



Arkansas Department of Education

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Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor

Jacob Oliva
Secretary

August 21, 2023

Dear Participating Superintendents,

As a governing entity, the Arkansas Department of Education (the "Department") is charged with oversight of education in public school districts, which includes ensuring school district compliance with state law and State Board of Education rules. Since the Advanced Placement African American Studies pilot program is a direct partnership between your school district and College Board, the Department has not been provided the necessary materials and resources needed to enable the Department to support districts in complying with the law and rules.

Given some of the themes included in the pilot, including "intersections of identity" and "resistance and resilience," the Department is concerned the pilot may not comply with Arkansas law, which does not permit teaching that would indoctrinate students with ideologies, such as Critical Race Theory (CRT), (See Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-156, as amended by Section 16 of the LEARNS Act).

To assist public school employees, representatives, and guest speakers at your district in complying with the law, please submit all materials, including but not limited to the syllabus, textbooks, teacher resources, student resources, rubrics, and training materials, to the Department by 12:00 pm on September 8, 2023, along with your statement of assurance that the teaching of these materials will not violate Arkansas law or rule. Items can be scanned and emailed to ade.commissioner@ade.arkansas.gov.

The Department values its partnership with districts to provide students accelerated opportunities to earn college credit. If you have any questions, please contact the Department at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jacob Oliva".

Jacob Oliva
Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education