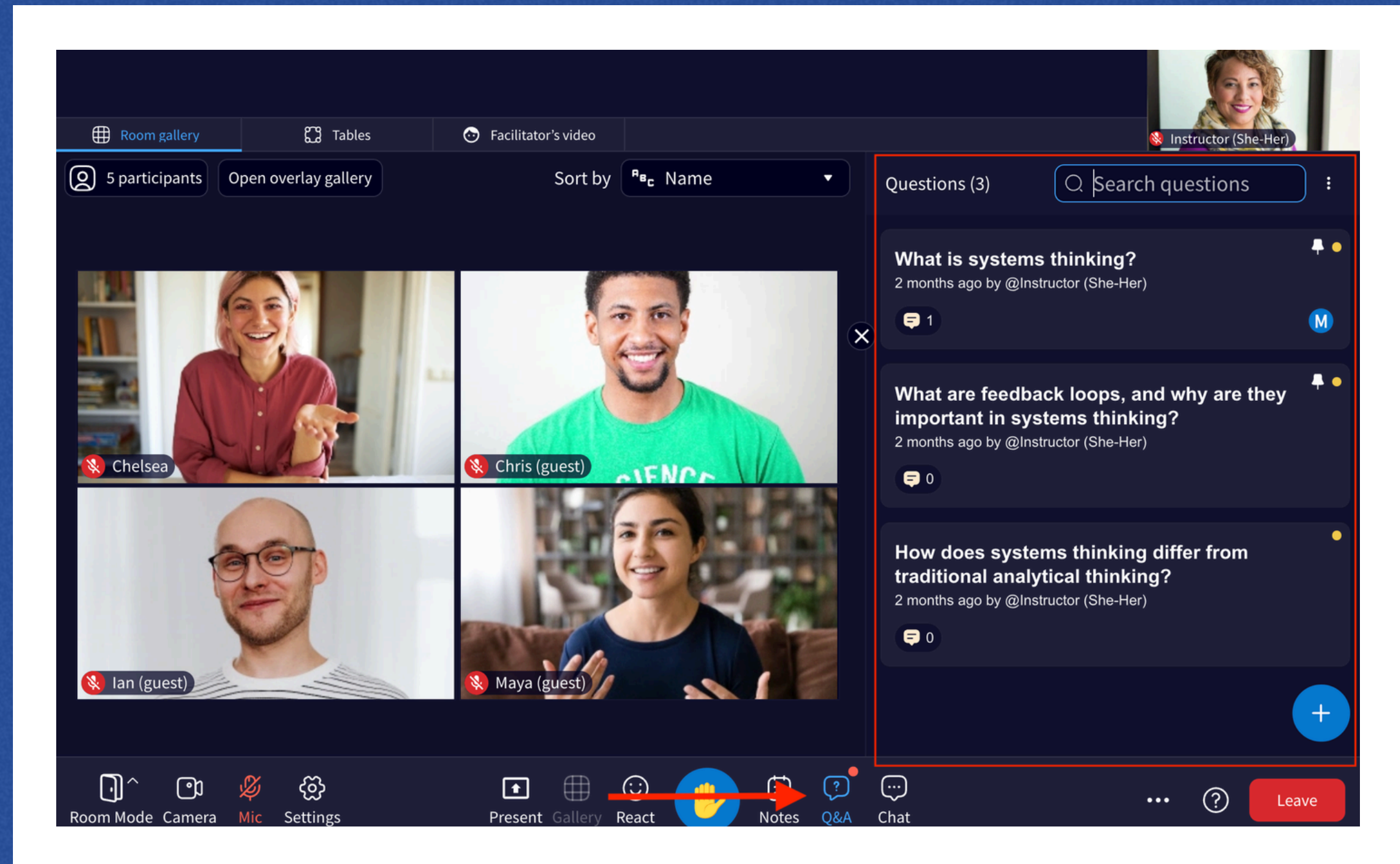


Housekeeping



- Chat feature is no longer available. As a result, we're unable to respond.
- Questions will be answered via the Q&A box and a FAQ Sheet that will be posted to the OEC website.
- Submit your questions early.
- Please use the Q&A Box to submit any questions.





