

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.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1507

4
5 By: Representatives Weaver, Milligan, Oglesby, L. Evans, Hickinbotham, Gipson, Scrimshire, L. Prater,
6 Mack, Bennett, Adams, Stovall

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For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT PERTAINING TO STATE SCHOOL STANDARDS; TO
11 PROVIDE FOR AN ADEQUATE AND EFFICIENT EDUCATION IN
12 ARKANSAS SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

13
14

Subtitle

15 AN ACT PERTAINING TO STATE SCHOOL
16 STANDARDS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADEQUATE
17 AND EFFICIENT EDUCATION IN ARKANSAS
18 SCHOOLS.

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

22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, is amended to add an
24 additional subchapter to read as follows:

25 6-13-1601. Definitions:

26 For the purpose of this subchapter:

27 (1) "Minority" means black or African American, Hispanic American,
28 American Indian or Native American, Asian, and Pacific Islander, or other
29 ethnic group underrepresented in a school;

30 (2)(A) "Individual school" means a public elementary or secondary
31 educational institution that is under the administrative control of a
32 principal or head teacher.

33 (B) "Individual school" does not include any school that is:

34 (i) Exclusively a preschool program; or

35 (ii) An instructional program operated in a correctional
36 facility; and



1 (3) "Teacher" means:

2 (A) An individual who is required to hold a teaching license
3 from the Department of Education, and who is engaged directly in instruction
4 with students in a classroom setting for more than seventy percent (70%) of
5 the individual's contracted time;

6 (B) A guidance counselor; or

7 (C) A librarian.

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9 6-13-1602. Standards for education.

10 (a) On or before January 1, 2004, every school district in the state
11 shall:

12 (1) Meet all requirements of the Standards for Accreditation of
13 Arkansas Public Schools, comply with state laws, and State Board of Education
14 regulations in existence on January 1, 2003;

15 (2) Meet or exceed all curriculum requirements of the Standards
16 for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools, in effect on January 1, 2003;

17 (3) Pay every teacher in the school district in accordance with
18 the minimum base salary under § 6-17-1001, as in effect on January 1, 2003;

19 (4) Provide educational facilities that meet all local, state,
20 and federal building codes and other facility requirements in existence on
21 January 1, 2003;

22 (5) Provide teachers and students with sufficient textbooks,
23 supplies, scientific laboratory equipment, and other equipment needed to
24 allow meaningful participation during instructional periods;

25 (7) Have a student level of proficiency as defined by the State
26 Board of Education, under the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing and Assessment
27 and Accountability Program or meet adequate yearly progress standards as
28 defined in the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing and Assessment and
29 Accountability Program;

30 (8) Adopt a parental involvement plan to enhance parental
31 involvement in the school district, which shall be approved by the State
32 Board of Education; and

33 (9) Establish a task force to research and adopt a plan to close
34 the academic achievement gap for minority and disadvantaged students.

35 (b) On or before January 1, 2006, every school district in the state
36 shall:

1 (1) Meet all laws and regulations as may be adopted by the
2 General Assembly as necessary to ensure that schools provide students with an
3 adequate education and equality of educational opportunity;

4 (2) Meet curriculum requirements as may be required by the
5 General Assembly by law, as necessary to ensure that schools have
6 substantially equal curricula necessary to provide students with an adequate
7 education and to provide equality of educational opportunity;

8 (3) Pay every teacher in accordance with laws as may be adopted
9 by the General Assembly as necessary to ensure that teachers are paid
10 substantially equal salaries in an amount to ensure the quantity and quality
11 of teachers necessary to provide students with an adequate education and to
12 provide equality of educational opportunity;

13 (4) Provide educational facilities as may be required by the
14 General Assembly by law as necessary to ensure that schools have
15 substantially equal facilities necessary to provide students with an adequate
16 education and to provide equality of educational opportunity;

17 (5) Provide equipment required by the General Assembly by law as
18 necessary to ensure that schools have substantially equal equipment necessary
19 to provide students with an adequate education and to provide equality of
20 educational opportunity; and

21 (6) Comply with all requirements of the system or method of
22 assessment, evaluation, and monitoring as may be required by the General
23 Assembly by law to ensure that equal educational opportunity for an adequate
24 education is being substantially afforded to all students in the district.

25 (c) School districts shall meet the requirements of this section with
26 the current level of federal and state funding the district receives,
27 including the funding provided as a result of subsection (b) of Amendment 74
28 to the Arkansas Constitution, or within the amount of state and federal funds
29 to be provided to school districts based upon the cost of an adequate
30 education as may be determined by the General Assembly by law as necessary to
31 provide equality of educational opportunity.

32 (d) School districts may consolidate, annex, or detach under §§ 6-13-
33 1401 through 6-13-1501, and school districts that do voluntarily consolidate,
34 annex, or detach shall receive consolidation incentive funding as may be
35 determined by the General Assembly.

36 (e) No school district shall be required to abide by future

1 modifications in the existing standards until those modifications have been
 2 approved by the General Assembly.

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 4 6-13-1603. Consolidation requirements.

5 (a)(1) Before May 1, 2006, the State Board of Education shall
 6 determine whether each school district, and each individual school in the
 7 district, is in full compliance with the provisions of this subchapter.

8 (2)(A) Any school district that is not in full compliance with
 9 meeting the standards of this subchapter shall be consolidated with the
 10 school district or districts that are:

11 (i) Geographically contiguous with the non complying
 12 district; and

13 (ii) In full compliance with provisions of this
 14 subchapter.

15 (B) A determination of compliance shall be in the sole
 16 judgment of the State Board of Education.

17 (b)(1) Before May 1, 2006, the State Board of Education shall develop
 18 a plan for the reorganization of all public school districts not in
 19 compliance with this subchapter.

20 (2) Between May 1, 2006 and June 15, 2006, the State Board of
 21 Education shall hold no less than four (4) public hearings regarding its
 22 proposed reorganization plan to address citizen concerns, comments, and
 23 suggestions regarding the plan.

24 (3) The State Board of Education shall finalize the
 25 reorganization plan no later than June 20, 2004, and shall effectuate the
 26 reorganization on July 1, 2006, pursuant to the plan developed under this
 27 subsection (b).

28 (c) The Department of Education and the State Board of Education may
 29 take actions prior to July 1, 2006, as necessary for an orderly and efficient
 30 transition of personnel, property, and boards of directors on July 1, 2006.

31
 32 6-13-1604. Local control - Uniform accounting system.

33 (a) This subchapter does not limit nor diminish the existing powers
 34 and duties of local school boards except to the extent specifically provided
 35 in this subchapter.

36 (b) The Department of Education, with the advice of the Division of

1 Legislative Audit, shall devise a uniform accounting system to be used by all
2 public elementary and secondary schools in this state beginning with the
3 2004-2005 school year.

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