

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 807 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H3/2/07 H3/16/07 H3/19/07 H3/21/07

86th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2007

HOUSE BILL 1517

By: Representatives Cook, Blount, T. Bradford, J. Johnson, Rainey, Saunders, Walters

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT IN CONCORDANCE WITH THE 2006 ACT 57 STUDY;
TO EXPAND MONITORING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO EXPAND MONITORING BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL
DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT PLANS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. ACT 57 COMPLIANCE.

The General Assembly declares this act to be in concordance with the study of the state's system of public education conducted in 2006 by the Adequacy Study Oversight Subcommittee, the Senate Interim Committee on Education, and the House Interim Committee on Education in compliance with Act 57 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-426(e)-(f), concerning school improvement, is amended to read as follows:

(e) Any Each public school or school district ~~classified as in school improvement~~ shall develop and file with the department a ~~revised~~ comprehensive school improvement plan which shall be reviewed by the department and shall be designed to ensure that all students have an opportunity to obtain an adequate education and demonstrate proficiency on all portions of the state-mandated criterion-

1 ~~referenced tests~~ assessments.

2 ~~(f) The comprehensive school improvement plan shall strategies to address the~~
3 ~~achievement gap existing for any identifiable group or subgroup as identified in the program and the gap~~
4 ~~of that subgroup from the academic standard.:~~

5 (1) Be based on an analysis of student performance data and other relevant data that
6 provides a plan of action to address deficiencies in student performance and any academic achievement
7 gap evidenced in the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program; and

8 (2) Include the public school or school district's use of categorical funding for:

9 (A) Alternative learning environments;

10 (B) Professional development;

11 (C) English-language learners; and

12 (D) National school lunch students, as defined by § 6-20-2303(12)(A).

13 (g) Any public school or school district classified as in school improvement under § 6-15-425
14 shall develop and file with the department a revised comprehensive school improvement plan meeting the
15 requirements of this section and containing any additional requirements determined necessary by the
16 department to ensure that all students in the public school or school district have an opportunity to
17 demonstrate proficiency on all portions of the state-mandated assessments.

18 (h)(1) At the end of each school year, the school district shall assess the effectiveness of an
19 intervention or other action included in the comprehensive school improvement plan in improving student
20 performance and include the assessment in the comprehensive school improvement plan for the following
21 school year.

22 (i)(1) The department shall monitor each public school's and school district's compliance
23 regarding its comprehensive school improvement plan, including without limitation:

24 (A) The use of public school funding under the Public School Funding Act of
25 2003, § 6-20-2301 et seq. for the following:

26 (i) Instructional facilitators, as that term is defined by the State Board of
27 Education;

28 (ii) Alternative learning environments, professional development,
29 English-language learners, and national school lunch students identifying specific:

30 (a) Educational strategies;

31 (b) Resources used, including tutors, teachers' aides, counselors, social
32 workers, and nurses; and

33 (c) Expenditures made from categorical funds provided under §
34 6-20-2305(b); and

35 (B) The implementation of programs for students whose academic achievement
36 is below proficient.

1 (2) As part of the monitoring process under this subsection (i), the department shall
2 evaluate the research cited by the public school or school district in its comprehensive school
3 improvement plan in support of the proposed interventions and actions to assess its independence and
4 empirical support for the effectiveness of the program.

5 (3) The department shall use the information obtained through monitoring
6 comprehensive school improvement plans under this section to:

7 (A) Determine the compliance of the public school or school district with the
8 provisions of this subchapter; and

9 (B) Evaluate whether the assessment conducted by the public school or school
10 district under subsection (h) of this section was conducted properly, and assess the areas in which the
11 public school or school district needs to revise its plan.

12 (i) The State Board of Education shall incorporate the provisions of subsections (f) through (i) of
13 this section into its rules for comprehensive school improvement plans and may amend those rules in the
14 same manner as provided by law for other rules established by the state board.

15 (f) Professional development activities of a public school or public school district in school
16 improvement shall be related to the comprehensive school improvement plan and designed to increase
17 student learning and achievement.

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19 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of
20 the State of Arkansas that in order to ensure an adequate education for all Arkansas public school
21 students, public schools or school districts should be required to file detailed school improvement plans
22 with the Department of Education, and the Department of Education should monitor compliance with
23 those plans; and that this act is immediately necessary because the determination of educational
24 strategies and the use of public funds to develop and implement school improvement plans depends on
25 early planning by public school districts; that if these plans are not developed by the expiration of the
26 period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

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

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30 /s/ Cook, et al

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32 **APPROVED: 4/2/2007**
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