

1 AR App

Safe & Healthy Schools Quality Educational Workforce

2024-2025 Planning Guide



Moving to One District Plan



In the new planning process:

**Superintendents will lead their districts in developing
one strategic district plan.**



This one plan will consolidate 17 separate applications into one!

The AR App



The AR App is a single application that allows school districts to systematically plan and target funding sources toward identified needs while simultaneously applying for federal funding on one timeline.

Grants Included in 2023-2024 AR App

- ESSA
 - Title I Part A
 - Title I Part C (Migrant)
 - Title I Part D Subpart 2
 - Title II
 - Title III
 - Title IV
 - Title V
- IDEA

Plans Included in 2023-2024 AR App

- Enhanced Student Achievement Funding (ESA)
- Health and Wellness Plan
- Retention and Recruitment Plan
- Alternate Learning Plan
- Gifted and Talented Application
- Family and Community Engagement Plan
- District Literacy Support Plan (Act 1082)
- District Plan of Support

Planning Framework



The AR App is structured around a Planning Framework. The framework has 3 sections, which include questions, indicators, and resources to support planning.

Section	Questions	Response Guidance
Safe and Healthy School Quality Educational Workforce	Every school system will answer each question in each section to articulate its commitment to the key priorities. The responses also cover all grant requirements.	This tells districts what ADE is looking for in each response. The guidance helps districts develop a high-quality plan and meet federal and state requirements.

Guidance Deep Dive: **Safe & Healthy Schools**



Application Section



TABS	Focus
Home	Directions for AR App
District	Contact Info., Goals, Assurances, Transfer
Improving Academic Outcomes	Access to Core- Curriculum and Professional Learning Supplemental Supports-MTSS and program supports Transitions or Extended Opportunities- Family and Community- strategies and partnerships
Safe and Healthy Schools	Emphasizes the need for all districts to have schools that are safe and secure.
Quality Educational Workforce	Allows for districts to outline their retention and recruitment plans based on the needs on analysis of district data.
State Programs	ALE, ELL, Gifted and Talented, Health & Wellness, and ESA
Title Funds	Assurances and additional info for Title I, II, III, IV, V

Safe & Healthy Schools (2/2)



	Question	Response Guidance
P2.3	What process and data does the district use, by grade band, to identify students as at-risk or in need of additional services beyond academic services (mental health, attendance, behavior, etc.)?	This is the opportunity for districts to analyze and describe their process to identify students in need of additional supports beyond academics. Districts should list all data sources including but not limited to: mental health screener, attendance data, discipline data, behavioral screeners, etc.
P2.4	How does the district progress monitor and support the students identified by the processes in the previous question?	Districts should select all initiatives employed to progress monitor and support students identified as at-risk or in need of additional services beyond academic services.
P2.5	What efforts does the district take to reduce the overuse of discipline practices that remove students from the classroom? [ESEA § 1112(b)(11)]	Districts should select each strategy they will use to to reduce the overuse of discipline practices from the checkboxes.

Safe & Healthy Schools (1/2)



	Question	Response Guidance
P2.1	<p>How does the district promote and improve a safe and secure school environment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Which of the following physical security measures has your district implemented?-How will the district strive to meet, maintain, and exceed the above safety recommendations?-How does the district promote and improve school climate?	<p>For physical security, districts should review the list of priorities and answer each of the questions. Per the Safe Schools Initiative Act, the physical safety responses in this application may not be made public.</p> <p>For school climate, districts should include their 3-5 top priorities for providing a safe schools environment including the assessment tool they use to address emotional, physical and behavioral aspects of school climate and how that data is used for improvement.</p>
P2.2	<p>What is the district's plan to provide access to mental health services?</p>	<p>Districts should select all strategies and activities they are doing to provide access to mental health services from the checkboxes.</p>

Guidance Deep Dive: **Quality Educator Workforce**



Application Section



TABS	Focus
Home	Directions for AR App
District	Contact Info., Goals, Assurances, Transfer
Improving Academic Outcomes	Access to Core- Curriculum and Professional Learning Supplemental Supports-MTSS and program supports Transitions or Extended Opportunities- Family and Community- strategies and partnerships
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Quality Educator Workforce (1/2)



