

Hall of the House of Representatives
84th General Assembly - Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1091
"THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS ACT."

Amendment No. 2 to House Bill No. 1091.

Amend House Bill No. 1091 as engrossed, H1/12/04 (version: 01-12-2004 08:44):

Add Representatives C. Johnson, S. Borhauer, L. Chesterfield, J. Elliott, and B. King as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Page 1, immediately before the enacting clause on line 16, add the following:

“WHEREAS, the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board has a proven record as an advocate for the children of the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has determined that, rather than create a new board, commission, or agency to carry out the duties of the Family Resource Centers Act and because of the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board’s proven record as an advocate for the children of the State of Arkansas, the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board shall be given the duties under this act,

NOW THEREFORE,”

AND

Delete everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

“SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

6-18-1401. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Family Resource Centers Act”.

6-18-1402. Definitions.

For the purpose of this subchapter:

(1) “Board” means the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board;

(2) “Core component” means one (1) of the activities or services for children and their families provided by a family resource center pursuant



to the school district's grant application;

(3) "Family resource center" means a center in or near a priority elementary school;

(4) "National school lunch students" mean those students from low socioeconomic backgrounds as indicated by eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals under the National School Lunch Act as calculated on October 1 of each year and submitted to the Department of Education;

(5) "Optional component" means one (1) of the activities or services for children or their families provided by a family resource center to satisfy unique community needs;

(6) "Parent" means a parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis; and

(7) "Priority elementary school" means a public school that meets the following requirements:

(A) Has one (1) or more of grades kindergarten through six (K-6); and

(B)(i) Has fifty percent (50%) or more of the enrolled students that are national school lunch students based on data from the 2002-2003 school year; or

(ii) Has fifty percent (50%) or more of the students that are performing below proficient on any or all benchmark examinations based on examination results from the 2002-2003 school year.

6-18-1403. Administration.

This subchapter shall be administered by the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board as created under § 9-30-104.

6-18-1404. Duties.

(a) The State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board shall have the following duties:

(1) To determine which schools are priority elementary schools under this subchapter;

(2) To review grant applications and to award grants to school districts for family resource centers;

(3)(A) To formulate and assist with the implementation of an implementation plan to establish a goal of ten (10) family resource centers, subject to funding.

(B) The family resource centers shall be designed to meet the following goals:

(i) To remove nonacademic barriers to student success in school;

(ii) To enhance the abilities of students to succeed in school; and

(iii) To meet the needs of children and their families;

(4) To monitor the family resource centers;

(5) To modify the implementation plans as necessary;

(6) To promulgate rules and forms for the administration of this subchapter;

(7) To employ administrative or training staff as needed;

(8) To create local advisory groups;

(9)(A) To provide additional resources to assist school

districts in the development of methods and strategies to effectively use poverty funding that they receive more effectively.

(B) The resources may include the following:

(i) Technical assistance;

(ii) Organizational assistance;

(iii) Program assistance;

(iv) Professional assistance; or

(v) Any other assistance that is determined to be needed to help school districts overcome nonacademic barriers; and

(10) Other duties as determined by the board.

(b)(1) This subchapter is the framework for schools to address student poverty issues and to remove nonacademic barriers that hinder student performance.

(2) A school district may fund programs or services under this subchapter with moneys received from the Department of Education Public School Fund, or its successor fund, for poverty index funding, National School Lunch Act student funding, national school lunch students funding, or other funding for students eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

(3) The programs under this subchapter shall be included in any list of approved programs and purposes established by rule of the Department of Education, any successor agency of the Department of Education, or the State Board of Education regarding the use of poverty index funding, National School Lunch Act student funding, national school lunch students funding, or other funding for students eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

(4) School districts may use any available funding resources to establish and administer family resource centers under this subchapter, including, but not limited to, federal or state Medicaid moneys or reimbursements.

(c) On or before October 1 of each year, the chairperson of the board or his or her designee shall report to the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth regarding the status of the development of the family resource centers and the outcomes achieved at each operational family resource center.

6-18-1405. Purposes.

(a) Family resource centers shall be designed to remove nonacademic barriers to success and to enhance the abilities of the students to succeed in school.

(b) Students and families who are the most economically disadvantaged shall have priority status for receiving services at the family resource centers.

(c) Family resource centers shall work in conjunction with the parent facilitator at the school to avoid duplication of services and to maximize personnel and resources.

6-18-1406. Implementation plans.

(a) The implementation plan developed by the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board with input from the local advisory groups, the local school district, and the priority elementary school shall include an effort

to implement a network of family resource centers across the state.

(b) The family resource centers shall be located in or near each priority elementary school.

(c) The implementation plan shall promote identification and coordination of existing resources including any program that currently exists at the school under a parental involvement plan under §§ 6-15-1701 through 6-15-1705.

(d) The implementation plan may include the following components for each site:

(1)(A) Information and referral activities for off-site services to assist participants in having their basic needs met.

(B) Information and referral activities provide participants with a point of entry to available support networks.

(C) Examples of off-site service referrals include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) Child care centers;

(ii) Health care providers;

(iii) Counseling services;

(iv) Legal aid;

(v) Food banks;

(vi) Housing and domestic violence shelters;

and

(vii) Federal agencies, state agencies, or other entities that provide benefits or services that the participants may need;

(2)(A) Parenting education services to promote the sharing of information, strategies, and tools to help parents with the difficult job of being parents.

(B) Examples of parenting activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) Group-based parent education classes;

(ii) Providing credentialed guest speakers; or

(iii) Making materials on parenting issues available to parents through lending libraries or take home materials;

(3)(A) Child development activities to strengthen the parent and child bond and promote optimal development of a child by assisting parents in the utilization, understanding, and application of early child development activities.

