

**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING
WATER SAFETY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Effective date: August 10, 2024**

1.00 AUTHORITY

- 1.01 The State Board of Education enacted these rules pursuant to its authority as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-16-158, and 25-15-201 et seq.

2.00 DEFINITIONS

- 2.01 “Water safety” means age-appropriate education that is intended to:

2.01.1 Promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water; and

2.01.2 Reduce the risk of injury or drowning.

3.00 INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS

- 3.01 Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school shall inform parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to a public school student on the important role that water safety education courses and swimming lessons play in saving lives.

3.01.1 The information required under this section shall:

3.01.1.1 Be provided electronically or in a hard copy format; and

3.01.1.2 Include local options for water safety education courses and swimming lessons that result in a certificate indicating the successful completion of the water safety education course or swimming lessons, including without limitation water safety education courses and swimming lessons that are offered for free or at a reduced price.

- 3.02 If a public school student is eighteen (18) years of age or older, or is under the age of twenty-one (21) and is enrolling in adult education classes, the information required under this rule shall be provided to the public school student.