

# ARKANSAS LEARNS ACT REPORTER

*Covering education from the  
Capitol to the classroom*

# LEARNS ACT REPORTER

## The Challenge

The Arkansas LEARNS Act is one of the most significant education laws passed in Arkansas in recent history. At 145 pages, the legislation reshaped major areas of public education, including teacher salaries, school choice, literacy initiatives, campus safety, education funding and student services. The law continues to evolve through implementation, state rulemaking and local district decisions — creating ongoing questions and consequences for schools and families throughout Arkansas.

## Our Solution

The Arkansas LEARNS Act reporter aims to provide Arkansans with trusted, in-depth reporting that explains how the Arkansas LEARNS Act impacts students, families, educators and communities across the state.

Through philanthropic support of an anonymous donor, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette established the Arkansas LEARNS Act reporter position to help residents better understand how this sweeping legislation affects their communities and daily lives. The position continues to be one of the most impactful reporting roles in our newsroom, generating consistent feedback and engagement from readers across Arkansas, including many who do not have school-aged children but recognize the far-reaching effects of education policy on their communities. Since June 2025, Josh Snyder has been tracking policy changes and reporting on the real-world impact of the law in classrooms and communities across the state. We've shared data about the [Educational Freedom Accounts spending](#) and [duplicate enrollments across the state](#), as well as [declining test scores](#) and [Arkansas' teacher retention rate](#). This position allows our newsroom to move beyond headline coverage and provide accountability reporting, explanatory journalism and community-centered storytelling that helps readers make informed decisions.

## Join Us

Families, educators, policymakers and taxpayers all benefit from clear, fact-based reporting on one of the state's most consequential public policy changes. As a trusted statewide news organization, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette is uniquely positioned to continue this work.

Ongoing community support will help ensure Arkansans continue to have access to independent, comprehensive coverage of education policy long after the initial funding period ends. Will you join us?



[arcommunitynews.org](http://arcommunitynews.org)