

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES WORK SESSION

March 6, 2024



# Rules Governing Right to Read Act



## Required by LEARNS

Enhances Right to Read legislation by doubling down on literacy

- Ensures comprehensive high-quality literacy screener for all students in grades K-3
- Establishes literacy coach support for current D and F schools
- Reduces redundancy regarding Science of Reading
- Establishes supports for students not meeting grade 3 reading expectations

# Rules Governing Educator Performance



## Required by LEARNS

Rewards highly-effective teachers through Merit Teacher Incentive Fund Program

- Establishes process to build capacity for and develop teacher leaders
- Holds superintendents accountable for improving student performance
- Reduces unnecessary bureaucracy by not renewing contracts for ineffective teachers

# Rules Governing Community Service and Diploma Requirements



## Required by LEARNS

Promotes sense of pride and connection to community

- High school students in public schools to complete 75 hours of community service
- Empowers school districts to oversee and approve community service projects
- Outlines process for students who may need an exemption

# Rules Governing Public School Choice



## Required by LEARNS

Empowers parents and promotes school choice

- Eliminates 3% limit on school choice applications
- Defines “lack of capacity” for denial of school choice application
- Empowers military families to participate in choice
- Puts school choice transfers into effect immediately
- Outlines process for extra-curricular activities
- Requires districts to notify DESE if more than 20 percent of resident students utilize choice or legal transfer

# Rules Governing Petitions for Student Transfers



Required by Act 731 of 2023

Empowers parents to petition State Board regarding transfer denials

- Previous: School district board to board transfers were decided at local level with no appeal process
- NEW: Establishes a process in which State Board serves as final arbiter of legal transfers

# Rules Governing School Transformation Contracts



## Required by LEARNS

### Reimagines Persistently Low Performing Schools

- Allows districts to enter into transformation contract with External Operator (EO)/Charter Management Organization (CMO) to provide operational and educational support
- Provides additional option beyond consolidation, annexation, and reconstitution (Marvell-Elaine School District and Friendship)
- Establishes minimum terms and responsibilities for transformation contract

# Rules Governing Overnight Travel and Use of School Restrooms



Required by Act 317 of 2023

Ensures privacy and safety of students in public school restrooms

- Implements statutory requirement for districts and charter schools to designate multiple occupancy restrooms or changing areas based on biological sex at birth
- Allows districts authority to provide reasonable accommodations
- Provides guidance for overnight field trips
- Outlines process for non-compliance



# Rules Governing Student Protection Act



Required by Act 653 of 2023

Protects students from abortion referrals

- Updates Arkansas Student Protection Act to prohibit districts and charter schools from knowingly entering transactions with individuals and entities that provide abortion referrals