



Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Johnny Key, Secretary

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Jerry Keefer Named ADE Safe Schools Coordinator

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Johnny Key is pleased to announce that Jerry Keefer, a long-time law enforcement officer, has been named the new safe schools coordinator. Keefer will begin his new position on September 6.

“I am excited to welcome Mr. Keefer to the ADE team,” Key said. “His extensive background in law enforcement makes him a perfect fit for the job, as we continue to support school districts as they work to ensure the safety of all students.”

As the safe schools coordinator, Keefer will serve as a liaison between ADE’s Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and school districts’ administration and safety staff, the Criminal Justice Institute, Arkansas Center for School Safety, Arkansas State Fusion Center, and other agencies. He also will assist with implementing recommendations from the Arkansas School Safety Commission and work closely with the DESE Equity Assistance, School Counseling, and School Health Services units.

In addition to these duties, Keefer will collaborate with other DESE units to share information regarding cyber security and physical and environmental security, as well as implement and manage the STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health grant. He will coordinate and serve on the DESE School Safety Committee and will provide trainings regarding school safety around the state and at conferences.

Prior to joining ADE, Keefer has been a special agent in charge for the Arkansas Attorney General’s Office since November 2020. During that time, he managed a budget of more than \$1 million and supervised the Executive Protection Unit, Internet Crimes Against Children Investigations Unit, Digital Forensics Laboratory, Public Integrity Division, Metal Theft Prevention Program, and the Training Unit.

He served as a supervisory special agent at the Attorney General’s Office from January 2017 to November 2020 and as a special agent from April 2015 to January 2017.

“Special Agent in Charge Keefer’s leadership has been instrumental to the success of my administration’s ability to protect children from online exploitation and those who seek to harm them,” Attorney General Leslie Rutledge said. “SAC Keefer is a well-respected and dedicated member of law

enforcement whose expertise will benefit the Department of Education, but more importantly, the schoolchildren of Arkansas.”

Prior to working for the Attorney General’s Office, Keefer served in multiple roles (patrol officer, detective, Special Response Team member, training officer, and support services sergeant) for the Jacksonville Police Department from February 2001 to April 2015. Prior to that, he was a detention deputy for the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Department and served in the U.S. Army from June 1994 to August 1996.

Keefer has completed multiple law enforcement education and training programs, received multiple awards and recognitions, and is a member of the National Association of Chiefs of Police and Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police.

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Jerry Keefer

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