(B) Child development activities shall emphasize child development during the earliest years, specifically age zero to three (0-3).

(C) Child development activities shall address the following:

(i) Healthy physical development;

(ii) Cognitive development;

(iii) Social development; or

(iv) Emotional development.

(D) Specific strategies to promote child development within family resource centers may include the following:

(i) Referring or establishing quality childcare or after-school care programs;

(ii) Providing developmental screenings;

(iii) Educating parents about developmental

milestones;

(iv) Providing literacy and pre-literacy activities such as story time;

(v) Providing play groups or "make and take" activities for young children; or

(iv) Establishing toy, book, computer, or technology sharing or lending libraries.

(E) Child development activities may be conducted at the family resource centers, through home visiting programs such as Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY), or as part of Head Start;

(4) Life skills education to provide an opportunity for participants to strengthen skills and competencies that will help them succeed in everyday tasks to include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) Developing and maintaining a household budget;

(B) Shopping for and preparing nutritious meals;

(C) Securing and maintaining employment;

(D) Conflict resolution skills;

(E) Goal setting;

(F) Time management;

(G) Decision making; or

(H) Stress management;

(5)(A) Family literacy to connect education for children with literacy instruction for their parents.

(B) Family literacy activities may include the following:

(i) Adult literacy instruction for parents;

(ii) General education diploma instruction for

parents;

(iii) Referral to a vocational educational institution or an institution of higher education in the state;

(iv) Providing information on scholarships that might be available to the parent if the parent decides to proceed with higher education;

(v) Child literacy programs; or

(vi) Parent and child literacy activities; and

(6)(A) Informal network building to assist families in developing a network of mutual support to include caring, resource sharing, emotional support, and social support.

(B) The informal network building program shall be designed to promote activities to help parents get to know one another, raise their social capital, and reduce their isolation.

(C) Examples of informal network building programs include the following:

(i) Support groups;

(ii) Social activities;

(iii) Family celebrations;

(iv) Recreational activities;

(v) Holiday gatherings; or

(vi) Newsletters.

(e) The board and the local advisory group shall agree which of the components in subsection (d) of this section are core components or optional components based on the individual implementation plan for each priority

elementary school's family resource center.

(f)(1) The board shall determine which schools meet the definition of priority elementary schools under this subchapter by July 1, 2004.

(2) The Department of Education and the State Board of Education shall provide all information necessary in the format necessary for the board to meet the deadline under this subsection (f).

(g)(1) The board shall select a minimum of ten (10) eligible priority elementary schools for which an implementation plan shall be completed, subject to funding.

(2) The board shall complete its implementation plan for a minimum of ten (10) priority elementary schools on or before December 1, 2004, subject to funding.

(h) On or before August 1, 2005, family resource centers shall be established in or adjacent to a minimum of ten (10) priority elementary schools, subject to funding.

6-18-1407. Grant program.

(a) A grant program is established to provide financial assistance to school districts with priority elementary schools that establish family resource centers.

(b) Local school districts shall submit to the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board the grant applications and plans for their family resource centers by March 1, 2005.

(c) Beginning July 1, 2005, the board shall award grants to school districts that establish family resource centers at priority elementary schools in their districts.

(d)(1) The board or its designee shall develop a grant application process that includes the following:

(A) An application for a grant under this subchapter;

(B) Instructions about the grant process; and

(C) Scoring procedures to determine the award of the

grants.

(2)(A) The grant application process shall include the preparation of a grant application package that is distributed to each priority elementary school and the superintendent of the school district containing each priority elementary school.

(B) The board shall distribute the grant application package no later than December 15, 2004.

(3) The grant application process shall be straightforward and require a minimum amount of paperwork.

(e) In the award of grants under this subchapter, special consideration shall be given to the most impoverished and the lowest performing schools.

6-18-1408. Local advisory councils.

(a) Each family resource center shall have a local advisory council that has a central role in designing and delivering services.

(b) Members of the local advisory council shall be representative of the diversity of the students in the priority elementary school that is served.

(c)(1) Except for the initial chairperson, the members shall determine annually and by majority vote who shall serve as chairperson.

(2) The superintendent of the priority elementary school shall appoint the initial chairperson for the purpose of calling the first organizational meeting.

(3) The initial chairperson shall call an organizational meeting no fewer than thirty (30) days after all of the members are appointed.

(d)(1) The council shall meet at such times and places that the chairperson deems necessary but no meetings shall be held outside of the county where the priority elementary school is located.

(2) A quorum is not required for the council to transact business.

(3) All actions of the council shall be by a majority vote of all members who are present.

(e) The local school district shall provide meeting facilities for the council.

6-18-1409. Family resource centers.

(a) Each family resource center shall have the following:

(1) A full-time coordinator;

(2) At least fifteen (15) hours a week of social work services;

and

(3) Sufficient staff to implement the plan submitted with the grant application.

(b) The services provided at the family resource centers shall take into consideration the schedule of the student and the student's family to provide discreet after-hour services where appropriate.

(c) The family resource centers shall work with the local advisory council to give the members notice of all activities and needs of the family resource centers.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court in Lake View District No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351 Ark. 31 (2002) declared our current public education system to be unconstitutional because it is both inequitable and inadequate; that the Arkansas Supreme Court has set forth the test for a constitutional system to be one in which the state has an "absolute duty" to provide an "equal opportunity to an adequate education"; that the Arkansas Supreme Court has instructed the General Assembly to correct these constitutional infirmities with our public education system; and that this act is immediately necessary to provide additional resources to the poorest and most disadvantaged students in the state that face countless nonacademic barriers in their quest for academic success. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto."

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Judy
JSE/RKC - 01-16-2004 09:59
RKC057 _____ Chief Clerk