

**Task Force on Higher Education Remediation, Retention, and Graduation Rates — Update on Recommendations (6/8/11)**

Recommendation	Report Page No.	Time Horizon	Bill Number	Bill Titles and Other Actions	Sponsor	Bill Status
<b>Section 1: Strengthening the Arkansas Education Pipeline</b>						
1.1. Request the Governor initiate a public campaign about the importance of a college education. The campaign should enhance the state’s ongoing efforts to improve the economy through increasing the number of bachelor’s degrees, and it should provide more specific information about the relationship between education and income. The state should involve all sectors in the promotion of the campaign and target both adults and students.	24	2008-09		No legislation. The Governor's Summit on Education and Economic Development launched the awareness campaign.		
1.2. Encourage students within 25% of graduation to return and complete a degree. Each institution should identify these students, and send letters encouraging them to return. Remove obstacles to graduation (such as graduation fees). A statewide effort, including a media publicity campaign should be made to contact these students.	25	2010-11	HB1002 of 2009 (page 91)	An act to create the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act; to establish, operate, and regulate state lotteries as authorized by the Arkansas Constitution; to supplement higher education scholarships with net proceeds from the state lottery; to provide for the exchange of data needed to evaluate state-supported student financial assistance	Wills	Act 606 of 2009
			SB26 of 2009 (page 91)	An act to create the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act; to establish, operate, and regulate state lotteries as authorized by the Arkansas Constitution; to supplement higher education scholarships with net proceeds from the state lottery; to provide for the exchange of data needed to evaluate state-supported student financial assistance	T. Smith	Act 605 of 2009

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1.3. Encourage two-year colleges, four-year institutions, and the Department of Workforce Education to develop a seamless transition from General Educational Development (GED) to college.	25	2013-15				
1.4. Develop, implement and fund a middle school and junior high outreach program to encourage students to prepare for college.	25	2009-10		No legislation. The Arkadelphia School District and Henderson State University (Educational Renewal Zone Office) opened the Arkadelphia College Preparatory Academy on April 18, 2009 for 39 ninth graders based on EXPLORE and PLAN scores. The funding comes from private sources.		
			HB1617 of 2011	An act to increase public school student access to postsecondary preparatory programs in Arkansas; to provide public access to information concerning postsecondary preparatory programs in Arkansas	Roebuck	Signed as Act 879 of 2011
1.5. Provide better information for all 11th grade students for college entry and promote Act 881 of 2007, which provides funds for entrance admission testing (ACT or SAT) for students on a voluntary basis. Counselors should be provided training for implementation of this initiative.	25	2010-11				

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1.6. Require each college and university to develop a transfer plan to increase the number of students who transfer between institutions to earn bachelor's degrees. The plan should include a mechanism for coordinating financial aid between institutions and innovative approaches for a seamless transfer. Colleges and universities will work with ADHE to continue developing the Arkansas Course Transfer System, which should have a common course numbering system as a component.	26	2011-12	HB1357 of 2009	An act to create a system for fully transferable credit hours from degrees in associate of arts, associate of science, and associate of arts in teaching among public institutions of higher education	M. Burris	Signed as Act 182 of 2009
			HB1772 of 2011	An act to enhance the opportunity for successful degree completion by strengthening the transfer of courses between institutions of higher education; to expand the Roger Phillips transfer policy; to clarify which courses are prerequisite courses; to establish a statewide common course numbering system for postsecondary courses	Roebuck	Signed as Act 747 of 2011
1.7. Encourage students who have transferred to a four-year university without earning a degree to transfer back (reverse transfer) credit hours that are needed to award an associate's degree or certificate.	26	2010-11				
1.8. Recommend colleges and universities increase adult participation in higher education through programs such as the Beck PRIDE Center at Arkansas State University for veterans and inmate or parolee education programs.	26	2011-12	HB1894 of 2009	An act to authorize the Department of Correction to expand the skills training program and educational opportunities for inmates in the Department of Correction	Blount	Signed as Act 788 of 2009
OTHER MEASURES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE EDUCATION PIPELINE			HB1956 of 2009	An act to create the Arkansas Project Graduation Commission	Word	Signed as Act 1306 of 2009

