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## PROGRAM MEMORANDUM ADED 23-01

**DATE:** July 11, 2023

**TO:** Adult Education and Literacy Council Directors

**FROM:** Dr. Trenia Miles, Director *TM*

**RE:** Adult Education Statewide Education Resource – Essential Education

This program memorandum provides notice of the discontinuation of statewide financial support for specific Essential Education content areas.

Due to rising costs, student and staff usage, and the need to become more efficient, this memo serves as formal notification that the Adult Education Section will no longer provide statewide financial support to the following areas in Essential Education: *Computer Essentials*, *Work Essentials*, and *Money Essentials*. This will go into effect on August 1, 2023. The state office will continue to support the *College Essentials Study Program* and the academic components of Essential Education, which include TABE 11/12 and GED Academy Programs.

Aztec, Burlington English, and Rosetta Stone will continue to be supported in the current program year. However, like Essential Education, we must consider costs and student and staff usage of the software systems for the next program year. The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC) offers training on state-supported academic software programs that will give teachers the knowledge, skills, and ability to navigate, use, and integrate technology in the classroom.

Although the state is not financially supporting the Workforce Readiness component of Essential Education, it will continue to be an acceptable option for the WAGE™ Level I Workforce Preparation Certificate. Programs may continue to purchase licenses utilizing state funds. Marsha Taylor, AALRC Executive Director, is available to assist with cost negotiations.

Please contact the State WAGE™ Coordinator, LaJuana Delph, [LaJuana.Delph@Arkansas.gov](mailto:LaJuana.Delph@Arkansas.gov), if you have any questions regarding certificate requirements. Please copy your Program Advisor on all correspondence.