ABSTRACT

Arkansas Rethink K-12 Education

The Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) proposes to address Absolute Priority Area 3 in the Rethink K-12 Education Models (REM) Discretionary Grant Program by establishing a differentiated approach to create, develop, implement, and take to scale an educational model for blended and remote learning to mitigate the adverse impact to teachers, students, and families in the State resulting from the coronavirus health crisis. Through the AR REM grant, DESE will provide digital learning modules and supports for K-8 English language arts, high school Critical Reading, K-8 mathematics, Algebra I, and Geometry. Content will be designed around the most critical and essential standards within units of study (DuFour et al., 2016) based on the principles of Universal Design for Learning (CAST, 2018) with interventions and scaffolds for English learners, students with disabilities, and other learners in need of additional support. These units will be housed in a state procured Learning Management System through which content, assignments, and resources can be accessed statewide online or offline. Guidance and support for families and communities, students, and teachers will be embedded throughout the modules to support blended and remote learning.

Through this grant, DESE strives to increase the number of and access to high-quality remote learning options for teachers, students, and families; increase user satisfaction with remote learning options made available; and better equip teachers and families to support student learning through high-quality curriculum and resources for blended and remote delivery. The State projects that 50% of Arkansas students will be served by this project.