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## ARKANSAS SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ARKANSAS SECURITIES DEPARTMENT PROVIDES GRANTS TO SCHOOLS**

A. Heath Abshure, Arkansas Securities Commissioner, announced that the Arkansas Securities Department has awarded grants to sixteen schools and one non-profit organization for the 2008-09 school year. The grants are provided to schools for grades 5 through 12, who want to teach their students about the securities industry, the stock market, and investment decision-making. The program, which began in 2003, has enabled numerous schools in the state to provide financial and investor education for their students. Approximately \$50,000 in grant money was awarded this year.

The schools awarded grants this year included: Acorn High School in Mena; Batesville Junior High School; Glen Rose High School in Malvern; Jack Robey Junior High School in Pine Bluff; Manilla Elementary and High School; Omaha High School; Walker Elementary and Hellstern Middle School in Springdale; Southside High School in Batesville; Dunbar Middle School in Little Rock; Bryant High School; Lakeside High School in Hot Springs; Lincoln High School; Prairie Grove Schools; and West Fork High School. The grants will be used to purchase educational materials, software, and equipment for the classrooms that are used to further investor education.

A grant was also awarded to Economics Arkansas. The grant will be used to train teachers about securities and to assist with sponsoring and conducting the Stock Market Game.

In addition to the grant program, the Department also provides investor education to teacher and students throughout the state. Workshops for teacher and classroom education for students cover such topics as learning

about financial markets, terminology, and methods to research and evaluate particular investments.

Mr. Abshure stated that learning about investing is invaluable to Arkansas students who will be future investors. “It is vitally important that young people learn about the financial markets and how to invest wisely,” said Abshure. “Early financial and investor education will prevent these future investors from falling victim to securities scams and frauds as adults.”