



Arkansas Department of Education

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Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Johnny Key
Secretary

Dear Superintendents,

The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to join the Drug Enforcement Administration, FBI Little Rock Field Office, and Arkansas Drug Director's Office to provide Red Ribbon Week resources for educators. Red Ribbon Week is held October 23 through 31 each year and shines a spotlight on the importance of living a drug free lifestyle.

As in previous years, I urge all school districts and institutions of higher education to host events that promote the Red Ribbon Week mission. Last year we partnered with Arkansas PBS to develop a new documentary, "7 Days"- The Opioid Crisis in Arkansas, that highlights the opioid crisis here in Arkansas. I encourage districts to show the documentary to students on October 26, which is Opioid Awareness Day. I want to remind districts that the DEA and FBI's documentary "Chasing the Dragon" is available for showing as well. Both documentaries provide real-life examples of the harmful effects of opioid addiction and its impact on students, families, and communities. I also would encourage districts to provide an opportunity for parents to view one of the documentaries and to hold a discussion about prevention and intervention with them.

To register to participate in the same day showing of either documentary, please go to <https://forms.gle/DM7sNBSvycRTBccS6>

A Commissioner's Memo with more information will be available at <https://adecm.ade.arkansas.gov> once details are finalized.

Let's all do our part to promote a drug-free healthy lifestyle.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Key". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Johnny Key
Secretary of Education