December 3, 2018

Gov. Hutchinson Announces Expansion of Stipend, Training Program
Additional $200,000 Dedicated to Program for a Total of $1 Million over 2 Years

LITTLE ROCK — To encourage more educators to become licensed in computer science, Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today the continuation and expansion of the K-8 Computer Science Lead Teacher Stipend and Training Program.

Hutchinson has approved an additional $200,000 from the ADE Office of Computer Science allocation, for a total of $1 million over two years for the program. The program provides elementary and middle school teachers with high-quality training regarding higher-level computer science concepts and how to assist other teachers within their schools with embedding the Arkansas K-8 Computer Science Standards across all content areas.

"From the launch of the Computer Science Initiative in 2015, I realized its success would hinge on the commitment and expertise of our great teachers across Arkansas," Hutchinson said. "In its initial year, the K-8 Computer Science Lead Teacher Stipend and Training Program was embraced by educators across the state. There was so much excitement, we expanded the program within days of its announcement. I am pleased to announce a further expansion, bringing the state's total commitment to $1 million. This additional funding will incentivize teachers to help lead the nation in computer science education."

This past summer 301 kindergarten through eighth-grade teachers enrolled and completed training under the first year of this program. Unused funds from the first year, combined with additional funding, will allow more than 200 teachers to begin the process in the summer of 2019.

"When planning its launch last year, we knew that the K-8 Computer Science Lead Teacher Stipend and Training Program would be a success, but we had no idea how big of one it would grow to be," said Anthony Owen, state director of computer science education. "Within days of announcing the program last December, the first 250 training spots were filled; prompting the governor to allocate funding for an additional 150. Many K-8 teachers have passed the Computer Science Praxis®, become fully certified and been providing support to their local schools since participating in the training last summer. This year we are happy to again extend this opportunity to a new cohort of K-8 teachers, which will help provide long term sustainability and growth for our program and students' learning."

To be eligible for the full $2,000 stipend, computer science lead teachers must do the following:

- be licensed educators at an Arkansas public elementary or middle school;

- attend a five-day professional development session provided at no cost by the ADE Office of Computer Science;
- obtain the 528 Computer Science endorsement on their Arkansas educator's license; and
- provide a requisite number of both one-on-one support and school-wide professional development hours.

To watch Hutchinson's announcement video, please go to https://youtu.be/_H0x5BF7wv0. To learn more about the program expansion, please visit http://adecm.arkansas.gov/ViewApprovedMemo.aspx?Id=3834.

December 3-9, 2018, is Computer Science Education Week. For a full listing of Arkansas announcements, please visit the newly-redesigned ADE Computer Science webpages at http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/special-projects/arkansas-computer-science-initiative.

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