It's a complex process that continues throughout your child's pre-Kindergarten, elementary, and secondary education. And at every stage of the process, parents have a central role. It's important that you make wise decisions, and that the plan is the right one for your child. This can be difficult, because special education law is often complicated. If you are not informed and engaged, things can get off track. Arkansas Disability Rights, www.disabilityrightsar.org or (501) 296-1779, can help parents work through the special needs identification process. ADR has published a booklet, "A Parent's Guide: Civil Rights/Education." Sometimes called the "blue book," this resource is available online at www.disabilityrightsar.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/DRA-Bluebook-2015.pdf

Your child should receive the special attention he or she needs.

Dyslexia makes it difficult for certain students to gain reading skills. Because of this, Arkansas has a law in place to help identify students with dyslexia at an early age. School districts must screen students in Kindergarten through second grade and intervene to address their dyslexia needs. Older students who exhibit difficulties from dyslexia must also undergo screenings. Each district has a person who serves as the dyslexia interventionist for the district. You should reach out to this individual if you have questions or concerns about your student's dyslexia screening or status. The state Department of Education publishes a Dyslexia Resource Guide. Parents can find it on the state Department of Education's website.

What If Your Child Is Gifted and Talented?

Arkansas law states that any student who is identified as gifted and talented has a right to an education that fosters those gifts. Every school must have a gifted and talented coordinator. The state sets aside funds for gifted and talented programs. Schools nominate students who may be gifted and talented in a variety of ways. The school then evaluates those students to determine whether they qualify. Unfortunately, many deserving Arkansas students are less likely to take advantage of gifted and talented programming. Although every Arkansas high school must teach certain AP (Advance Placement) courses, we also know that some students are less likely to take AP courses. As parents, it's up to you to make sure that your gifted and talented child has access to programs that will help them thrive.



Student Disciplinary Issues

Each school in Arkansas develops its own policies for student discipline. Each district presents these policies in its student handbook. Schools must follow these policies when a student has a disciplinary issue. Arkansas law permits the following forms of punishment:

- **Corporal punishment** (parents may opt out of this punishment option);
- **In-school suspension** (remove the student from classes for up to 10 days, and place him or her in a separate setting in the school);
- **Out-of-school suspension** (send the student home without any educational services);
- **Expulsion** (remove student from school for more than 10 days, or up to the rest of the school year); and
- **Referral to law enforcement.**



Of these punishment options, expulsion is the most disruptive to a student's education. State law allows schools to refuse to admit students expelled from another school until the period of expulsion ends. The law also provides all students the right to a hearing before expulsion. It is important that you take steps to request a hearing.

Hearing procedures vary around the state, but a student is always allowed to bring someone to represent him or her. This person may be an attorney. During the hearing, the student may provide evidence about the case. He or she may present letters from family, friends, teachers, or clergy members. Then a neutral decision-maker decides on a course of action. A student may still be expelled, or a less serious punishment may be appropriate.



Special needs students have extra protections when the school is thinking about an expulsion or long suspension. This helps ensure that the student does not receive unfair punishment for behaviors related to his or her disability. Again, it's important to know your special needs student's rights during this process. You can help make sure that your student's education doesn't suffer because of an improper punishment.

Some parts of the state have Alternative Learning Environments (ALEs). These are special schools for students who have challenges in traditional learning environments. ALEs accept students who have been expelled. But ALEs often offer limited educational opportunities. Permanent placement in an ALE can hold a student back from reaching his or her full potential.

Out-of-school suspension, expulsion, referrals to law enforcement, and corporal punishment, are disruptive to learning. This makes sense, since they remove the student from classes. These punishments contribute to high student dropout rates and lower student achievement. Students from lower-income families, students of color, and special needs students are more likely to receive these punishments. But there are many punishments that are more effective and less disruptive. Called "restorative" justice practices, these include in-school suspensions, early interventions for minor offenses, and peer courts. Restorative justice practices help students work through their problems with approaches such as Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), which some schools in Arkansas use. Restorative practices also focus on building a sense of community, both inside and outside of schools.

There are punishments more effective than suspension and expulsion.



