



**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**MIKE BEEBE**  
**GOVERNOR**

February 20, 2014

Senator Larry Teague, Co-Chair  
Representative Duncan Baird, Co-Chair  
Joint Budget Committee  
Arkansas General Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request the introduction of the attached supplemental appropriation bill for FY2014 for the Arkansas Department of Education as a Joint Budget Committee Bill.

This bill provides appropriation to the Department of Education Public School Fund to establish the state Broadband Facilities Matching Grant Program for local school districts. This program would be funded through a one-time transfer from the unobligated balances in the General Improvement Fund.

I would also request that this appropriation and carry forward funding language be amended into the Department's FY2015 appropriation bill as well.

This funding will not impact local contracts, the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON), or Middle Mile connectivity.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MB", written over a white background.

Mike Beebe

MB:brs:cr

Attachment