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<b>Section 2: Improving Preparation</b>						
2.1. Mandate in high school senior year that students with an ACT score below 19 or the SAT equivalent take remedial courses for high school credit designed by secondary and postsecondary instructors working together.	27	2011-12	HB1617 of 2011	An act to increase public school student access to postsecondary preparatory programs in Arkansas; to provide public access to information concerning postsecondary preparatory programs in Arkansas	Roebuck	Signed as Act 879 of 2011
2.2. Require school districts with a high percentage of students needing remediation — as defined by the Arkansas Department of Education/ADHE — to designate required professional development for teachers that is targeted toward eliminating the need for remediation.	27	2009-10	HB1808 of 2009	An act to create the Arkansas College and Career Readiness Planning Program Act; to lower educational costs, shorten a student's time to degree completion, and increase the overall success rate of Arkansas students by reducing the need for remediation; to ensure that students have the career readiness skills to compete in the global economy	Allen	Signed as Act 730 of 2009
			HB216 of 2009 (page 2)	An act to increase accountability for achievement gaps in school districts; to provide intervention and support to public school districts to address the severity of achievement gaps	Rainey	Signed as Act 949 of 2009
2.3. Require schools to administer the following preparatory examinations: EXPLORE (8th), PLAN (10th), and PSAT (10th) at state expense.	27	Summer 2008	HB1808 of 2009 (page 3)	An act to create the Arkansas College and Career Readiness Planning Program Act; to lower educational costs, shorten a student's time to degree completion, and increase the overall success rate of Arkansas students by reducing the need for remediation; to ensure that students have the career readiness skills to compete in the global economy	Allen	Signed as Act 730 of 2009

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2.4. Explore the possibility of expanding the Arkansas SCHOLARS program, which is aligned with the Smart Core requirements.	27	Summer 2008				
2.5. Diminish the percentage of students opting out of Smart Core by 2016.	27	Summer 2008	SB918 of 2009	An act to increase public school student participation in the Arkansas Smart Core Curriculum	Salmon	Signed as Act 1481 of 2009
2.6. Support the work and recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Best Practices for After-School and Summer Programs. The Task Force was created by executive order EO 07-15.	27	Summer 2008				
2.7. Establish a scholarship program to provide tuition for concurrent credit students as a way of encouraging students to get a head start on college prior to full participation in college.	28	2011-12	HB1993 of 2009	An act to allow a two-year or four-year college or university to provide concurrent credit courses to high school students at a reduced tuition amount	Abernathy	Signed as Act 1451 of 2009
<b>Section 3: Decreasing Remediation</b>						
3.1. Continue using an ACT score below 19 (or the SAT equivalent) as a baseline definition of remediation. Require colleges and universities to assess students who score below the 19 threshold with a second assessment to assure proper placement. Recommend ADHE conduct research into the continued effectiveness of 19, especially in light of ACT research.	29	2009-10	HB2050 of 2011	An act concerning admission standards for state-supported institutions of higher education	Roebuck	Signed as Act 1184 of 2011

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3.2. Mandate that colleges and universities set clear, measurable exit standards for remedial courses, to be reviewed by ADHE, that correlate with the ACT 19 threshold and send results of how students do in meeting these standards to ADHE in a biennial report that should also include student success rates in subsequent courses.	29	2011-12	HB1990 of 2009	An act to require clear exit standards for all remedial courses taken at state-supported institutions of higher education; to improve the teaching techniques of remedial courses	Roebuck	Signed as Act 971 of 2009
			HB1764 of 2009	An act to expand reporting of postsecondary remediation	Hutchinson	Signed as Act 970 of 2009
			HB2032 of 2011	An act to improve the teaching techniques of remedial education courses	Roebuck	Signed as Act 899 of 2011
3.3. Encourage colleges and universities to develop innovative alternatives to semester-long remedial courses, such as online modules, self-directed instruction, and summer camps. Higher education institutions may apply for pilot grants and may cooperate with K-12 school districts.	29	2013-15		No legislation. The Arkadelphia School District and Henderson State University (Educational Renewal Zone Office) opened the Arkadelphia College Preparatory Academy on April 18, 2009 for 39 ninth graders based on EXPLORE and PLAN scores. The funding comes from private sources.		
3.4. Encourage universities and colleges to identify faculty with demonstrated teaching success with developmental education students, provide professional development/training for these faculty members; and disseminate best practices for developmental education. Be more prescriptive and individualized in working with developmental students and in providing support services for these students.	30	2009-10				
3.5. There is much information available on best practices through the National Center for Adult Education, the Achieving the Dream project, and the Career Pathways project. Revisit these Task Force recommendations as new information becomes available through these programs.	30	2009-15				

