

SUMMARY OF NEW RULES

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING THE STUDENT PROTECTION ACT

These new rules incorporate the provisions of Act 820 of 2021, which prohibits traditional public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools from knowingly entering into any transaction with an individual or entity that performs abortions, induces abortions, or provides abortions. The definition of “abortion” excludes actions taken with the intent of saving the life of a mother, saving the life of or preserving the health of an unborn child, removing an unborn child that died due to spontaneous abortion, or removing an ectopic pregnancy. The rules require that public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools develop a policy for implementing these rules and Act 820 (codified as Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2201 *et seq.*). If a public school or open-enrollment public charter school knowingly violates these rules and Act 820, it must appear before the State Board of Education at the Board’s next regularly scheduled meeting to discuss why the violation occurred and how future violations will be prevented.

POST-PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made. Only non-substantive technical corrections made.