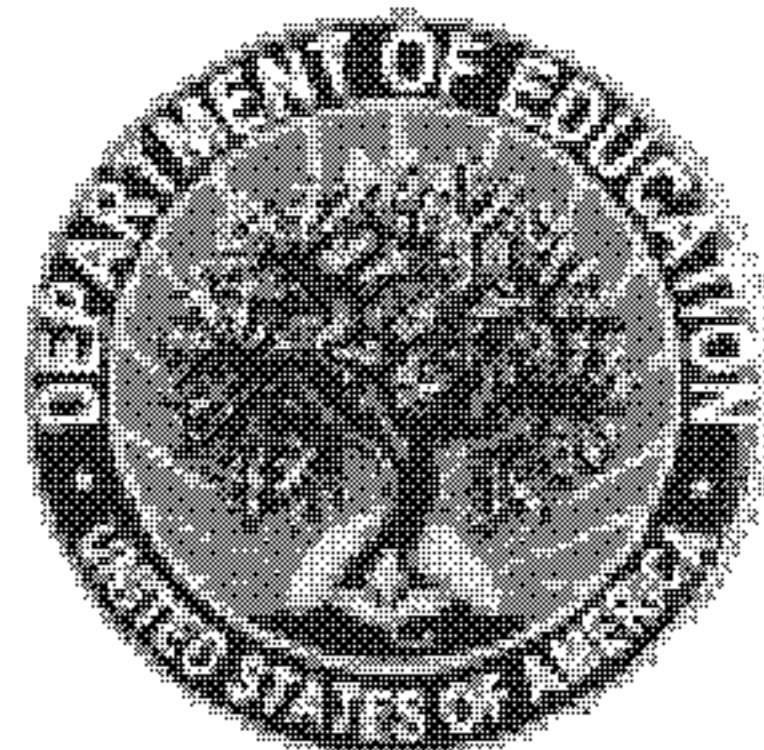


U.S. Department of Education

Washington, D.C. 20202-5335



APPLICATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE

**STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM RECOVERY ACT GRANTS
CFDA # 84.384A
PR/Award # R384A100010**

Closing Date: NOV 19, 2009

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This application was generated using the PDF functionality. The PDF functionality automatically numbers the pages in this application. Some pages/sections of this application may contain 2 sets of page numbers, one set created by the applicant and the other set created by e-Application's PDF functionality. Page numbers created by the e-Application PDF functionality will be preceded by the letter e (for example, e1, e2, e3, etc.).

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

* 1. Type of Submission	* 2. Type of Application:* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation	* Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Revision	

* 3. Date Received:	4. Applicant Identifier:
12/1/2009	

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	* 5b. Federal Award Identifier:
	NA

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: Arkansas Department of Education

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):	* c. Organizational DUNS:
716007390	781558564

d. Address:

* Street1:	ADE Technology Center
Street2:	8221 Ranch Boulevard
* City:	Little Rock
County:	
State:	AR
Province:	
* Country:	USA
* Zip / Postal Code:	72223

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:	Division Name:
	Research and Technology

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:	Mr.	* First Name:	James
Middle Name:			

* Last Name: Boardman

Suffix:

Title: Assistant Commissioner

Organizational Affiliation:

Arkansas Department of Education

* Telephone
Number:

(501)371-5005

Fax Number:

(501)371-5010

* Email: JIM.BOARDMAN@ARKANSAS.GOV

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S. Department of Education

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

84.384A

CFDA Title:

Statewide Longitudinal Data System Recovery Act Grants

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

ED-GRANTS-072909-001

Title:

Institute of Education Sciences;(IES) Grant Program for Statewide Longitudinal
Data Systems Recovery Act Program (ARRA) CFDA 84.384A

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Arkansas Department of Education's Statewide Longitudinal Data System Improvement and Modernization Project

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Attachment:

Title :

File :

Attachment:

Title :

File :

Attachment:

Title :

File :

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant: AR-002

* b. Program/Project: AR-all

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Attachment:

Title :

File :

