

Commissioner's Memo
7/17/2018

Assessment Fee Reimbursements for Educators Adding Chronically Critical Academic Shortage Areas

Memo Information

Memo Number **LIC-19-004**

Memo Date 7/17/2018

Memo Type Informational

Section Educator Effectiveness & Licensure

Regulatory Authority NA

Response Required NO

Attention Federal Programs; Superintendents; Principals; Technology Coordinator; Test Coordinator; General Business Manager; Teachers; Gifted & Talented Coordinator; Curriculum Coordinator; School Counselor; Techstart Coordinator or Contact Name

Primary Contact Information

Name Joan Luneau

Phone Number 501-683-6618

Email Joan.Luneau@arkansas.gov

Memo Text

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) launched the Teach Arkansas Campaign on February 2, 2018. As part of the campaign, the ADE is working to provide resources and opportunities for teachers. As a way to bolster the teacher pipeline, beginning September 1, 2018, the ADE will implement a test fee reimbursement initiative for teachers adding endorsements to their Arkansas license for chronically critical academic shortage areas. The ADE will provide a one (1)-time reimbursement for all assessments associated with each chronically critical academic shortage area. Pursuant to A.C.A. § 6-81-601 et seq. and A.C.A. § 6-85-109, the ADE designates critical academic shortage areas each year. Those areas that have been on the list for the last four (4) years will be the basis for test reimbursement applications for September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019:

- Art (K-12)
- Chemistry (7-12)
- Computer Science (4-12)
- Family and Computer Sciences (7-12)
- Library Media Specialist (K-12)
- Mathematics (7-12)
- Physics (7-12)
- Spanish (K-12)
- Special Education (all areas)

A test taker who passes the licensure assessment(s) may be eligible for a one-time assessment fee reimbursement by the ADE. Eligibility requirements include:

- Currently teaching in an Arkansas public or charter school,
- Completing all coursework requirements for the licensure area (if applicable),
- Achieving a passing score on the required assessments(s), and
- Providing proof the endorsement was added to a standard Arkansas License.

Reimbursements are processed on an as-received basis and are subject to funding availability.

Information on the licensure assessments is available on the [ADE's Licensure Assessment website](#). The Licensure Assessment Fee Reimbursement Form is available as a link under "Related Files".

In addition to the ADE fee reimbursement initiative, teachers needing additional coursework for the endorsements may be eligible for [financial incentives](#) through the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. The Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP) offers tuition reimbursement grants to Arkansas teachers and administrators. Teachers and administrators may apply for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses paid for up to six (6) college credit hours completed for each academic year, not to exceed \$3000. If necessary, licensed teachers taking courses that apply toward an additional license in a subject matter declared a shortage area by the ADE will receive first priority. This tuition reimbursement can be used for those licensure areas that are exception areas and require coursework.

Refer to Appendix A of the [Educator Licensure Rules](#) to determine if shortage area requires coursework.

Attachments

No attachments available