



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## SCHOOLS OF INNOVATION STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

The signature of the superintendent certifies that the following statements are and will be addressed through policies already in place, or adopted by the School of Innovation; and, if the application is approved, the School of Innovation shall abide by them:

1. The information submitted in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. The School of Innovation shall be open to all students, and shall not discriminate in its admission policy on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or academic or athletic eligibility, except as follows: the School of Innovation may adopt admission policies that are consistent with federal law, regulations, or guidelines applicable to the school's Plan of Innovation.
3. In accordance with federal and state laws, the School of Innovation hiring and retention policies of administrators, teachers, and other employees shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, or special need.
4. The School of Innovation shall operate in accordance with federal laws and rules governing public schools; applicable provisions of the Arkansas Constitution; and state statutes or regulations governing public schools which are not specifically waived by the Commissioner of Education.
5. A School of Innovation shall not use the moneys that it receives from the state for any sectarian program or activity, or as collateral for debt.
6. The School of Innovation shall not impose taxes or charge students tuition or fees that would not be allowable charges in the public school districts.
7. The School of Innovation shall not be religious in its operations or programmatic offering.
8. The employees and volunteers of the School of Innovation are held immune from liability to the same extent as other public school district employees and volunteers under applicable state laws.

9. The School of Innovation shall comply with all health and safety laws, rules and regulations of the federal, state, county, region, or community that may apply to the facilities and school property.

10. The applicant confirms the understanding that certain provisions of law shall not be waived. The School of Innovation is subject to any prohibition, restriction, or requirement imposed by Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated and any rule and regulation approved by the State Board of Education, and any federal statute or regulation, and specifically confirms that it will:

- Ensure that the same health, safety, civil rights, and disability rights requirements are in place as those that apply to all other public schools;
- Ensure that the high school curriculum offered meets or exceeds the minimum high school graduation requirements adopted by the State Board of Education;
- Adhere to financial audits, audit procedures, and audit requirements adopted by the state board for public school districts;
- Require criminal background checks for school employees and volunteers as required by law for public school districts;
- Comply with purchasing limitations and requirements;
- Provide instructional time that: Meets or exceeds the instructional time requirement adopted by the state board unless granted an exception by the Commissioner of Education.
- Provide data requested by the Department of Education to generate reports; and
- Adhere to the Teacher Fair Dismissal Act, § 6-17-1501 et seq.

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Signature of Superintendent

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: This document must accompany all applications for the Arkansas School of Innovation program.