

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**

A Bill

SENATE BILL 264

4 **By: Senators Russ, Malone and Hardin**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED TITLE 6, CHAPTER
9 11, BY ADDING A SUBCHAPTER TWO TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD
10 OF EDUCATION TO DETERMINE WHAT ARKANSAS SCHOOLS MUST DO TO
11 MEET THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES."

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

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16 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated is hereby amended to add the
17 following:

18 "6-11-201. POPULAR NAME. This subchapter may be cited as 'Meeting the
19 National Education Goals: Schools for Arkansas' Future'.

20 6-11-202. PREAMBLE. One year ago the President and the nation's
21 Governors adopted the following national education goals:

22 (1) By the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready
23 to learn.

24 (2) By the year 2000, the high school graduation rate will be
25 increased to at least 90 percent.

26 (3) By the year 2000, American students will leave grades four, eight
27 and twelve having demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter
28 including English, mathematics, science, history, and geography, and every
29 school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well,
30 so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and
31 productive employment in our modern economy.

32 (4) By the year 2000, U.S. students will be first in the world in
33 mathematics and science achievement.

34 (5) By the year 2000, every adult American will be literate and will
35 possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and

1 exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

2 (6) By the year 2000, every school in America will be free of drugs
3 and violence and will offer a disciplined learning environment conducive to
4 learning.

5 These goals are ambitious, but they can and must be achieved. They set
6 standards for student performance that Arkansas schools, as well as those in
7 every other state, are far from achieving.

8 Achieving these goals will require a serious reexamination of every
9 aspect of Arkansas' education system, and fundamental changes in our schools.
10 The State of Arkansas, through the State Board of Education, and the General
11 Education Division of the Department of Education, must determine what
12 students must know and be able to do in order to meet the goals. This will
13 not simply require more students to learn what is already taught. Instead, it
14 will require a curriculum that places a greater emphasis on teaching students
15 to think, and to apply methods that are appropriate to ensure that all
16 students will master the more challenging curriculum.

17 In order to achieve these new levels of performance within existing and
18 limited resources, Arkansas must fundamentally restructure its education
19 system. This means providing educators in every school with the flexibility
20 and tools they need to determine the best way to achieve the goals with their
21 students. It means providing them with the training they need to teach new
22 materials in new ways, and with leadership and other skills they need to work
23 together in new ways and succeed in a new education environment. Institutions
24 of higher education must commit themselves to effectively providing new
25 teachers with the content knowledge and pedagogical skills required to help
26 all students achieve the goals. Arkansas schools need new student performance
27 assessment tools that are well matched to new standards for student
28 performance, and that accurately measure what is taught. The results of these
29 performance assessment tools must be incorporated into school report cards so
30 that parents and the general public will be informed as to what students are
31 expected to know and to be able to do and how well Arkansas public schools are
32 performing.

33 6-11-203. DEFINITION OF LEARNER OUTCOMES. The State Board of Education
34 shall, by July 1, 1991, adopt learner outcomes that define what Arkansas
35 students must know, and be able to do in order to be competitive nationally

1 and internationally, in the context of the National Education Goals. The
2 learner outcomes should also link to expectations for success in college and
3 should include the implementation of feedback mechanisms from higher education
4 institutions to public schools.

5 6-11-204. LINKING CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION
6 AND DEVELOPMENT TO LEARNER OUTCOMES.

7 (a) By July 1, 1991, the General Education Division of the Department
8 of Education with the assistance of the National Alliance for Restructuring
9 Education, shall develop and present to the State Board of Education a
10 proposed plan for working toward integrating state-wide curriculum frameworks,
11 student performance assessment tools, and professional development programs to
12 support restructuring the Arkansas education system.

13 The Director of the General Education Division of the Department of
14 Education shall appoint a task force to advise the General Education Division
15 in the development of this plan. The fifteen (15) member task force shall
16 include curriculum experts, assessment experts, discipline experts, staff
17 developers, and teachers and administrators from restructuring schools. At
18 least three (3) members of the task force shall be faculty members of
19 institutions of higher education. Once a plan has been developed, the task
20 force shall remain in existence to advise the Director on its implementation
21 on an ongoing basis.

22 The State Board of Education shall accept written comments on the
23 proposed plan from July 1, through August 1, 1991. The State Board of Higher
24 Education shall review the proposed plan during the comment period and provide
25 appropriate comments and recommendations regarding those components of the
26 plan which relate to the responsibilities of institutions of higher education.