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 5/1/2010

* b. End Date: 4/30/2013

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

a. Federal	\$ 2855984
b. Applicant	\$ 2230745
c. State	\$ 0
d. Local	\$
e. Other	\$
f. Program Income	\$
g. TOTAL	\$ 5086729

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .

b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes", provide explanation.)**

Yes No

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: Mr. * First Name: James

Middle Name:

* Last Name: Boardman

Suffix:

Title: Assistant Commissioner

* Telephone Number: (501)371-5005 Fax Number: (501)371-5010

* Email: JIM.BOARDMAN@ARKANSAS.GOV

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

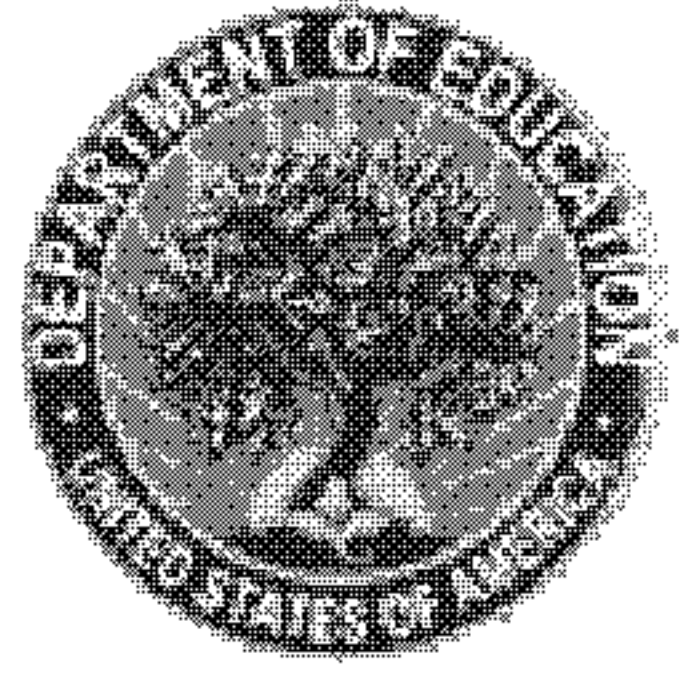
* Date Signed:

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

*** Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation**

The following field should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent on any Federal Debt. Maximum number of characters that can be entered is 4,000. Try and avoid extra spaces and carriage returns to maximize the availability of space.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BUDGET INFORMATION
NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Control Number: 1894-0008

Expiration Date: 02/28/2011

Name of Institution/Organization:
 Arkansas Department of Education

Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDS

Budget Categories	Project Year 1(a)	Project Year 2 (b)	Project Year 3 (c)	Project Year 4 (d)	Project Year 5 (e)	Total (f)
1. Personnel	\$ 465,500	\$ 477,138	\$ 489,066	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,431,704
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 144,751	\$ 147,635	\$ 150,591	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 442,977
3. Travel	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 28,500
4. Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
5. Supplies	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
6. Contractual	\$ 1,976,598	\$ 3,424,300	\$ 2,131,838	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 7,532,736
7. Construction	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
8. Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)	\$ 2,596,349	\$ 4,058,573	\$ 2,780,995	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 9,435,917
10. Indirect Costs*	\$ 259,635	\$ 405,857	\$ 278,099	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 943,591
11. Training Stipends	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
12. Total Costs (lines 9-11)	\$ 2,855,984	\$ 4,464,430	\$ 3,059,094	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,379,508

***Indirect Cost Information (To Be Completed by Your Business Office):**

If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line 10, please answer the following questions:

