



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) learned today that it will receive a \$5 million grant over the next three years from the U.S. Department of Education to further its development and use of technology for instruction, data collection, analysis and use by educators, researchers and the public.

“Arkansas is already recognized as a leader among the states in terms of our educational data and technology, and this additional money will allow us not only to improve on that but also to better use data to shape instructional practices and enhance student learning,” Dr. Ken James, Arkansas Commissioner of Education said.

The National Data Quality Campaign in 2008 recognized Arkansas as one of four exemplary states having all 10 elements needed for a quality educational data system.

Three years ago ADE received a \$3.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. That money was used, among other things, to streamline data systems, upgrade data quality and develop a system of electronic transcripts that follow students across school districts and into higher education.

“We thought we had a good chance of being approved for this grant based on the strength of what we have already built,” said Jim Boardman, ADE Assistant Commissioner for Research and Technology. Boardman said the state will use the \$5 million to:

- Enhance ADE’s data warehouse using dashboards, visual analysis, and scorecard techniques;
- Augment or expand electronic transcript application components as well as target testing and curriculum development features statewide;
- Integrate key data collections related to higher education, teacher licensure, teacher professional development, special education and child nutrition into the system, and integrate locally collected assessment data;
- Build a culture of using data by engaging Arkansas professional development institutions and others to adopt a data focus to advance best practices;
- Engage the research community to undertake targeted research using data on issues of critical concern to state educators, including results from cross-agency data matches;

- Complete the web-based data dictionary and implement enhancements to this environment;
- Formalize the program of data quality measurements and conduct data quality audits;
- Establish an expanded body of documentation, standards, policies, and procedures;
- Complete automation of ED Facts;
- Re-implement Arkansas's public "AS-IS" website;
- Build an online district data certification and reporting process; and
- Develop a web-based collaboration portal for ADE data stewards and district support staff.

***The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.***