	Question	Response Guidance
P3.1	Upon analysis of your district's educator workforce and student outcomes, what grade levels or subject areas has your district identified as a priority for needing highly effective teachers?	Districts should use data (e.g., VAM, vacancies, Workforce Stability Index, etc.) to identify the top 3-5 priority areas that will be prioritized by the district's recruitment and retention strategy.
P3.2	Upon analysis of your district's educator workforce and student outcomes, what subgroups has your district identified as a priority for needing highly effective teachers? Select the two groups that are your district's top priorities. [ESEA § 1112(b)(2)]	Districts should select all subgroups that they have identified as a priority for needing highly effective teachers from the checkboxes.
P3.3	How does the district address any disparities that result in subgroups being taught at higher rates than other students by ineffective, inexperienced, or out-of-field teachers? [Title I ESEA § 1112(b)(2)]	Districts should select all strategies they are using to address disparities in access to high-quality teachers across student subgroups from the checkboxes.

Quality Educator Workforce (2/2)



	Question	Response Guidance
P3.4	What is the district's plan for teacher retention and recruitment? [ESEA § 2103(b)(3)(B)]	Districts should select all strategies that they are using for teacher retention and recruitment from the checkboxes.
P3.5	What additional support does the district provide to educators who are unlicensed or teaching outside their area of expertise?	Districts should describe the professional development, mentorship, coaching, and opportunities for peer observation in their responses.
P3.6	What additional compensation will the district offer for mentor teachers, lead/master designation, identified shortage areas, or greatest areas of need identified locally? [ESEA § 2103(b)(3)(B)(ii)]	Districts should select all strategies that they are using for compensation of specified teachers from the checkboxes. NOTE the following items are Title II eligible: Licensing/testing fees Tuition reimbursement Additional compensation costs for mentors/teacher leaders participating in an induction program

Moving Forward



AR App Support



AR App Planning Guide

Key dates

Checklist

Response Guidance

Recorded Section Overviews

Upcoming Support

Office Hours

Program Specific Webinars

District AR App Team Support

Information

Commissioner's Memo

AR App Webpage

Questions

ARApp@ade.arkansas.gov

Appendix 1: The Planning Process



Completing the AR App (1/4)



STEP 1: BUILDING A TEAM. Districts must convene a team with decision-making capacity & cross-functional expertise in order to complete the AR App.

Key Step	Purpose
Build Team	District leadership creates a planning team responsible for completing the AR App. The team should have decision-making authority and expertise in the following areas: academic content, assessment, high school programming, workforce talent, diverse student populations, early childhood, federal grant programs, budgeting, and finance.
Assign Planning Lead	District leadership selects a planning lead to oversee and coordinate the planning process. The planning lead is responsible for setting and facilitating a schedule of regular planning meetings to ensure timely completion of the AR App and will be the primary point of contact for ADE related to the AR App.
Assign AR App Completion Responsibilities	Planning Lead determines the team members responsible for completing each application section.

Completing the AR App (2/4)



STEP 2: DEVELOP A PLAN AND APPLICATION. Districts must meet regularly and gather feedback to complete their application.

Key Step	Purpose
Collect Feedback from School Leaders	District leadership solicits feedback from school leaders on the district plan. This process should allow school leaders to share their unique needs aligned to the indicators in the District Planning Framework.
Hold Planning Team Meetings and Select Strategies	Planning team 1) reviews data to determine areas for improvement; 2) uses the District Planning Framework to select relevant strategies from each domain to address areas of improvement; and 3) collaborates with key personnel to develop initial thinking on school and district plans.
Hold Planning Team Meeting(s) to Complete AR App	Based on the strategy discussion and funding proposal, the planning team develops and answers to all application questions in the AR App Workbook.

Completing the AR App (3/4)



STEP 3: SUBMIT PLAN AND APPLICATION. Districts finalize and enter their application.

Key Step	Purpose
Complete Assurances and Contacts	To ensure ADE contacts the Planning Lead with questions related to AR App, districts must review and, if needed, update the contact information within the submission platform. Districts will also sign-off on assurances for ESSA and IDEA.
Enter Data In Indistar	Planning lead and district leadership select one person to submit the AR App in Indistar. This team member enters answers from the AR App Workbook into [Indistar], and completes steps identified in the AR App Submission Checklist. Additional document uploads are required as part of the AR App submission. The [document] will be uploaded in the [tab].
Verify Information	District leadership approves submissions after a final review to ensure the completeness and accuracy of responses.

Completing the AR App (4/4)



STEP 4: BEGIN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION. Districts put their plan into action.

Key Step	Purpose
Publish plan to the district website	
Communicate Plan to school leaders	
Use the AR App to Develop the District Budget Submission	