

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  
4

As Engrossed: H4/15/03

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2539

5 By: Representative Cleveland  
6 By: Senator Bisbee  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO CONFORM THE ARKANSAS CODE TO COMPLY  
11 WITH THE RECENT ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT DECISION  
12 *IN THE LAKE VIEW CASE; TO ESTABLISH THE STANDARDS*  
13 *OF ACCREDITATION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO*  
14 *REQUIRE THE REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS*  
15 *NOT MEETING THE STANDARDS; AND FOR OTHER*  
16 *PURPOSES.*

## Subtitle

17  
18  
19 AN ACT TO CONFORM THE ARKANSAS CODE TO  
20 COMPLY WITH THE RECENT ARKANSAS SUPREME  
21 COURT DECISION IN THE LAKE VIEW CASE.  
22  
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
25

### SECTION 1. 6-15-1601. Purpose and Intent.

27 (a) The 84th General Assembly recognizes the mandate of the Arkansas  
28 Supreme Court to provide an equal opportunity for children in the state to  
29 obtain an adequate education. The purpose of this act is to lay the  
30 groundwork for public education reform and stabilize the state public  
31 educational system for a period of three years. The state will continue its  
32 effort to refine the state's public education delivery system.

33 (b) The provisions of this act shall not be construed to entitle any  
34 school district to funding above that specifically appropriated by the  
35 General Assembly.  
36



1           6-15-1602. School districts.

2           (a) As of December 31, 2003, any school district meeting and  
3 continuing to meet the Standards of Accreditation for Arkansas Public  
4 Schools, as set forth under §§ 6-15-1701 and 6-15-1704, and the  
5 accountability standards as set forth by the General Assembly and other  
6 provisions of this act shall continue to exist so long as the district  
7 continues to comply with the accreditation and accountability standards as  
8 set forth by the General Assembly and other provisions of this act.

9           (b) Any school district that is not meeting the Standards of  
10 Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools, as set forth under §§ 6-15-1701  
11 and 6-15-1704, and the accountability standards as set forth by the General  
12 Assembly, by December 31, 2003 and thereafter shall voluntarily consolidated  
13 by May 1, 2004, as set forth under § 6-15-1603 or be reorganized by the State  
14 Board of Education effective July 1, 2004.

15           (c)(1) No school district shall be closed solely because of size, if  
16 the district meets the standards set forth in this act without exceeding the  
17 state average per student expenditure and the district meets the Standards of  
18 Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools as set by the General Assembly.

19           (2) The State Board of Education shall identify districts with  
20 unique demographics that require above the state average funding.

21  
22           6-15-1603. Voluntary reorganization.

23           (a) Any two (2) or more school districts that voluntarily agree to  
24 consolidate administrative units, schools, or districts by May 1, 2004 for  
25 the 2004-2005 school year and thereafter, may do so by adopting articles of  
26 consolidation approved by a majority vote of each district's board of  
27 directors and submitting the articles of consolidation to the State Board of  
28 Education for approval. Schools voluntarily consolidating under this section  
29 shall not be required to comply with § 6-13-1404(a).

30           (b) The State Board of Education shall not unreasonably deny the  
31 voluntary consolidation of any school districts' administrative units,  
32 schools, or districts unless the provisions contained in the articles of  
33 consolidation would violate any state or federal law or if such voluntary  
34 consolidation would not contribute to the betterment of the education of  
35 students in the district.

36

1           SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, is amended to add an  
2 additional subchapter to read as follows:

3           6-15-1701. Standards for accreditation for Arkansas public schools.

4           (a)(1) The provisions as set forth under this subchapter shall be the  
5 Standards of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools for the 2003-2004,  
6 2004-2005, and the 2005-2006 school years.

7           (2) Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, the State Board  
8 of Education shall have authority to set the Standards for Accreditation for  
9 Arkansas Public Schools as set forth under § 6-15-202.

10           (b) This subchapter may be cited as the "Standards of Accreditation  
11 for Arkansas Public Schools".

12  
13           6-15-1702. Requirements.

14           (a) All school districts' policies and actions shall be  
15 nondiscriminatory and shall be in compliance with state and federal laws.

