



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Johnny Key, Commissioner

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Coffman Named Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key is pleased to appoint Deborah Coffman as the assistant commissioner of Public School Accountability effective July 1. Coffman, currently the ADE chief of staff, replaces Annette Barnes, who is retiring.

“During the last two years, I have witnessed Ms. Coffman’s dedication and commitment to ADE team members and public schools around the state,” Key said. “She truly has a passion for ensuring every student receives a quality education in order to be prepared for college, career and community engagement beyond high school. As we prepare to implement a new accountability system under the Every Student Succeeds Act, I am confident in Ms. Coffman’s leadership abilities and organizational skills. Her direction will help transform Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education.”

As assistant commissioner, Coffman will oversee the division that provides school improvement, performance and equity assistance, as well as desegregation and standards assurance monitoring.

Coffman has served as chief of staff since 2013. In that role, she coordinates the agency’s strategic performance management process, serves as the agency liaison to the State Board of Education and provides guidance to the Communications Unit.

Prior to serving as chief of staff, Coffman was the ADE director of professional development from 2006 to 2013. She began her career at ADE in 2004 as a literacy program manager where she coordinated literacy professional development services.

Coffman was an instructional specialist in the Pocahontas School District from 2002 to 2004, a literacy specialist for the Northeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative for five years, an elementary teacher at Hoxie Public Schools for nine years and a teacher at Burriss School for Children at Jonesboro for two years.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Science in Education from Arkansas State University at Jonesboro and holds numerous teaching and administrator licenses.

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