



Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE: Act 503 School Board Elections

DATE: July 21, 2025

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Martin Mahan
Superintendent

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

Arkansas Act 503 of 2025 fundamentally changes how school board elections are conducted in our state. The Act requires current board members to have their terms adjusted to align with the new staggered system of either four or six year terms for school board members with elections held only in even-numbered years. The goal of Act 503 is to create a more efficient system for school board elections in Arkansas. The administration reviewed this Act with our attorney and are making the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends that all members of the school board be elected to a term of office of six years in length and with the expiration of such terms so arranged that, as nearly as possible, an equal number of positions are filled every school board election. If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

Move to approve that the Fort Smith Public Schools Board of Education adopt a policy whereby all members of the school board shall be elected to a term of office of six (6) years.