16           (b) Each school district in Arkansas shall be required to develop,  
17 with appropriate staff and community participation, a five-year educational  
18 plan. School district goals shall be compatible with state and national  
19 educational goals and shall address local needs. The plan shall be filed with  
20 and reviewed by the Department of Education annually.

21           (c) Each school district shall provide each school year a written  
22 report to the public detailing progress toward accomplishing program goals,  
23 accreditation standards, and proposals to correct deficiencies.

24           (d) Each school board shall adopt written policies for the operation  
25 of the school district in accordance with guidelines established by the  
26 Department of Education.

27           (e) Each school shall maintain all reports and records necessary for  
28 effective planning, operation, and education.

29           (f) The administrators, teachers, other school staff, and parents of  
30 each school shall develop an annual school improvement plan to monitor that  
31 school's progress and to project its continuing needs. The annual school  
32 improvement plan shall be filed with and reviewed by the Department of  
33 Education.

34           (g) Each school shall review in-depth each curriculum area at least  
35 every five (5) years.

36           (h) Each accredited school shall use these curriculum frameworks to

1 plan instruction leading to student demonstration of the Arkansas content  
2 standards.

3 (i) A minimum of three (4) programs of study selected from three (3)  
4 different occupational/technical programs offered annually

5 (j) Student-teacher interaction time shall be for a minimum of 178  
6 days, except as waived by the Department of Education for professional  
7 development.

8 (k) All public school teacher/administrator contracts (elementary,  
9 secondary, vocational-- exception vocational agriculture) shall be a minimum  
10 of 185 days.

11 (l) At least thirty (30) hours shall be used for professional  
12 development and in-service training and at least two (2) days shall be used  
13 for parent/teacher conferences.

14 (m) The planned instructional time in each school day shall not  
15 average less than six (6) hours per day or thirty (30) hours per week.

16 (n) Kindergarten shall be no more than twenty (20) students to one (1)  
17 teacher in a classroom. However, kindergarten class maximum may be no more  
18 than twenty-two (22) with a one-half time instructional aide being employed  
19 for those classes.

20 (o) The average student to teacher ratio for grades one through three  
21 in a school district shall be no more than twenty-three (23) students per  
22 teacher in a classroom. There shall be no more than twenty-five (25) students  
23 per teacher in any classroom.

24 (p) The average student to teacher ratio for grades four through six  
25 in a school district shall be no more than twenty-five (25) students per  
26 teacher in a classroom, and shall be no more than twenty-eight (28) students  
27 per teacher in any classroom.

28 (q) In grades seven through twelve, a teacher shall not be assigned  
29 more than one hundred fifty (150) students; and an individual academic class  
30 shall not exceed thirty (30) students, provided that, in exceptional cases or  
31 for courses that lend themselves to large group instruction, these ratios may  
32 be increased.

33 (r) Each school district shall adopt written discipline policies  
34 consistent with those guidelines that include a code of student behavior.

35 (s) Each district's written discipline policies shall be filed with  
36 the Department of Education.

1       (t) Local districts and individual schools shall involve parents,  
2 staff, and students in the formulation and review of their student discipline  
3 policies, rules, and procedures.

4       (u) Schools shall inform students and parents of the rules and  
5 procedures by which the school is governed. Schools shall make the students  
6 aware of the behavior that will call for disciplinary action, as well as the  
7 types of corrective actions that may be imposed.

8       (v) Students and parents shall acknowledge that they have received and  
9 understand the school's discipline policies by a signed statement. The school  
10 shall document procedures and methods used to inform parents and students of  
11 the policy.

12       (w) Teachers and administrators, classified school employees, and  
13 volunteers shall be provided with appropriate student discipline training.

14       (x) Each school district must provide a full-day kindergarten for each  
15 child age five (5) on or before September 15. A parent or guardian shall sign  
16 a waiver if they elect not to enroll a child in kindergarten at age five (5).  
17 Any six-year-old child who has not completed a state accredited kindergarten  
18 program prior to public school enrollment shall be evaluated by the school  
19 district to determine whether placement for the child shall be in  
20 kindergarten or the first grade.