(1) Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government? Yes No

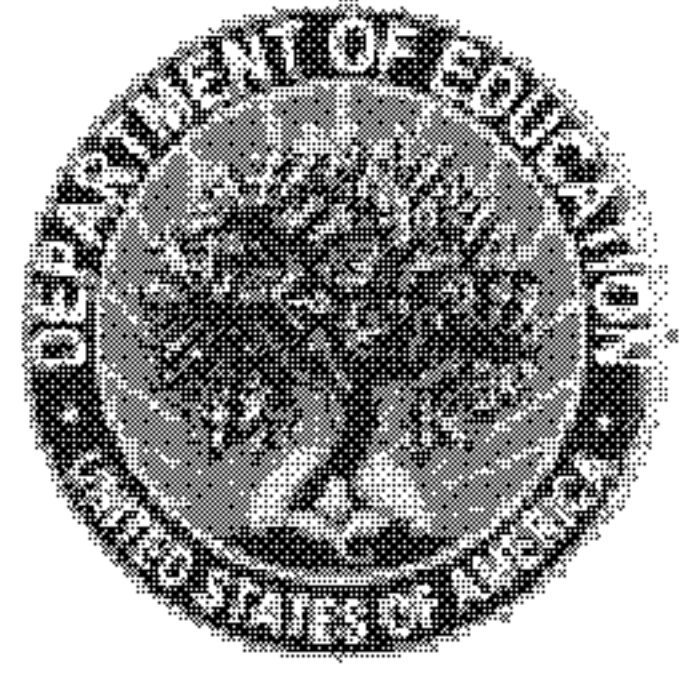
(2) If yes, please provide the following information:

Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement: From: 7/1/2007 To: 6/30/2010 (mm/dd/yyyy)

Approving Federal agency: ED Other (please specify): _____ The Indirect Cost Rate is 0%

(3) For Restricted Rate Programs (check one) -- Are you using a restricted indirect cost rate that:

Is included in your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement? or, Complies with 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2)? The Restricted Indirect Cost Rate is 0%



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BUDGET INFORMATION

NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Control Number: 1894-0008

Expiration Date: 02/28/2011

Name of Institution/Organization:
Arkansas Department of Education

Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

SECTION B - BUDGET SUMMARY

NON-FEDERAL FUNDS

Budget Categories	Project Year 1(a)	Project Year 2 (b)	Project Year 3 (c)	Project Year 4 (d)	Project Year 5 (e)	Total (f)
1. Personnel	\$ 298,300	\$ 305,758	\$ 313,401	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 917,459
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 91,769	\$ 93,617	\$ 95,511	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 280,897
3. Travel	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 16,200
4. Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
5. Supplies	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
6. Contractual	\$ 1,632,481	\$ 830,250	\$ 1,162,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,624,731
7. Construction	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
8. Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)	\$ 2,027,950	\$ 1,235,025	\$ 1,576,312	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,839,287
10. Indirect Costs	\$ 202,795	\$ 123,502	\$ 157,631	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 483,928
11. Training Stipends	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
12. Total Costs (lines 9-11)	\$ 2,230,745	\$ 1,358,527	\$ 1,733,943	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5,323,215

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Standard Form 424B (Rev.7-97)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States, and if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. "4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. "1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. '794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act
9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. "276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. '276c and 18 U.S.C. "874) and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. " 327-333), regarding labor standards for federally assisted construction sub-agreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. "1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clear Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clear Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. "7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, (P.L. 93-523); and (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. "1721 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance

of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. " 6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) " 523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. " 290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. ' 3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. "1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. '470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. "469a-1 et seq.).

14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. "2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. "4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead- based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations and policies governing this program.

Signature of Authorized Certifying Representative:

Name of Authorized Certifying Representative: James Boardman

Title: Assistant Commissioner

Date Submitted: 11/25/2009

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352

1. Type of Federal Action: <input type="checkbox"/> Contract <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Insurance	2. Status of Federal Action: <input type="checkbox"/> Bid/Offer/Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial Award <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Award	3. Report Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Filing <input type="checkbox"/> Material Change For Material Change only: Year: 0 Quarter: 0 Date of Last Report:
4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prime <input type="checkbox"/> Subawardee Tier, if known: 0 Name: Arkansas Department of Education Address: 8221 Ranch Boulevard City: Little Rock State: AR Zip Code + 4: 72223-	5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is a Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime: Name: Address: City: State: Zip Code + 4: - Congressional District, if known:	
6. Federal Department/Agency: U.S. Department of Education	7. Federal Program Name/Description: Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems CFDA Number, if applicable: 84.384A	
8. Federal Action Number, if known:	9. Award Amount, if known: \$0	
10. a. Name of Lobbying Registrant (if individual, last name, first name, MI): Address: City: State: Zip Code + 4: -	b. Individuals Performing Services (including address if different from No. 10a) (last name, first name, MI): Address: City: State: Zip Code + 4: -	
11. Information requested through this form is authorized by title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when this transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.	Name: James Boardman Title: Assistant Commissioner Applicant: Arkansas Department of Education Date: 11/25/2009	
Federal Use Only:		Authorized for Local Reproduction Standard Form LLL (Rev. 7-97)

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements.

