Goal 1: To hire a GED Coordinator at the district level who will serve as a liaison between DYS youth and Adult Education Center personnel.

Many youths decide (for a variety of reasons) that the best educational pursuit for them is to earn a GED. DYS has seen a noticeable increase in 17 and 18 year old students enrolling with single digit credits. Therefore, is the best pathway for them to obtain a degree. With a high mobility rate, frequent transfers between facilities, and limited lengths-of-stay (LOS), there is a great need for an alternate method of graduation. A full-time GED Coordinator serves as the liaison between DYS/ROP and local adult education centers.

Goal 2: To implement a 4-day school week.

Beginning with the 2022-23 School year, DYS/ROP is piloting a 4-day school calendar. Recent research and statistical data indicate districts who have changed to this configuration have experienced a significant increase in the number of certified teachers willing to apply. A 4-day school week calendar has also proven to aid in teacher retention.

Goal 3: To recruit a diverse, highly qualified staff.

DHS is always looking for hard-working, creative, and passionate employees, especially in the fields of nursing, direct care in facilities, eligibility workers in county offices, and family services workers. We provide equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, age, and disability, and where veterans receive preference. Arkansas Careers allows for us to document details of the entire hiring process and maintain the vault of information for an indefinite period of time.