27 (b)(1) Curriculum frameworks will define the broad themes and topics for
28 instruction that will prepare students to demonstrate the learner outcomes.

29 (2) New learner outcomes and curriculum frameworks will
30 establish new and higher standards for student performance. Tests currently
31 in use will not be adequate to judge student learning against these new
32 standards. Therefore, new student performance assessment tools, not limited
33 to standardized tests, will be used to judge student progress. As more
34 appropriate assessment tools become available, they will be phased in to
35 replace test currently in use.

1 (3) Professional development programs will include, but not be
2 limited to, providing teachers, principals and other administrators, with
3 content knowledge and pedagogical skills required to help all students achieve
4 the learner outcomes.

5 (c) By July 1, 1992, the State Board of Education shall submit a
6 report to the Governor and the Legislature, that describes the implementation
7 of the activities contained in the plan, and identifies any legislation which
8 may be needed in order to continue to link curriculum, assessment, and
9 professional development to the learner outcomes, in order to achieve the
10 national education goals.

11 6-11-205. TEACHER LICENSURE STANDARDS. (a) The Director of the
12 General Education Division of the Department of Education shall appoint a task
13 force to recommend how to design and implement a system of outcome-based
14 licensure of teachers and administrators. The task force shall be composed of
15 not more than seventeen (17) persons and shall include teachers, and
16 administrators from restructuring schools, subject matter experts, higher
17 education faculty and administrators, and public and business representatives.
18 At least three (3) members shall be higher education faculty or
19 administrators who shall be nominated by the Director of the Department of
20 Higher Education. The Director of the Department of Higher Education shall
21 also serve as an ex-officio member of the task force. The task force shall:

22 (1) Define standards for what beginning teachers and
23 administrators must know and be able to do, with specific reference to content
24 knowledge and pedagogical skills, and the knowledge, skills and capacity to
25 assume beginning professional roles and responsibilities in restructured
26 schools.

27 (2) Determine the assessment systems and tools required to
28 assess the performance of candidates. Such tools shall not be limited to
29 pencil and paper tests; they must include performance and demonstrations of
30 the ability to apply knowledge and skills to real or simulated educational
31 settings.

32 The task force shall submit its recommendations to the State Board of
33 Education by January 1, 1992. The State Board of Education shall adopt the
34 recommendations of the task force or make such modification in the
35 recommendations as the Board deems appropriate consistent with this mandate

1 that the licensure standards be outcome based.

2 (b) The licensure standards and assessment tools developed through
3 this process and adopted by the State Board of Education shall be applied in
4 the same fashion to candidates for licensure who have completed conventional
5 teacher preparation programs as well as those who have prepared themselves
6 through alternative routes.

7 6-11-206. SUPPORT FOR THE RESTRUCTURING SCHOOLS PROCESS. (a) The
8 General Education Division of the Department of Education shall, with the
9 assistance of the Education Commission of the States and the Coalition of
10 Essential Schools, make available to all schools and school districts involved
11 in a restructuring process the training, technical assistance, networking and
12 other support they require. The Director shall designate not less than ten
13 (10) nor more than twenty-five (25) schools or school districts which have
14 begun the restructuring process to serve as examples for other schools and
15 school districts.

16 (b) The General Education Division of the Department of Education
17 shall provide workshops, seminars, visits to schools involved in
18 restructuring, summer programs, and other means of learning so that schools
19 not yet involved in the restructuring process can make informed determinations
20 about the requirements and expectations of involvement.

21 (c) The General Education Division of the Department of Education,
22 from funds appropriated for such purposes, may provide grants of up to \$20,000
23 to schools and school districts involved in the restructuring process. The
24 grants shall be provided on a competitive basis for the purposes of:

25 (1) Planning and/or professional development activities to
26 accelerate the restructuring process within a school or district; or

27 (2) Assisting other schools to learn about school restructuring.

28 (d) Schools and school districts participating in the restructuring
29 process shall be given priority by the General Education Division in the
30 allocation of federal funds provided to the Division for improvement of math
31 and science education.