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal Loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance.

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee or any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Department of Education

PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Prefix: Mr. First Name: James Middle Name:

Last Name: Boardman Suffix:

Title: Arkansas Department of Education

Signature:

Date:

11/25/2009

ED 80-0013

03/04

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
REQUIRED FOR
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANTS**

1. Project Director:

Prefix:	* First Name:	Middle Name:	* Last Name:	Suffix:
Mr.	James		Boardman	

Address:

* Street1: ADE Technology Center
Street2: 8221 Ranch Boulevard
* City: Little Rock
County:
* State: AR* Zip / Postal Code: 72223 * Country: USA

* Phone Number (give area code)	Fax Number (give area code)
(501)371-5005	(501)371-5010

Email Address:

JIM.BOARDMAN@ARKANSAS.GOV

2. Applicant Experience

Novice Applicant Yes No Not applicable

3. Human Subjects Research

Are any research activities involving human subjects planned at any time during the proposed project period?

Yes No

Are ALL the research activities proposed designated to be exempt from the regulations?

Yes Provide Exemption(s) #:

No Provide Assurance #, if available:

Please attach an explanation Narrative:

Attachment:

Title :

File :

Project Narrative

Project Narrative - Project Abstract

Attachment 1:

Title: **Section 5 - Project Abstract** Pages: **1** Uploaded File: **Section 5 - Project Abstract.pdf**

5. Project Abstract

Arkansas Department of Education's SLDS Improvement and Modernization Project

With significant help from its 2005 and 2009 IES SLDS grants, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) has established and continues to improve its SLDS, which by 2007 had already met all of the Data Quality Campaign's 10 essential elements. ADE is committed to achieving improvements in student outcomes and is pursuing a broad range of new initiatives to build a strong culture of DDDM that is enriched through cross-agency data sharing and engagement of the research community. In its December 2008 evaluation of the Arkansas SLDS, ADE's evaluator documented significant utilization and good end-user satisfaction with the SLDS and showed that schools that made the heaviest use of the SLDS experienced small but discernable growth in student achievement compared to other schools. ADE will use the opportunity provided by ARRA and the IES SLDS 2009 grant to advance several new improvements and accelerate initiatives to address the new SLDS standard set by the seven required capabilities and 12 elements outlined in the RFA. To improve the currency and utility of data delivered to stakeholders, ADE will significantly modernize its SLDS environment, replacing or restructuring legacy components and migrating to newer technologies and real-time data/information exchange and exchange standards. ADE will advance several bold, cutting-edge initiatives related to inter-agency data sharing and adoption of national data standards that will benefit Arkansas and advance the state of practice nationally. Backed by a strong endorsement for its planned activities by Arkansas Governor Mike Bebee and heads of several state agencies ADE will, in addition to meeting all current grant commitments, achieve the following outcomes:

