

Summary of Legislation
94th General Assembly



July 2023

Act Number	Description	Link To Act	ADHE Actions, Directives, or Changes
Act 124	To amend various provisions of the Arkansas Code as they pertain to the University of Arkansas	Act 124	<p>The act replaces "University of Arkansas Grantham" for "eVersity" in Arkansas law. The Act exempts the University of Arkansas Grantham from reporting requirements to the Arkansas Higher Education Information System; immunization requirements, and scholarship restrictions, among other things.</p>
Act 237	To create the LEARNS act; to amend various provisions of the Arkansas Code as they relate to early childhood through grade twelve education in the state of Arkansas	Act 237	<p>ADHE shall establish criteria for awarding credit to students who have completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.</p> <p>The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall deem a career-ready pathway to a diploma to be equivalent to a high school diploma.</p> <p>The Arkansas Teacher Academy is created by ADHE, in consultation with public and private institutions, to recruit teachers. The Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program is created to incentivize new teachers to work in critical shortage areas in the state based on subject matter or geographical areas. ADHE will establish rules for the program and administer the funds. ADHE also has reporting requirements to the Joint Budget Committee, the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives regarding the scholarship program and the Academy.</p>

Act 244	To create a Financial Aid appeals process and committee for the Division of Higher Education	Act 244	The Financial Aid Appeals Committee is composed of five representatives from ADHE, responsible for administering ADHE's appeal process.
Act 275	To amend various provisions of law related to tuition benefits for soldiers and airmen of the Arkansas National Guard	Act 275	Soldiers or airmen are limited to tuition-fee benefits for a maximum of 120 semester credit hours unless the Adjutant General recommends an exception to this rule. The exception is subject to the availability of funds and the approval of ADHE.
Act 386	To create the Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship Program	Act 386	The Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship is available to students who have the Academic Challenge Scholarship and demonstrate financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The scholarship is awarded subject to available funds. Rules will be administered by ADHE.
Act 387	To amend the source of funding for in-state tuition for veterans and military personnel and dependents	Act 387	The act expands the definition of who can receive funding for tuition. It also expands funding sources to include excess money from the Academic Challenge Scholarship, the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship, and the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship.
Act 413	To require ADHE to promulgate rules concerning scholarships and students enrolling in courses in the summer	Act 413	ADHE shall update scholarship rules to allow a student who is enrolling in courses receiving scholarships to utilize the scholarships during the summer.
Act 438	To amend the definition of a student under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship	Act 438	The act expands the students who are eligible to receive the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship to include students in grade 10.

Act 470	To create the Arkansas Student Due Process and Protection Act; to establish procedural protections applicable to student conduct disciplinary proceedings at public institutions	Act 470	The act establishes standards for disciplinary hearing for non-academic violations. Procedural protections and standards are set. Students whose feel their rights have been violated may file a claim with the Arkansas State Claims Commission.
Act 504	To require public entities to create a policy concerning the authorized use of technology resources and a cyber security policy; and to amend the duties of the state cyber security office	Act 504	The act directs all public institutions in higher education to create technology resources policies. Institutions shall create a disciplinary procedure for violations of the policies. Each institutions must submit their cyber security policy to the State Cyber Security Officer for approval by October 1.
Act 511	Concerning implicit bias training required by a public school or state-supported institution of higher education	Act 511	An institution shall not require an employee to complete or participate in implicit bias training or take adverse employment action against an employee for not completing the implicit bias training. An institution is not prohibited from requiring implicit bias training if at least ninety-five percent of the training is required by an accreditor. The State Board of Education shall not make implicit bias training a requirement for individuals seeking to obtain or renew educator licenses or for professional development.
Act 514	To establish the “creating a respectful and open world for natural hair (crown) act”	Act 514	A public institution of higher education shall not discriminate against a student based upon the student’s natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle. This includes afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs, braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair texture or for cultural significance.

Act 539	To make the Arkansas Challenge Scholarship available to students in select private vocational-technical schools	Act 539	The act allows students enrolled in select private technical schools to apply for the Arkansas Challenge Scholarship. Students must be enrolled in a program of study in industry, health care, or information technology.
Act 542	To create the given name act; and to prohibit requiring employees of public schools and state-supported institutions of higher education to use a person's preferred pronoun, name, or title without parental consent	Act 542	The act prohibits faculty members, teachers, and other employees of higher education institutions from addressing students under the age of 18 with a pronoun, title, or name inconsistent with their biological sex at birth and birth certificate without written parental permission.
Act 654	Concerning Career and Technical Education	Act 654	Career and technical education is an equal alternative to traditional educational pathways. The Division of Career and Technical Education shall review new and existing pathways for weighted credit; and publish a list of approved pathways by January 1. A career readiness assessment may include without limitation the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate. This certificate shall be used by a public institution of higher education toward the attainment of a technical degree.
Act 737	To require automated external defibrillators at certain school-sponsored sporting events and on campuses of institutions of higher education	Act 737	The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board in collaboration with presidents at all public institutions, shall adopt rules to require automated external defibrillators in appropriate locations across each institution. The board after consulting with the Department of Health, shall develop rules for CPR training.

Act 751	To create the Sustainable Building Maintenance Program for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education	Act 751	The act creates the Sustainable Building Maintenance Program for Public Institutions that is administered by ADHE. The program is a loan from the State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education Revolving Loan Fund. The fund consists of general revenue, funds transferred to it from the Development and Enhancement Fund, and money from the Governor's Emergency Fund.
Act 786	To amend the references in the Arkansas Code to "Director of the Division of Higher Education" to the "Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education" and to amend the way the commissioner is appointed	Act 786	All references in Arkansas law to the "Director of the Division of Higher Education" are changed to "Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education." The Commissioner shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
Act 811	To require that opioid overdose rescue kits be located on each campus of each public high school and state-supported institution of higher education	Act 811	By January 1, 2024, each higher education institution must have an opioid overdose rescue kit in various areas throughout the facilities, registered with the campus police, the health center, and the Department of Public Safety. Use of the rescue kit must be reported through the Criminal Justice Institute to the Arkansas Drug Director. Higher education institutions must provide training regarding the use and location of each opioid overdose rescue kit in freshmen student orientation. ADHE shall consult and collaborate with the Arkansas Drug Director to implement the placement of the rescue kits.