32 6-11-207. ACADEMY FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND SCHOOL BOARD MANAGEMENT.
33 There is hereby established the Academy for Leadership Training and School
34 Based Management. The Academy will provide a variety of training programs and
35 opportunities to develop the knowledge base and leadership skills of school

1 principals, as well as teachers, superintendents and other administrators, and
2 school board members. The Academy need not be located in a single institution
3 or organization; it may be a consortia of institutions of higher education,
4 local school districts and other education institutions or organizations.

5 By September 1, 1991, the General Education Division shall develop and
6 publish a request for proposals for the initial structure and operation of the
7 Academy. An award for the operation of the Academy for its initial term shall
8 be made by the State Board of Education not later than January 1, 1992. The
9 State Board of Education shall have the authority to issue subsequent requests
10 for proposals if the Board should determine to change the operator or the
11 location of the Academy.

12 6-11-208. REORIENTING THE GENERAL EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE ARKANSAS
13 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUPPORT RESTRUCTURING. (a) The leadership and
14 support of the General Education Division of the Department of Education is
15 essential to facilitate the process of restructuring the Arkansas education
16 system. In order to fulfill this function, the role, mission, operations and
17 resources of the division need to be substantially reoriented and the staff
18 need training and support. With the assistance of the National Alliance for
19 Restructuring Education, the General Education Division of the Department of
20 Education shall develop a plan, by July 1, 1991, to accomplish this.

21 This plan shall address the increased importance of providing support
22 and assistance to schools and districts, the allocation and reallocation of
23 resources, the establishment of comprehensive data bases for planning and
24 monitoring, the need to shift from discreet programmatic efforts to more
25 integrated and cohesive strategies supportive of the goals for education,
26 staff roles and responsibilities, organizational structure, and training and
27 professional development needs, and other topics deemed necessary. In
28 developing and implementing this plan, the General Education Division must
29 model the types of changes required by schools in the restructuring process.

30 (b) Upon determination by the Director of the General Education
31 Division of the Department of Education that a reallocation of the resources
32 of the Division is necessary to provide support and assistance to schools and
33 school districts in restructuring and in meeting the goals of this subchapter,
34 the Director, after receiving approval of the Governor, shall request from the
35 Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a transfer of positions, appropriations,

1 and/or funds within or between appropriations or programs of the General
2 Education Division. Prior to acting on the requested transfer, the Chief
3 Fiscal Officer shall submit the transfer request with his recommendation to
4 the Legislative Council.

5 If the Chief Fiscal Officer approves the requested transfer, he shall
6 initiate the necessary transfer documents to reflect the transfer on the
7 fiscal records of the State Auditor, the State Treasurer, the Chief Fiscal
8 Officer, and the General Education Division of the Department of Education.

9 6-11-209. DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG TERM PLAN FOR RESTRUCTURING ARKANSAS'
10 EDUCATION SYSTEM. The General Education Division of the Department of
11 Education shall develop and submit to the State Board of Education a proposed
12 ten (10) year plan for restructuring the Arkansas education system in order to
13 achieve the national education goals. The proposed plan shall include
14 provisions for managing the change process and monitoring progress towards the
15 goals. The definitions of learner outcomes adopted pursuant to A.C.A. 6-11-
16 203; the plan for linking curriculum, assessment and professional preparation
17 and development to learner outcomes adopted pursuant to A.C.A. 6-11-204; the
18 outcome-based system of teacher and administrator licensure adopted pursuant
19 to A.C.A. 6-11-205; and the plan for reallocation of the resources of the
20 General Education Division adopted pursuant to A.C.A. 6-11-208 shall be
21 components of the long term plan. The proposed plan shall take into account
22 needed policy and administrative changes at district and state levels to
23 provide a supportive environment for schools to restructure and be presented
24 to the State Board of Education not later than January 1, 1992. The Board,
25 after soliciting and reviewing written comments, shall adopt a long term
26 restructuring plan not later than April 1, 1992.

27 6-11-210. ADVICE FROM EDUCATORS. The Director shall appoint an
28 advisory committee comprised of individuals from organizations representing
29 teachers, administrators, school board members and other educators in
30 Arkansas, to provide ongoing advice to the State Board of Education and the
31 Director, regarding the development and implementation of each of the plans
32 required by the above sections."

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34 SECTION 2. CODE. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent
35 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas

1 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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3 SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Act or the
4 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such
5 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Act which
6 can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this
7 end the provisions of this Act are declared to be severable.

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9 SECTION 4. GENERAL REPEALER. All laws and parts of laws in conflict
10 with this Act are hereby repealed.

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/s/Russ et al

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