- Expansion of the Arkansas Research Center (ARC) with participation from ADE; Arkansas educational research, teacher preparation, and educational policy institutions; and higher education, workforce, human services, and health agencies.
- Expansion and acceleration of current work on DDDM and researcher engagement, facilitation of relevant research within each of these agencies and research that requires data from these agencies to be combined.
- Development of the DDDM and researcher/policy portals and the conducting of targeted needs assessments to address gaps in SLDS utilization in some ADE administrative units.
- Establishment and utilization of teacher-student links to support evaluation of teacher effectiveness, and participation in the Gates Foundation-funded multistate Teacher-Student Link Project for Agency Leadership pilot.
- Expansion of data-sharing agreements to maximize amount of data about the Pre-K population collected in the SLDS.
- Participation in Arkansas's new state data-sharing consortium, the Arkansas Education to Employment Tracking and Trends Initiative (AEETT), and development of master data management/entity resolution, "TrustEd", and service oriented architecture (SOA) based solutions—including a focus on NIEM, SIF, and PESC data-exchange standards—to ensure privacy protection, FERPA compliance, and a high degree of interoperability.
- Completion of a two-phase modernization/standardization upgrade of the SLDS systems architecture, including replacement of 12-year-old statewide school information systems with a new SIF 2.0 compliant SunGard eSchoolPLUS solution, implementation of a state-level Zone Integration Server and restructuring of data exchange based on SOA/SIF standards.
- Implementation of a NEDM-compliant database synchronized to the current ADE production SLDS for use by researchers and data analysts, external data exchanges, and alignment of Arkansas' data definitions to the NCES Handbook.

ADE will continue to evaluate its SLDS implementation, including tracking stakeholder use and satisfaction and impact on student achievement outcomes.

Project Narrative

Project Narrative - Project Narrative

Attachment 1:

Title: **Section 6 - Project Narrative** Pages: **30** Uploaded File: **Section 6 - Project Narrative.pdf**

6. Project Narrative

(a) Need for the Project

Introduction and Current Status of the SLDS

With significant help from its 2005 IES SLDS grant and the recently awarded 2009 IES SLDS grant, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) has established and continues to improve its SLDS, which as early as 2007 had already met all of the Data Quality Campaign's (DQC) 10 essential elements. Today, ADE is aggressively pursuing a broad range of new initiatives that build on the foundation established in the 2005–2008 grant period, with a primary focus on driving the effective utilization of its SLDS data resources. ADE's objective is to engage the research community and build a strong culture of data-driven decision-making (DDDM) in the state that is enriched by sharing of data across the K–12, higher education, and workforce thresholds. In all of its work, ADE is committed to driving real and demonstrable improvements in student outcomes.

Since the 2009 award, ADE has moved forward with the initiatives described in its 2008 grant application and is working across several fronts. Earlier this year, ADE executed its statewide site licensing agreement with IBM/Cognos. Initial versions of scorecards and dashboards built using the Cognos tools suite are now being deployed, as is an ADE open source visual analytic and collaboration tool (Hive). Central to its drive to ensure the effective use of its data resources and tools, ADE recently completed the first phase of its strategic effort to engage institutional partners and educators throughout the state around a common and defined set of best practices, methods, and curriculum components necessary to achieving a culture of DDDM. Working with the Assessment and Accountability Comprehensive Center (AACC)/National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) and the Mid-Continent Comprehensive Center (MC3), ADE developed a stepwise framework and protocol for educational data analysis and decision-making at the school and classroom level, and is now working with its Arkansas institutional partners to make this a central element in educational practice throughout the state. ADE's parallel efforts to strengthen the framework for data sharing across the K–12 to workforce thresholds and other organizational boundaries have been reinforced by the establishment of a statewide multiagency data-sharing consortium established at the direction of the Arkansas Governor.

ADE is moving forward with many other SLDS initiatives to which it committed in its 2008 IES grant application, including those related to interim testing and curriculum development, integration of teacher licensure, professional development, district-level system integration, researcher access, systems documentation, and training. In its December 2008 evaluation of the Arkansas SLDS effort, Metis Associates, ADE's SLDS evaluator, was able to document significant utilization and a very good level of satisfaction based on results of surveys administered to some 5,000 Arkansas teachers, principals and other educators. In addition, Metis showed that schools that made the heaviest use of SLDS system resources experienced a small but discernable growth in achievement over schools that made less use of these resources. There is now a very strong indication that the work ADE is doing to develop the SLDS program is achieving results.