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<b>Section 4: Accessing Financial Aid</b>						
4.1. Provide financial incentives to encourage associate degree recipients and university juniors to obtain bachelor's degrees. In an effort to assist with the transfer of two-year students to four-year institutions, universities should consider increasing their transfer scholarships. Similarly, in an effort to encourage university juniors to complete their degrees, universities should consider initiating a program of need-based "upper-class" scholarships. Arkansas could also explore a tuition offset program, such as the one Georgia has implemented, for qualified transfer juniors who hold an associate's degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA.	31	2011-12	HB1357 of 2009	An act to create a system for fully transferable credit hours from degrees in associate of arts, associate of science, and associate of arts in teaching among public institutions of higher education	M. Burris	Signed as Act 182 of 2009
			HB1772 of 2011	An act to enhance the opportunity for successful degree completion by strengthening the transfer of courses between institutions of higher education; to clarify which courses are prerequisite courses; to establish a statewide common course numbering system for postsecondary courses	Roebuck	Signed as Act 747 of 2011
4.2. Increase the number of needs-based scholarships by expanding the eligibility requirements for the GO! Opportunities Grant and increase the funding for the GO! Opportunities Grant and the Workforce Improvement Grant.	31	2011-12	SB850 of 2009	An act to broaden the Higher Education Opportunities Grant Program; to provide need-based financial aid for all college-going individuals from low income families to be used at institutions of higher education	Broadway	Signed as Act 1213 of 2009
4.3. Mandate review of the 21 statewide scholarship/grant/loan programs for Arkansas students with the goals of making financial aid packages less cumbersome and more inclusive of all students, especially those most needy.	31	2009-10	SB205 of 2009 (page 8)	An act to make an appropriation for personal services and operating expenses for the department of higher education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 (appropriates \$800,000 for 2009-10 for the operating expenses associated with the web-based scholarship and loan applications)	Joint Budget Committee	Signed as Act 1416 of 2009

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4.4. Revise the statute that created the Academic Challenge Scholarship to allow additional students to receive the scholarship, including those who do not enroll in an institution of higher education within 12 months of high school graduation but who meet the academic requirements and those students who did not qualify at high school graduation but meet requirements by completing an associate's degree or 60 semester credit hours and maintain at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA.	32	2011-12	HB1002 of 2009 (page 71)	An act to create the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act; to establish, operate, and regulate state lotteries as authorized by the Arkansas Constitution; to supplement higher education scholarships with net proceeds from the state lottery; to provide for the exchange of data needed to evaluate state-supported student financial assistance	Wills	Signed as Act 606 of 2009
			SB26 of 2009 (page 71)	An act to create the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act; to establish, operate, and regulate state lotteries as authorized by the Arkansas Constitution; to supplement higher education scholarships with net proceeds from the state lottery; to provide for the exchange of data needed to evaluate state-supported student financial assistance	T. Smith	Signed as Act 605 of 2009
4.5. Increase the funding of state aid for student campus employment.	32	2011-12				
4.6. Explore giving financial incentives to Arkansas students who complete bachelor's degrees in high need areas and remain in the state for a specified period of time.	32	2013-15				



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OTHER MEASURED AIMED AT INCREASING STUDENTS' ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AID			SB268 of 2009	An act to amend the Arkansas National Guard Tuition Incentive Program	G. Baker	Signed as Act 214 of 2009
			SB852 of 2009	An act to amend the Teacher Opportunity Program; to provide scholarships to teachers returning to college to receive an additional certification	Broadway	Signed as Act 1214 of 2009
			SB853 of 2009	An act to consolidate the Teacher Education Recruitment programs by repealing the Minority Teachers Scholars Program, Minority Masters Fellows Program, and the State Teacher Assistance Resource Program: To create the State Teacher Education Program	Broadway	Signed as Act 1215 of 2009
			SB854 of 2009	An act to amend the Military Dependents Scholarship	Broadway	Signed as Act 1216 of 2009
			SB855 of 2009	An act to create continuing eligibility requirements for the children and spouses of certain public service employees if the public service results in death or permanent and total disability	Broadway	Signed as Act 1217 of 2009
			SB856 of 2009	An act to provide flexibility for the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in Governor's Scholarship Program awards	Broadway	Signed as Act 1218 of 2009
			HB1924 of 2011	An act to revise the payroll deductions for state employees to include deposits into a tax-deferred college savings plan established under § 6-84-101 et seq. or a tax-deferred tuition savings program established by another state 529 plan	Roebuck	Signed as Act 702 of 2011