21       (y) Schools shall be responsible for assessing each student's progress  
22 at each grade level in acquiring mastery of the competencies, skills, and  
23 other subjects required by law and Arkansas Comprehensive Testing,  
24 Assessment, and Accountability Program regulations. Assessment data may  
25 include performance assessments, competency test scores, standardized test  
26 scores, subject matter mastery test scores, and observations of teachers and  
27 parents or guardians.

28       (z) Grades assigned to students for performance in a course shall  
29 reflect only the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed  
30 academic objectives of the course. Grades that reflect other educational  
31 objectives such as the student learning expectations contained in the  
32 curriculum frameworks may also be given. The state uniform grading scale  
33 shall be used in grades seven through twelve (7-12).

34       (aa) Students with special needs shall have equal access to programs  
35 that meet the criteria for their identified Individualized Education Program  
36 and shall receive services in the least restrictive environment that meets

1 their needs.

2 (bb) At least a total of twenty-one (21) units earned in grades nine  
3 through twelve shall be required for high school graduation. Only one (1) of  
4 the units may be in physical education.

5 (cc) A unit of credit shall be defined as the credit given for a  
6 course which meets for a minimum of 120 clock hours. A minimum average six-  
7 hour day or minimum average thirty (30)-hour week is required.

8 (dd) Each school shall employ at least a half-time principal. A full-  
9 time principal shall be employed when a school's enrollment reaches three  
10 hundred (300). A school district superintendent may be permitted to serve as  
11 a half-time principal (when district enrollment is less than 300) providing  
12 the superintendent is appropriately certified and is not already teaching  
13 classes. Schools with an enrollment exceeding five hundred (500) shall  
14 employ at least one full-time principal and a half-time assistant principal,  
15 instructional supervisor, or curriculum specialist.

16 (ee) All administrative, teaching, and other personnel shall, where  
17 required by law and rules and regulations, hold a current Arkansas teaching  
18 license.

19 (ff) Each school district shall develop and implement a plan for  
20 professional development and in-service training based on local educational  
21 needs and state educational goals. The plan shall provide education and  
22 training for school board members, school and district administrators,  
23 teachers, and support staff on a continuing and regular basis throughout the  
24 school year. Teachers shall be involved in the development of the plan for  
25 their own in-service education. All programs for professional development and  
26 in-service training shall be evaluated by the participants in each program.

27 (gg) Each school district shall have flexibility in establishing plans  
28 for professional development and in-service training, provided the plans meet  
29 standards for inservice education as developed by the Department of  
30 Education. A minimum of thirty (30) hours of professional development is  
31 required for teachers and administrators annually.

32 (hh) Support services shall be designed to be comprehensive and  
33 integral to the process of schooling and the development of all students.  
34 Each school district for each school building site shall develop and  
35 implement a written plan, as set forth in current laws and regulations. The  
36 plans shall be based upon the needs identified by parents, teachers,

1 principals, students, and other agencies with which the school district  
2 works. Further, the plan shall be incorporated into the comprehensive school  
3 improvement plan for each site.

4 (ii) Each school shall provide a developmentally appropriate guidance  
5 program to aid students in educational, personal/social, and career  
6 development.

7 (jj) Each school shall provide supportive personnel and appropriate  
8 facilities to ensure effective counseling to meet individual needs of  
9 students.

10 (kk) Each school shall assign appropriate certified counselor staff  
11 with the district being required to maintain an overall ratio of one (1) to  
12 four hundred fifty (450).

13 (ll) Sufficient resources shall be budgeted and spent yearly for  
14 purchasing and maintaining an appropriate, current collection.

15 (mm) The changing role of the library media center shall support  
16 technology as a tool for learning. Each school with less than three hundred  
17 (300) students enrolled shall employ at least a half-time certified library  
18 media specialist. A school with three hundred (300) or more students enrolled  
19 shall employ a full-time certified library media specialist. Schools  
20 enrolling fifteen hundred (1,500) or more students shall employ two full-time  
21 certified library media specialists. For districts with enrollment less than  
22 five hundred (500), a full-time library media specialist may serve the  
23 district. The library media specialist(s) shall ensure that access to records  
24 and resource data bases shall be available to students. The media  
25 specialist(s) shall assist students in the development and use of research  
26 skills.