Arkansas Department
of Education

Office of Early Childhood

April 7, 2026

OEC Monthly Provider Call





Ashelyn Abney

Welcome!



Subject: Action Required: Update Rates in ELS by May 15

Dear Providers,

The Office of Early Childhood is preparing for the next Market Rate Survey (MRS) and is asking all providers to review and update their rates in the Early Learning System (ELS).

The Market Rate Survey is conducted periodically to understand the current cost of child care across the state and helps inform subsidy rate setting and policy decisions. In order to ensure the survey reflects the most accurate picture of the market, it is important that the most current provider rates are recorded in ELS.

To support this work, we ask that all providers confirm or update their current private pay rates in ELS.

Action Required

Please complete the following by **May 15**:

1. Log into the Early Learning System (ELS).
2. Review the rates listed for your program.
3. Update any rates that have changed so the system reflects your current pricing to match your publicly available tuition rates.
 - a. You can amend any rate already in the system by clicking on the pencil next to the rate, or you can click “Add New” and add a new daily rate. See the attached images for further instructions.
 - b. Do not add an end date to the rate or the rate will be ended.

Ensuring that your rates are accurate and up to date will help the state better understand the current child care market and support future rate setting decisions.

If you have questions or need assistance updating your information in ELS, please contact your licensing specialist.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping ensure accurate information about child care rates in Arkansas.

Sincerely,
Ashelyn Abney
Education Division Director
Office of Early Childhood
Arkansas Department of Education