ADE has carefully reviewed the state of its SLDS implementation against the new standard established by the seven required capabilities and the 12 elements prescribed in the America COMPETES Act outlined in the RFA. As documented in the chart included in Section 10, Appendix C of this application, Arkansas can report significant accomplishment across many of these capabilities and elements, but there are still substantial gaps. Accomplishment in a number of areas is only partially complete, leaving room for further improvement. Therefore, ADE seeks to use the opportunity provided by ARRA stimulus funding and the IES SLDS 2009 grant competition to advance a number of new initiatives to address, or to more fully address, the required capabilities and elements outlined in the RFA. In doing so, ADE will begin to substantially upgrade its SLDS systems architecture. Legacy components that have been in place for a decade or more tie ADE to capturing data that are out of date for many potential uses; this is increasingly at odds with the users' needs and the forward-looking architectural strategies for data delivery expressed in Triand interfaces and Cognos business intelligence (BI)/visual tools. To guarantee the currency of SLDS data into the next decade, ADE will modernize its SLDS environment by replacing or restructuring legacy components and moving to newer technology and data and information exchange architectures that support real-time exchange. This is essential to keeping Arkansas aligned to the best and emerging practices being used by its SEA peers and others across the country, as well as ensuring that the SLDS continues to meet broader goals for enabling educational change and student improvement. In its approach to interagency data sharing and national data standards adoption, Arkansas is also seeking to advance several bold, cutting-edge initiatives with the potential to greatly benefit Arkansas and advance the state of practice nationally. Although these initiatives are consistent with emerging technology standards and trends, they have not yet been advanced by other SEAs to the extent that Arkansas proposes in this grant application.

Accelerating Arkansas' DDDM and Policy Research Agendas and Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness

Driving use of Arkansas' SLDS and creating a culture of DDDM in the state—in which data are used pervasively and materially to inform decision-making from the classroom to the highest levels of local and state policymaking—has been and continues to be the central focal point of all of ADE's SLDS work. An aggressive program to bring about these transformations is already under way based on commitments made in ADE's last grant application and funding provided through the 2009 IES grant award. In its 2008 IES SLDS grant application, ADE committed to engage several institutional partners, including the Arkansas Leadership Institute, University of Central Arkansas (UCA), and Arkansas Regional Cooperatives, to adopt a DDDM focus and integrate this into their respective professional development, training, and curriculum development and delivery programs. Working with AACC/CRESST and MC3, ADE conducted a year-long pilot project to determine how educators actually use the data provided in the SLDS. From this work came a stepwise framework and protocol for systematically engaging educators in detailed data analysis and identification of actionable relationships in the data they analyze. Following an evaluation of this phase of work, which is currently under way, this framework will become the basis of Arkansas' new DDDM-driven school improvement planning process in which educators will analyze their local school or classroom data, plan and carry out actions based on what the analysis shows, and over time continue to identify what other data should be

captured and analyzed. The DDDM framework will be shared with ADE's institutional partners for embedding in the state curriculum and will be advanced in other complementary ways to ensure widespread adoption in the state. A joint task force consisting of representatives from these institutional partners is being organized and will be charged with overseeing development of more detailed plans for the next phase of this activity, which will be further stimulated by the initial roll out of ADE's visual tools suite of Cognos-based dashboards and scorecards.

ADE has already strengthened its computer-based training facilities and is augmenting these with a more robust instructor-led training program. In past years, work by the University of Arkansas Fayetteville and NORMES has contributed substantially in this area, as has Arkansas' Educational Renewal Zones, which have representatives located at colleges across the state. To further support the goal of aligning the curriculum and sharing electronic lesson resources across the state, ADE is in the process of becoming a more active partner in the CCSSO Surveys of Enacted Curriculum (SEC) and will make SEC resources available for schools as part of their school improvement programs. The participation of Arkansas schools in the SEC will be a strong complement to its data initiatives. A comprehensive, objective analysis of state standards, current instruction, and assessment will enable schools to identify weaknesses and will be an invaluable tool in the effort to address achievement gaps. In a parallel effort, Arkansas is engaged in pursuing major new initiatives to strengthen institutional relationships with researchers to undertake substantive and directed research that will be fed back into the decision-making processes within the educational establishment.