27 (nn) Each school district shall have a health services program under  
28 the direction of a licensed nurse. The program shall include screening,  
29 referral, and follow-up procedures for all students.

30 (oo) Health services shall include but not be limited to: (1) Students  
31 with special health care needs, including chronically ill, medically fragile,  
32 and technology dependent, and students with other health impairments shall  
33 have an Individualized Health Care Plan. (2) Invasive medical procedures  
34 required by students and provided at school shall be performed by trained,  
35 licensed personnel who are licensed to perform the task, and the regular  
36 classroom teacher shall not perform these tasks. (3) Custodial health care

1 services required by students under an Individualized Healthcare Plan shall  
2 be provided by trained school employees other than the regular classroom  
3 teachers.

4 (pp) Special education programs and special schools shall be  
5 accredited in accordance with applicable laws and rules and regulations  
6 adopted by the State Board of Education.

7 (qq) Each school district shall develop procedures to identify gifted  
8 and talented students in accordance with guidelines established by the  
9 Department of Education.

10 (rr) Each school district shall provide educational opportunities for  
11 students identified as gifted and talented appropriate to their ability.

12 (ss) Each school district shall provide opportunities for qualified  
13 students to enroll in courses at institutions of higher education.

14 (tt) Each school district shall provide appropriate alternative  
15 program(s) for students who are identified as requiring such programs to  
16 continue their education.

17 (uu) Each room shall be furnished with equipment and instructional  
18 materials necessary to provide the environment and working conditions  
19 appropriate for subjects or activities assigned.

20 (vv) In reference to required class size and ratios, the Department of  
21 Education will review evidence submitted to determine unexpected population  
22 shifts, which could result in removal of probation for the violation of these  
23 standards.

24  
25 6-15-1703. Curriculum - Core curriculum.

26 (a)(1) The core curriculum for grades kindergarten through eight (K-8)  
27 shall encompass all types of developmentally appropriate learning experiences  
28 and provide for differences in rates of learning among children.

29 (2) It shall emphasize reasoning and problem solving,  
30 communicating, connecting such as linking knowledge, skills, and other  
31 understandings within and across disciplines to real-life situations, and  
32 internalizing, such as acting on the learning to make it meaningful, useful,  
33 and worthwhile.

34 (3) Mastery of core concepts and abilities in the following  
35 areas is to be emphasized:

36 (A) For students in grades kindergarten through four (K-4)



1 mastery of core concepts and abilities in the following areas is to be  
2 emphasized:

3 (i) Language arts, including:

4 (a) Reading;

5 (b) Writing; and

6 (c) Listening, speaking, viewing;

7 (ii) Mathematics, including:

8 (a) Number sense, properties, and operations;

9 (b) Measurement;

10 (c) Geometry and spatial sense;

11 (d) Data analysis and statistics; and

12 (e) Algebra and functions;

13 (iii) Social studies, including:

14 (a)(1) History and culture of Arkansas,  
15 including a unit at each grade level with emphasis at grade four (4);

16 (2) The nation; and

17 (3) The world, which shall include  
18 foreign language experiences;

19 (b) Geography;

20 (c) Economics; and

21 (d) Civic education;

22 (iv) Science, including:

23 (a) Life science;

24 (b) Earth and space science;

25 (c) Physical sciences, including physics and  
26 chemistry; and

27 (d) Environmental education;

28 (v) Tools for learning, including:

29 (a) Technical skills including, research and  
30 information skills, use of computers and calculators; and

31 (b) Data gathering including, use of data  
32 banks, atlases, dictionaries, almanacs, networks, news sources, and  
33 interviews;

34 (vi) Fine arts, including:

35 (a) Visual arts instruction, appreciation, and  
36 application; and

1 (b) Performing arts instruction, appreciation,  
2 and application;

3 (vii) Practical living skills or career exploration;  
4 and

5 (viii) Health and safety Education and physical  
6 education;

7 (B) For students in grades five through eight (5-8),  
8 mastery of core concepts and abilities in the following areas is to be  
9 emphasized:

10 (i) Language Arts, including:

11 (a) Reading;

12 (b) Writing; and

13 (c) Listening, speaking, and viewing;

14 (ii) Mathematics, including:

