



ARKANSAS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
An NEA State Affiliate

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January 19, 2012

Memorandum

To: Local Association Presidents

From: Donna Morey, AEA President
Rich Nagel, AEA Executive Director

Subject: AEA plans for fiscal session without AEA Legislative Conference

The Arkansas Education Association (AEA) is moving ahead with its plans for the 88th Arkansas General Assembly Fiscal Session; however, it **will not** hold the annual Legislative Conference scheduled for February 4, 2012. Despite this change of plans, the AEA President and staff will be very active during the coming fiscal session, and members will be informed and encouraged to lobby every day.

The AEA believes that this session, which convenes February 13, 2012, will be very short and significant. In fact, many legislators believe that the session will only last for three weeks, and a three-fourths vote is necessary to extend the session beyond March 13.

The official revenue forecast will provide a modest increase in per pupil funding to schools, and very little money will be available for other state supported services. Additionally, the General Assembly will have no appetite to raise additional resources for public schools or any other services for the next fiscal year.

Since this is a fiscal session limited to approving appropriation bills, non-fiscal issues would require an extraordinary vote to be considered. February 13 is the deadline for filing Concurrent Resolutions for non-appropriation bills that will require a two-thirds vote for consideration, and the AEA will be monitoring the filing of these measures very closely. February 27 is the deadline for filing non-appropriation bills, and it is also the deadline for filing appropriation bills. A two-thirds vote is required to extend this deadline, and the AEA will also be monitoring this deadline very closely.

The AEA's lobby team will prepare and publish daily legislative updates and legislative action alerts throughout the fiscal session. In the event that a significant issue arises, our team will issue an action alert to our members to contact members of the Arkansas General Assembly.

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AEA Legislative Conference Cancellation Notice (Continued)

AEA will work with local affiliates to engage members in lobbying activities needed to effectively influence the work of the General Assembly during the fiscal session.

Local associations are encouraged to set up legislative contact teams of members who will help mobilize e-mail communications to lawmakers.

Thank you.

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