

## Arkansas Department of Education 100-Day Report

Secretary Jacob Oliva

During the first 100 days of Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders' new administration, the Arkansas Department of Education embraced a renewed sense of direction with a focus on priorities, initiatives, and legislation that support and elevate student learning in Arkansas. The department is dedicated to this mission and has been extremely busy, as evidenced below; however, the work is just beginning.

### 100-DAY HIGHLIGHTS



**Testified at Education Committee Meetings to promote passage of LEARNS Act**



**Revised Math and English Language Arts academic standards for consistency and clarity**



**Aligning a new assessment (Arkansas Teaching and Learning Assessment System) to the revised academic standards**



**Developed Value-Added Measures dashboard to reflect teacher effectiveness and student growth**



**Assisted districts with tornado response**



**By the Numbers:**

- Miles Driven: 5,000+
- Co-op Visits: 15+
- Co-op Attendees: 300+
- Media Interviews: 45+
- State Board Meetings: 4
- Legislative Meetings: 25+
- Events: 30+
- Leadership Meetings: 10

### LITERACY



**Every child in Arkansas deserves to enter kindergarten ready to learn. To achieve this, ADE will:**

- Create state-local partnerships to improve access to quality early care and education
- Build a unified, clear, research-backed system for determining the quality of services offered to all kids
- Collect baseline information on number of children eligible for and accessing services in order to expand access to quality services over time



**Every child in Arkansas deserves access to research-based literacy instruction and high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). To achieve this, ADE will:**

- Equip every K-2 classroom with materials aligned to the Science of Reading
- Ensure every teaching candidate is trained on the Science of Reading
- Train teachers on how to best use new materials aligned to the Science of Reading
- Incentivize district adoption of HQIM through use of state dollars
- Empower families to support early literacy at home
- Deploy literacy coaches to schools in need of early reading support
- Simplify the literacy screening process to identify children in need of supports without overly burdensome testing requirements
- Provide tailored, high-quality literacy and numeracy intervention to all students who persistently struggle

## EMPOWERMENT



**Every Arkansan deserves access to transparent information about the public schools in their community, and every family deserves access to the best possible school options for their children. To achieve this, ADE will:**

- Create more transparent charter approval and renewal processes that open the door for strong school operators
- Revise charter policy to tie charter renewal and expansion to performance criteria
- Strengthen the system that measures how K12 schools perform

## ACCOUNTABILITY



**Every student in Arkansas deserves a talented, committed educator, and every educator deserves to be supported to grow in their profession. To achieve this, ADE will:**

- Ensure every teacher candidate has a year in the classroom with a mentor
- Increase licensing transparency and efficiency to get teachers into the classroom faster
- Waive initial licensing fees for first-time teachers
- Support local school boards and districts as they update workforce management policies and practices

## READINESS



**Every student in Arkansas deserves to graduate high school on a strong pathway to the workforce. To achieve this, ADE will:**

- Build diploma pathways that lead to high-wage, high-growth careers
- Ensure every student has a strong plan to guide their success in high school and beyond
- Conduct an annual audit of the state's career pathways

## NETWORKING



**Every student in Arkansas deserves high-speed internet and quality networking to help them build the skills needed to succeed in tomorrow's workforce. To achieve this, ADE will:**

- Deliver twice as much bandwidth to every student in the state

## SAFETY



**Every student and educator in Arkansas deserves a safe learning environment free from violence. To achieve this, ADE will:**

- Allocate grant funding to districts to implement the state's safety priorities
- Provide districts direct support, professional learning, monitoring, and direction regarding school safety
- Establish a statewide crisis response plan