

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULES
GOVERNING DECLINING ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT GROWTH
FUNDING

Purpose:

These rules incorporate the provisions of Act 909 to remove the restriction that a district could not receive declining enrollment and special needs isolated funding.

Background:

Prior to the passage of Act 909 of 2021, a district could not receive both declining enrollment and special needs isolated funding; a district that was eligible for both, would receive the higher of the two amounts. The proposed change allows eligible districts to receive both sources of funding.

Key Points:

- Act 909 removed the restriction that a district could not receive declining enrollment and special needs isolated funding, allowing the most rural school districts in Arkansas to access both sources of funds to meet the needs of students.

Discussion:

Prior to the passage of Act 909 of 2021, a district could not receive both declining enrollment and special needs isolated funding; a district that was eligible for both, would receive the higher of the two amounts. The proposed change allows eligible districts, the most rural in the state, to receive both sources of funding to meet the needs of its students. The eligibility for special needs isolated funding is set forth in Ark. Code Ann. 6-20-604 and is based on the number of students in the district and the density ratio of students per square mile.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the proposed amendments to the Declining Enrollment and Student Growth Funding rules be approved.