

Administrative Rules

Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner





Rules Process

1. Released for Public Comment by SBE
2. Public Comment Period (30 days and notice)
3. Final Approval by SBE
4. Reviewed by Arkansas Legislative Council

Final Approval of Rules

to submit to ALC



Original Proposed EFA Rule Amendments



November 2025 (before first public comment period)

- Defines universal eligibility
- Establishes a fixed application window
- Revises payment schedule and administrative fee
- Clarifies qualifying expenses

Proposed EFA Rule Amendment



April 2026 (after first public comment period)

- **Informs Parents Upfront Which Items are Prohibited:** A list of non-qualifying expenses will be established.
- **Standardizes Reviews Based on Expense Type:** Expenses that are not core educational expenses will be reviewed individually and will require written approval.
- **Provides Written Determinations for Denied Expenses:** Any reviews of denied expenses will be conducted by a supervisor with final review by Assistant Commissioner.
- **Provides Technology Cap:** \$1,000 per participant for devices per year.
- **Prevents Duplicative Technology Purchases:** ADE must consider whether the same or similar technological devices were purchased in prior years to protect against duplicate spending.
- **Ensures Maximum Amount of Funds are Available for Students:** The previous cap of \$20,000 was lowered to the prior year's EFA amount or \$8,500.
- **Clarifies Allowable Expenses Under the "Extra Curricular" Category:** Prohibits spending on sports that limit participation and equipment.