Creating an Opportunity to Learn at the School District Level



The key decision-making body for local schools is the school board. The school board makes many important decisions, such as:

- How to spend tax dollars;
- Whom to hire for school superintendent and other key leadership positions;
- Whether to close a school;
- How subjects are taught in school; and
- What methods of discipline to use.

As a parent, you can make sure the school board does their job well. You can vote in school board elections and attend board meetings and public forums. These activities help create opportunities for all students.

In districts that have been taken over by the state and the elected school board removed, the Commissioner of Education replaces the school board.

*Every vote
matters in
selecting school
board members.*



Most school boards in Arkansas consist of either five or seven members. A large district could have a nine-member board. In some districts these board members represent only a specific zone. Other districts elect board members across the entire district. The term of a school board member is between three and five years (although all members of a given board have the same length term). There are no limits on the number of terms a member may serve. Engaged and informed parents make the best school advocates in their local communities. They also make wonderful school board members. Consider running for the school board!



In most districts, school board elections take place the third Tuesday of September. Turnout in these elections is low. This creates an opportunity for engaged parents to shape their school district's policies. Every vote matters in selecting board members who will promote an opportunity to learn for all students. It also helps make board members accountable in their decisions once in office. You should try to attend any public forums during the campaign for the school board. Ask questions about those issues that matter the most to you as a parent.

School board meetings are a great way to learn about the big decisions school boards make. They also give you a chance to voice your views about those decisions, and about what's going on in your child's school. Except for certain personnel hearings, all meetings of the school board must be open. Under Arkansas law, board members can't discuss board business outside of formal meetings.

The two most important decisions that a school board makes relate to financing the district's work. These include the annual approval of the district budget, and choosing a new superintendent.



The Dollars and Cents of Education Funding in Arkansas

To be an effective advocate in your local school district, you need to understand how the state funds public education. Arkansas requires that all its students receive an “adequate” and “equitable” education. The state must provide enough funding to ensure an adequate education, and it must be distributed as evenly as possible. Because of this, there have been significant increases in public school funding in our state. The process of funding schools has also been equalized. Still, local school boards keep a lot of autonomy over many aspects of school funding.

In Arkansas, schools receive funding from a variety of sources:

- **State taxes**, especially the income tax and sales tax;
- **Federal government**. This includes Title I dollars for schools with large percentages of low-income children;
- **Local property taxes**. Citizens of a school district vote to set property tax rates. A vote on the tax rate must occur at the time of September school elections. There may also be special elections at other times to alter the school property tax rate. Property tax rates are measured in mills. Each mill is one one-thousandth (0.001) of a dollar.



To find out how much a local taxpayer will pay, multiply the number of mills that is the tax rate for that district by the assessed value of the property that person owes. An assessed value is equal to 20 percent of the market value. So, if you own a car valued at \$10,000, the assessed value of the car is \$2,000. If the millage rate in your school district is 30 mills, you would pay \$60 ($\$2,000 \times 0.03$) each year to help fund your local schools.

Each school district must have a millage rate of at least 25 mills under the state Constitution. This first 25 mills of property tax is the Uniform Rate of Tax (URT). This must go to the basic operation of schools (things like teacher pay, books, etc.). In all but a few districts in the state, 25 mills of local property tax is not enough to provide an “adequate” education. So, districts receive more state money on a per-student basis. This way, every district has the money to provide an adequate education to its children.



The state requires that districts spend 25 mills for basic maintenance and operations of the local schools. Most districts exceed this amount. Some districts have more money for teacher pay and other programs than do others. Voters may also vote to spend more mills on certain items, such as new technology or facility repairs. Finally, mills can pay for the service on a debt for the costs of major building projects. Again, this only takes place if the voters decide it should.

NSLA money funds programs that close the achievement gap.

An area of funding where local school districts have particular power is “NSLA money.” This money funds programs that close the achievement gap. Many districts have a large percentage of students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Act (NSLA). These districts are eligible for extra money through the state. Districts can use NSLA money for a wide variety of projects. Some uses of the money are more effective in reducing the achievement gap than others.

Examine the spending of these NSLA funds in your own school district. Are they going toward the things that promote equality of educational opportunity? Some proven strategies for reducing the achievement gap include Arkansas Better Chance pre-K programs; high-quality after-school and summer programs; and school health clinics.

