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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kelsey Bailey, Chief Deputy Finance & Operations Officer from the Little Rock School District, Selected as Truett Goatcher Arkansas School Business Administrator of the Year

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Kelsey Bailey, Chief Deputy Finance & Operations Officer for the Little Rock School District, has been selected as the **2026 Truett Goatcher Arkansas School Business Administrator of the Year** by the Arkansas Association of School Business Officials (AASBO). The award was presented during a surprise presentation at the Little Rock School District Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

Mr. Bailey's nomination stated, *"Mr. Bailey is a wealth of knowledge in all areas of finance and operations. He serves faithfully in both his professional and personal organizations and is frequently asked to present at conferences across the state and nation. Mr. Bailey is always willing to lend a helping hand and is a steady force for the students, employees, and community of the Little Rock School District."*

Mr. Bailey earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Central Arkansas, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and an Associate Real Estate Broker License from the National School of Real Estate. He is also a graduate of the College Business Management Institute through the University of Kentucky.

His professional experience includes serving as a Project Program Specialist at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Payroll and Position Control Manager at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, and Director of Financial Services at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Mr. Bailey joined the Little Rock School District in April 2009, where he continues to serve today.

Mr. Bailey is an active member of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA), where he serves on the Board of Directors, and the Arkansas Association of School Business Officials (AASBO), where he currently serves as Past President. He is also a member of the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials (SASBO) and ASBO International, through which he earned the Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations (SFO) designation.

Known for his willingness to share his expertise, Mr. Bailey regularly teaches classes, participates in mentoring programs, and provides guidance to colleagues across Arkansas and the nation. He also volunteers with several organizations and serves actively in his church.

The annual award recognizing Arkansas's outstanding school business official is named in honor of Truett Goatcher, a long-time school business official, Arkansas Department of Education staff member, AAEA staff member, and mentor to many. The award honors Mr. Goatcher's exceptional contributions to improving the professionalism and expertise of school business administrators across the state.