ARC: Strengthening ADE DDDM and Policy Research Initiatives

ADE is moving forward on all of the initiatives it committed to as part of its DDDM and researcher engagement plans described in its 2008 IES grant application, but it has become apparent that progress in these areas could be significantly accelerated if there was a greater degree of centralized leadership, a greater commitment of resources, and a more focused organizational and institutional structure for coordinating this work. Although many partners have been involved, the central responsibility for coordinating the many DDDM and researcher engagement initiatives has fallen primarily to one Assistant Manager and one data management specialist within ADE's SLDS project management office (PMO), who must divide their time across several other initiatives. In response to this, ADE has recently entered into a partnership with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) and has established the Arkansas Research Center (ARC) under the joint governance of both ADE and ADHE. This relationship between ADE and ADHE has been given special impetus by the state legislature, which has specifically mandated increased collaboration between ADE and ADHE, including setting reporting mandates that require the matching of data between the two agencies.

The ARC is centered at University of Central Arkansas (UCA), with a main office in Conway, Arkansas, but it has been established as a cross-institutional entity that includes units at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. The UCA is the primary center in the state for the development and promulgation of curriculum for teacher and administrator preparation in the state. The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville houses the Office of Educational Policy, the main educational policy research entity in the state. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and in particular its Laboratory for Advanced Research in Entity Resolution and Information Quality (ERIQ), houses staff with special expertise in

information technology, data standards, and data quality. Since its recent establishment, the ARC has been primarily focused on educational policy research, using data sets from both ADE and ADHE, and it has already begun a series of targeted policy studies beginning with an important study concerning remediation for Arkansas' students entering college in the state. However, Arkansas would like to greatly expand the scope and role of the ARC and have it assume responsibility for providing more focused leadership across the range of DDDM and associated researcher engagement initiatives being pursued by Arkansas under its 2009 IES SLDS grant award.

As described more fully elsewhere in this application, the ARC will play a major role in advancing several other initiatives/outcomes relating to cross-agency data sharing and standards adoption. Bringing these entities together in the ARC allows the integration, "under one roof," of specialists in teacher preparation, educational policy research, and information systems and data quality. This, in combination with the launching of interdisciplinary efforts based around a shared vision for advancing the goals of educational transformation—as articulated in ADE's SLDS applications—as well as the augmentation of resources to support this effort, can generate the critical mass necessary to stimulate the work described in this and earlier applications. The expanded ARC will provide a more focused organizational structure that is fully dedicated to ensuring the critical interaction between staff pursuing focused policy research and the work being conducted to promote adoption of the state's framework for DDDM. These institutions are already collaborating with ADE on SLDS related research and dedicate a substantial amount of staff time in helping ADE advance its SLDS DDDM and researcher engagement agenda. A number of researchers at ADHE are working on material related to the K–12 higher education transition and related issues. The SLDS PMO Project Manager also serves as the director of the ARC, and other ADE staff focused on DDDM work under the current 2009 IES award are now working under the ARC umbrella with staff from the UCA to embed the new DDDM framework into the curricula used to train state educators.

To take the ARC to the next level, ADE proposes adding a new Assistant Project Manager and four additional full-time equivalents (FTEs), including one senior program manager knowledgeable across all disciplines from each of four other Arkansas agencies, some of which are also collaborating with ADE in the state's cross-agency data-sharing initiatives. This includes the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (DWS), the Arkansas Department of Health (DOH), the ADHE, and the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS). This will further enrich the interdisciplinary nature of the ARC with an interagency focus that is critical to viewing the "whole child" from early childhood through transition to higher education and the workforce, will open up many new research opportunities using combined interagency data, and is central to advancing an effective DDDM policy research agenda. To drive DDDM, the ARC team will be charged with expanding and intensifying outreach efforts to institutional partners, schools and school districts, parent organizations, and others, and will serve as the primary facilitator and staff resource to the broader task force comprising part-time stakeholders that Arkansas is in the process of establishing pursuant to the 2008 grant application work plan. This will allow Arkansas to give greater impetus to this work over the next 3 years. The team will be responsible for promoting and coordinating activities with all of the state entities that are involved, as well as systematically monitoring, measuring, and reporting on the progress of the state's transition toward a culture of DDDM and the outcomes being achieved. The expanded