District residents may voice their concerns at the end of every school board meeting.



A school district's budget reflects the community's values. As you think about the budget, some questions you might ask are:

- Do we dedicate enough funding to college and career counselors? These counselors help students plan for after graduation, find scholarships, and avoid dropping out.
- Do teachers in the districts' schools meet the unique educational needs of gifted and talented students? What about those who have physical and mental challenges?
- Is teacher pay in the district enough to compete with other districts in the state and in neighboring states? Does the district pay enough to attract the most talented teachers to the district?
- Does the budget include programs that help promote educational achievement for all students? These include enhanced pre-K, high-quality after-school and summer programs, and health programs.

District residents may voice their concerns at the end of every meeting. Any individual may express his or her views. Find and work with others who share your views on the direction of your school district.

Remember that the most important source of local political power is relationships. It is vital to build relationships with one another. This will help you overcome any differences of opinion that may arise. Work to develop positive relationships with school board members. Remember, they are the ones with influence on the budget and on other school policies.



Other School Board Policies That Can Promote an Opportunity to Learn

Many key decisions that can promote opportunities for all students relate to funding. But other district policies are important, too. Are school discipline policies fair? Are all parents welcome as partners in the educational process? Do students have access to challenging curriculum? These things help create educational opportunities for all.

School Boards and District Administrative Leadership

School boards make all hiring and firing decisions in the district. The most important of these personnel decisions is the district superintendent. The superintendent handles the day-to-day operations of the school district. He or she enforces the policies set by the school board, and assists the school board in creating the budget.

The local school administration has its own hierarchy below the superintendent. It includes assistant superintendents, principals, vice-principals, classroom teachers, etc. If you have a problem in the treatment of your student, you should follow the hierarchy from the bottom up.

- First, go to the teacher;
- To a vice-principal (if your school has one);
- To the principal;
- To the superintendent, and finally
- To the school board.

If you have a problem, go to the teacher first.

Following the hierarchy with your concerns requires patience. Still, doing so will give you the best chance at getting your problems resolved.



Creating an Opportunity to Learn Across Arkansas

Your role as an advocate does not stop at your local community. There is also much important work to do at the state level.

The Role of the State Legislature



The General Assembly makes laws for the entire state of Arkansas. The Arkansas General Assembly is composed of 35 Senators and 100 members of the House of Representatives. If you do not know your state senator or representative, you can search for them on these websites:

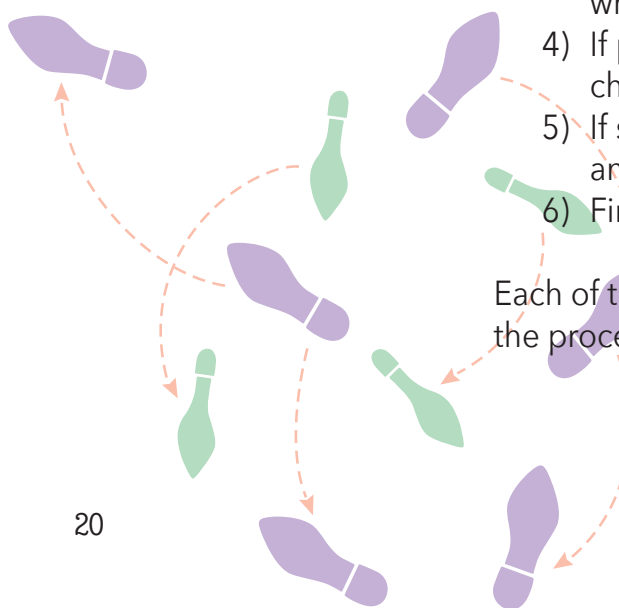
- www.arkansas.gov/senate/senatorSearch.html
- www.arkansashouse.org/member

Many of these laws – from budget appropriations to more specific policies – relate to public education.

Most education bills have six steps on their way to becoming law. (The rules for appropriation bills are a little different.)

- 1) A legislator drafts and introduces the bill;
- 2) The bill goes to a House or Senate Committee (typically the Education Committee);
- 3) If successful in committee, it goes to floor of the chamber in which it was introduced;
- 4) If passed, it then goes to the parallel committee in the other chamber;
- 5) If successful in committee, then to floor of that chamber, and;
- 6) Finally, it heads to the Governor's desk for signature.

