



Arkansas Education Association  
An NEA State Affiliate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 2011

Contact: Lori Dimond  
(501) 375-4611, Ext. 117

### **Governor Beebe Proclaims American Education Week**

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Governor Mike Beebe has proclaimed November 13 through 19, 2011, as American Education Week. The proclamation provides that, “This year’s theme, ‘Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility’, serves to remind each of us that we have a duty and responsibility to see that our children are prepared to take up the roles of citizens and leaders in the years to come.”

The proclamation was requested by the Arkansas Department of the American Legion, which is a patriotic, war-time veterans’ organization devoted to mutual helpfulness for veterans and their families. The proclamation also provides that, “Since 1921, the American Legion, its Auxiliary, and professional groups have promoted the idea of visitation to our schools. Many citizens have not visited a local school since their own graduations from high school.”

American Legion representatives met with representatives of the National Education Association in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education. Both organizations were distressed that so many draftees were illiterate and physically unfit that they co-sponsored the first American Education Week in 1921.

Governor Beebe’s American Education Week proclamation can be found at [http://governor.arkansas.gov/newsroom/index.php?do:newsDetail=1&news\\_id=3145](http://governor.arkansas.gov/newsroom/index.php?do:newsDetail=1&news_id=3145). The American Legion’s promotion of American Education week can be found at <http://www.legion.org/youth/159493/american-education-week-nov-13-19>, and more information about American Education Week and suggested activities can be found at <http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm>.

*Sponsors of the event include: the U.S. Department of Education, the National PTA, the American Association of School Administrators, the National School Boards Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the American School Counselor Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National School Public Relations Association, the National Association of State Boards of Education, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.*

###