



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Johnny Key, Commissioner

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ADE Offers Computer Science Teaching License Option; Tuition Assistance Available

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to announce that a computer science teaching license option has been added to the Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure program. Tuition assistance is available to qualified candidates.

APPEL is a non-traditional licensure program for individuals who have at least a bachelor's degree in a field other than education. Those admitted to the program can receive a two-year provisional license that allows them to teach while they work on the program's coursework. Upon successfully completing the program and passing the required certification test, participants will have a teaching license.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson's Computer Science Initiative promotes the importance of building computer science skills. Arkansas became the first state to require every public high school to offer computer science courses. As a result of the increase in students taking these courses, the need for additional teachers has grown. The APPEL program is one option available to meet this need.

"I'm both amazed and delighted at how fast computer science education in Arkansas is growing," Gov. Hutchinson said. "We are providing our educators with the training needed to teach coding, and this newly available computer science licensure option for non-traditional teachers is yet another sign of Arkansas leading the nation in the learn-to-code movement."

To support those who want to become licensed to teach computer science, ADE has allocated funding to pay the program's tuition for up to 50 qualified candidates. The fee for the program is \$1,300 each year of the two-year program.

Applications for the APPEL program, including the computer science option, will be accepted until May 27, 2016. To learn more about the program and the computer science option, visit ADE's website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/human-resources-educator-effectiveness-and-licensure/office-of-educator-effectiveness/arkansas-professional-pathway-to-educator-licensure-appel>.

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