Each of the six steps provides an opportunity for you to influence the process.



It is crucial that parents engage in the lawmaking process as advocates. Arkansas is a small state. This makes it easier to build relationships with our representatives that can aid us when we work as advocates. (Remember – relationships are the most important tool you can have!)

It often only takes a small number of people reaching out to legislators to win an issue, if the issue is not controversial. Issues where there is opposition, or that cost money, need more people from more diverse districts to win. If the opposition also has many people fighting an initiative, then it takes even more people to win the needed votes. Many programs that create opportunities to learn in Arkansas do need more revenues. These include:

- Expansion of the ABC pre-K program;
- Establishment of a state after-school and summer program; and
- More funding for teacher pay.



These will be tough fights that need large-scale organizing. Tools such as email and social media can help us communicate with legislators. They can also help connect advocates who care about promoting an opportunity to learn. Again, this is where building relationships with your legislators comes in handy!



The Roles of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education

The Arkansas State Board of Education has nine members. Two members come from each of the state's four congressional districts. The board also has one at-large member. The Governor appoints all members for seven-year terms. To see the members from your area of the state, go to www.arkansased.org/state-board/members. This board governs Arkansas's entire public education system. This includes hundreds of school districts and public charter schools.

In certain areas of education law, the State Board of Education gets a great deal of power from the legislature. In other areas, the State Board develops rules that put in place education laws passed by the General Assembly.

The State Board of Education has particular power in areas such as:

- Defining “academic distress”;
- Determining whether a school district is in “fiscal distress”;
- Considering whether schools are meeting standards for certification;
- Placing a school district under state authority because of academic or fiscal distress;
- Updating teacher certification standards;
- Establishing ethics rules for educators and sanctioning in the case of violations, and;
- Determining whether to create a charter school and to extend “Act 1240 waivers.”



There is a public comment period that allows citizens to make comments to aid the Board in decision-making.

Even in situations where the State Board of Education is just developing rules, there are choices the Board must make. There is a public comment period that allows citizens or groups to make comments to aid the Board in its decision-making.

The agenda for the State Board’s monthly meetings is available in advance at www.arkansased.org/state-board/meeting-agenda. As with local school boards, all meetings of the State Board are open to the public. You can also watch the monthly meetings via the web at: www.arkansased.org/state-board/watch-meeting-live.

ADE staff members carry out the day-to-day work of the department. The Commissioner of Education is the head of the department and serves at the will of the Governor. The State Board of Education must vote to approve a new Commissioner.

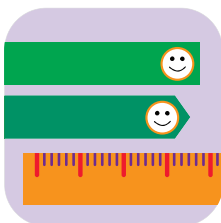


The ADE is a large department with many different offices. Their website provides information about the operation of public schools in the state (www.arkansased.org). If you have trouble finding an answer to your question, call the department's main number (501) 682-4475.

Decisions about your child's education that have come through the school district hierarchy to the school board are usually final. For example, neither the ADE nor the State Board of Education can overturn a student's teacher assignment. There are some areas where state law provides you an appeal. For example, if your request for a transfer to another school is denied, you can appeal to the State Board of Education.

In extreme circumstances, you may file a complaint with the ADE. For example, you may have evidence that an educator has violated the Code of Ethics for Arkansas's teachers in their treatment of a student or group of students. Information on the complaint process and the Code of Ethics are both available on the ADE's website.

Arkansas Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap



State law established the Arkansas Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap in 2003. This agency's job is to promote equality in educational opportunities and outcomes in Arkansas. Parents can and should attend meetings of the Commission, as well as its annual symposium.

*Show your
children how
education
shapes their
lives!*

You Can Create an Opportunity to Learn for Your Child and All Arkansas Children

Every parent can be a powerful force in promoting an equal opportunity to learn in Arkansas. Engaged parents working together can be a powerful force for positive change. They can work to ensure that our children are better prepared for the careers of our changing world. There are so many ways that parents can create opportunities to learn. You can read to your child at an early age, and talk with them about the importance of education. You can also attend school board meetings, or talk with legislators. These activities show your children just how important education is in shaping their lives.



Every parent
can be a
powerful force.





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