• ELS Email

OEC Provider Call





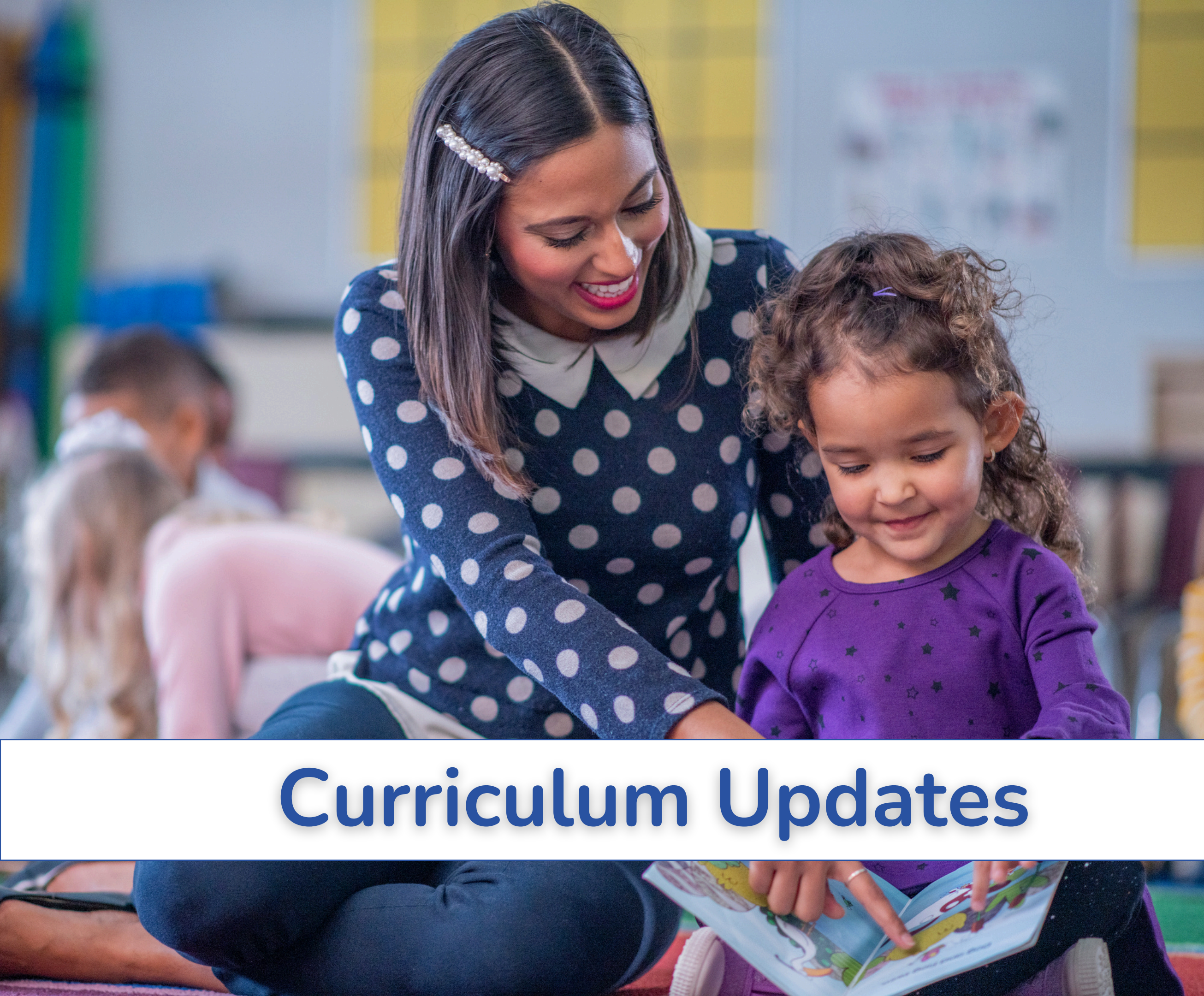
- ADE Summit
- July 14 - 16





- **Feedback on Training Opportunities**





Alicia Atwood

Curriculum Updates





- **The Approved Curriculum List will be updated on an ongoing basis.**
- **Guidance documents will be available to help providers as they choose a curriculum.**
- **OEC is reviewing low- and no-cost curriculum options.**
- **Programs may continue using their current curriculum for the 2026–2027 program year.**



Jennifer Douglas

Mary Katherine
Hardin
STARS Academy

High-Quality Interactions





- **Emotional Support**
- **Classroom Organization**
- **Instructional Support**



Melissa McLendon

Early Childhood
Special Education

Professional Learning Opportunity



Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Building Access for Students in Classrooms (BASIC) Project with an Emphasis on Practice-Based Coaching



A TWO-YEAR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

designed to strengthen key practices in early childhood classrooms. This project will also develop the knowledge and skills needed for implementing Practice-Based Coaching strategies and coaching cycles to support teachers in improving outcomes for young children ages three to five.

Who Can Apply?

- Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Preschools
- Arkansas Head Start Programs
- Early Intervention Day Treatment Centers
- Licensed Arkansas Child Care Programs serving children ages 3-5 with disabilities

Program Expectations:

- 📅 Two-year project commitment
- 👥 Engage in Practice-Based Coaching
- 📊 Analyze data for program improvement
- 🎓 Attend trainings and meetings

Informational Webinar:

If interested, please join the:

BASIC Project Informational Webinar
Friday, April 24, 2026 (12:00-12:45 p.m.)
Link: <https://bit.ly/40XzhJm>

Apply Today!

Application Deadline:
May 21, 2026



BASIC Design:

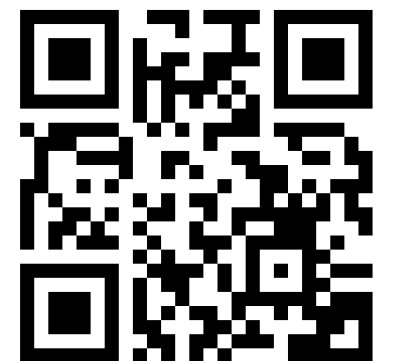
Take a look at the **BASIC Project design model** and **targeted monthly support** your program could receive **on page two.**

Contact: Melissa McLendon

📧 Melissa.mclendon@ade.arkansas.gov

📞 501-534-3040

- Building Access for Students in Classrooms (BASIC) Project with an emphasis on Practice-Based Coaching
- Informational Meeting:
April 24, 2026
12:00-12:45 p.m.
<https://bit.ly/40XzhJm>



Melissa.mclendon@ade.arkansas.gov

OEC Provider Call





Ashelyn Abney



Questions?





Next Provider
Call

May 5, 2026
12:00 P.M.

OEC Monthly Provider Call