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<b>Section 5: Increasing Retention and Graduation</b>						
5.1. Require each college or university to develop an early warning student support system to intervene when students are not doing well in a class.	33	2011-12				
5.2. Encourage each college or university to improve student success with expanded student services, such as learning communities, tutoring, mental health services, mentoring, and the like. Current services should be reevaluated and restructured as well. This restructuring will enable the institution to provide additional services at low or no cost.	33	2011-12				
5.3. Require each college and university to develop a retention and graduation plan, including benchmarked goals and programs for identified high-risk students. Encourage schools to offer first-year experience courses and study of ways to redesign courses with high D and F rates.	33	2011-12				
5.4. Recommend that ADHE hold a joint annual statewide conference on college retention and graduation to share best practices with both two-year and four-year institutions.	33	2011-12		No legislation. ADHE, in cooperation with the University of Central Arkansas, held the first Student Success Symposium on April 1-2, 2009. About 255 representatives from Arkansas's two-year and four-year colleges attended the event. Symposium sessions covered effective community college student retention strategies, sustainable learning community programs, and diversity in the community college classroom, among other issues.		

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<b>Section 6: Enhancing Funding and Graduation</b>						
6.1. Provide incentive funding to colleges and universities that increase the numbers of students who are retained and/or graduated based on their approved benchmarked goals.	34	2011-12	HB2114 of 2009	An act to modify the funding formula model for universities	Roebuck	Signed as Act 797 of 2009
			SB766	An act to promote accountability and efficiency at state-supported institutions of higher education; to clarify funding formula calculations for state-supported institutions of higher education	G. Baker	Signed as Act 1203 of 2011
6.2. Provide incentive funding for colleges and universities to target high-need employment areas and develop or expand programs in these areas; provide scholarships and grants for students who go into these areas.	34	2011-12				
6.3. Support expansion of the Education Renewal Zone initiative (6-15-2501 et seq.).	34	2009-10				
OTHER MEASURES AIMED AT ENHANCING FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE			SB316 of 2009	An act to limit the amount of unrestricted educational and general tuition and fee income an institution of higher education can spend on academic and performance scholarships	G. Baker	Signed as Act 323 of 2009
<b>Section 7: Addressing Data Needs</b>						
7.1. Determine what needs to be done to connect the systems. Start the process of either connecting the data systems or buying the software to extract the data needed. Determine staffing and funding needs to operate the system and put in a budget request. Implement a new data system, but to avoid unnecessary expense make sure that individual campuses will not have to buy new systems.	35	2008				

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7.2. Complete and fine tune a comprehensive statewide database that can track students from one level of education to another, from one college to another, and from college into the workforce.	35	2011-12				
7.3. Implement a statewide connected data system.	35	2015				
7.4. Develop an all-inclusive interactive database for students and parents to use for information about Arkansas colleges and universities, programs, transferring, scholarships, and the like.	35	2009-10				
7.5. Mandate that in measuring rates of remediation, retention, and graduation, the definition of "student" will be broadened beyond "first-time, full-time."	35	2011-12				
7.6. Determine the data elements needed to make good decisions for graduation, retention, and remediation.	36	2008				
7.7. Use data from the student tracking database and the Arkansas institution information database to refine policies related to remediation, retention, and graduation.	36	2013-15				
7.8. Review and revise existing higher education reporting requirement legislation. Eliminate reports where possible and combine others into one annual report .	36	2009	HB1589 of 2009	An act to create the Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report; to consolidate all current legislatively required reports pertaining to higher education submitted by the department of higher education, colleges and universities, agencies, boards, commissions and all others, into one annual comprehensive report	Roebuck	Signed as Act 416 of 2009

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			HB1452 of 2011	An act to amend the Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report; to clarify what information specific higher education related reports should contain; to require some higher education related reports to be updated annually	Roebuck	Signed as Act 696 of 2011
OTHER MEASURES AIMED AT ADDRESSING DATA NEEDS			SB352	An act to include information in the Department of Education School Performance Report about the number of school districts providing remediation and college preparation for high school students who take the ACT before their senior year	Chesterfield	Signed as Act 988 of 2011
<b>Section 8: Supporting Economic Development</b>						
8.1. Compare the current and future jobs identified in the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) strategic plan to the educational training being provided in our colleges and universities. Use this comparison to identify educational gaps in meeting economic development needs.	37	2009-10				
8.2. Create new programs where gaps exist and phase out existing programs that are no longer supporting workforce demands.	37	2010-12				

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8.3. Arkansas needs K-12 counselors who understand the world of work and who will serve as career coaches. The counselors need to be able to advise students on the types of skills that will be needed in the new economy. Students also need to be advised about the types of jobs that will have high demand and high wages when they graduate. Students need to understand what types of employment and what level of education will be needed to support their lifestyle goals. Three hundred career coaches are needed to serve the state.	37	2010-12		No legislation. A new program called "The Modern Workplace" creates a connection between Arkansas companies and teachers to better prepare students for jobs of the 21st Century. The program — an effort by the Economic Development Commission, the Department of Workforce Education and the Governor's Office — takes teachers into the workplace, through simulations and actual visits, demonstrating the skills students must possess to ensure successful future employment.		
8.4. Colleges and universities in the state must train the state's workforce for competition in a global economy. Curriculum should be updated to reflect the new skills needed.	37	2010-12				
8.5. Support the Educators-in-Industry Program that AEDC is re-launching.	38	2009-11		Gov. Mike Beebe announced the re-launch of this program under its new name, Modern Workplace, in June 2009. It is a collaboration between the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Arkansas Department of Career Education, Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions, the ASU Center for Economic Development and the Crowley's Ridge Educational Cooperative. As of September 2010, the program has held workshops in eight sites, providing teachers with real world experience in the manufacturing industry.		

Issues for Further Study	Report Page No.
Review the need for alignment between the Smart Core curriculum and the courses required for eligibility for an Academic Challenge Scholarship.	
Review ways to further improve coordination in a P-18 system.	39
Review limits on remediation in four-year institutions.	39
Review funding for concurrent enrollment and institutions of higher education.	39

### Task Forces and Commissions Related to Task Force Recommendations

- Arkansas Project Graduation Commission (Act 1306 of 2009, Word)
- Twenty-First Century Workforce System Task Force (HB1797 of 2009, English)

### Interim Studies

- To require the reporting and publication of higher education costs for textbooks and course materials (SB930 of 2009, Madison)
- To create a loan program for out-of-state professional education and to provide for forgiveness of loans for professionals who practice in Arkansas for no less than five years (HB1251 of 2009, Breedlove)
- To ensure that students make satisfactory academic progress in public schools (SB304 of 2009, Crumbly)
- The Extension Education Program for Exceptional Students Act (HB1665 of 2009, Martin)
- To regulate the administration and use of state institution of higher education financial assistance to students (SB865 of 2009, Madison)
- To create an interim study of the affordability of higher education for undergraduate students in this state (Act 964 of 2009, J. Jeffress): This interim study was conducted by the Policy Analysis and Research Section of the Bureau of Legislative Research and presented September 17, 2009, to the Higher Education Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council. A copy of the reports and presentation materials can be accessed by clicking on the Higher Education file on the following web link:  
<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/bureau/research/Pages/ResearchPublications.aspx>.
- Requesting the Arkansas Legislative Council to direct the House Interim Committee on Education to conduct a study of the alignment of end-of-course exams in high school with the ACT or the other college readiness exams (ISP 2009-234, Roebuck). A copy of the presentation materials for this ISP can be accessed by clicking on the following web link:  
<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/2010F/Pages/ISPIRDetail.aspx?ispid=2009-234>.
- Requesting the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education conduct a study of remediation at both the high school level and the postsecondary level, including remediation required as a result of end-of-course exams, high-stakes end-of-course exams, and college readiness exams; post-remediation retesting and exit exams used to measure a student's mastery of the subject he or she was remediated in; and the rigor, design, implementation, and effectiveness of individualized academic improvement plans developed by public schools and remedial courses developed by institutions of higher education (ISP 2009-233, D. Hutchinson, Roebuck). A copy of the presentation materials for this ISP can be accessed by clicking on the following web link:  
<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/2010F/Pages/ISPIRDetail.aspx?ispid=2009-233>