15 (a) Number sense, properties, and operations;

16 (b) Measurement;

17 (c) Geometry and spatial sense;

18 (d) Data analysis and statistics; and

19 (e) Algebra and functions;

20 (iii) Science, including:

21 (a) Life science;

22 (b) Earth and space science;

23 (c) Physical sciences, which may include  
24 physics and chemistry; and

25 (d) Environmental education;

26 (iv) Social Studies, including:

27 (a)(1) History and culture of Arkansas  
28 including a unit at grades five (5) and six (6) with emphasis at grade five  
29 (5);

30 (2) The nation; and

31 (3) The world, which shall include  
32 including foreign language experiences;

33 (b) Geography;

34 (c) Economics; and

35 (d) Civic education;

36 (v) Physical education;

1 (vi) Fine arts, including:

2 (a) Visual arts instruction, appreciation, and  
3 application; and

4 (b) Performing arts instruction, appreciation,  
5 and application;

6 (vii) Health and safety;

7 (viii) Tools for learning, including:

8 (a) Technical skills, including:

9 (1) Research and information skills; and

10 (2) Use of computers and calculators;

11 (b) Data gathering, including use of data  
12 banks, atlases, dictionaries, almanacs, networks, news sources, and  
13 interviews; and

14 (ix) Career and technical education.

15 (C) Each school shall be encouraged to offer in the  
16 seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) and eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grades, instruction in reading and mathematics  
17 skills to assist those students who need additional instruction to make  
18 satisfactory progress in their required courses;

19 (D) A unit of Arkansas history shall be taught as a social  
20 studies subject at each elementary grade level in every public elementary  
21 school in this state with greater emphasis at the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) and fifth (5<sup>th</sup>)  
22 grade levels, and at least one (1) full semester of Arkansas history shall be  
23 taught to all students at the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>), eighth (8<sup>th</sup>), ninth (9<sup>th</sup>), tenth  
24 (10<sup>th</sup>), eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>), or twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade level in every public  
25 secondary school in this state.

26 (E)(i) It is strongly recommended that schools offer at  
27 least one (1) level I foreign language course and Algebra I;

28 (ii) These traditionally ninth-grade courses may be  
29 counted as credit toward high school graduation.

30 (F) For student in grades nine through twelve (9-12)  
31 during the 2003-2004 school year, the following courses of thirty-eight (38)  
32 units shall be taught every year by an accredited high school:

33 (i) Six (6) units of language arts, including:

34 (a) Four (4) units English;

35 (b) One (1) unit oral communications or one-  
36 half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit oral communications and one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit drama;

1 (c) One (1) unit journalism, this course may  
2 be offered every other year; and

3 (d) Other options as approved by the  
4 Department of Education;

5 (ii) Five (5) units of science, with active student  
6 participant in laboratory experience for no less than twenty percent (20%) of  
7 instructional time), including:

8 (a) One (1) unit biology;

9 (b) One (1) unit chemistry, this course may be  
10 offered every other year;

11 (c) One (1) unit physics, this course may be  
12 offered every other year; and

13 (d) Other options as approved by the  
14 Department of Education;

15 (iii) Six (6) units of mathematics, including:

16 (a) One (1) unit of algebra I;

17 (b) One (1) unit of geometry;

18 (c) One (1) unit of algebra II, this course  
19 may be offered every other year;

20 (d) One (1) unit of pre-calculus mathematics  
21 to include trigonometry, this course may be offered every other year; and

22 (e) Other options as approved by the  
23 Department of Education;

24 (iv) Two (2) units of foreign languages;

25 (v) Three and one-half (3½) units of fine arts,  
26 including:

27 (a) One (1) unit of art;

28 (b) One (1) unit of instrumental music;

29 (c) One (1) unit of vocal music; and

30 (d) One-half (½) unit survey of fine arts or  
31 an advanced art or music course, this course may be offered every other year;

32 (vi) One (1) unit of computer applications with an  
33 emphasis on current applications, including:

34 (a) Word processing;

35 (b) Spreadsheets;

36 (c) Databases;

- 1 (d) Graphics; and  
2 (c) Telecommunications;  
3 (vii) Four (4) units of social studies, including:  
4 (a) One (1) unit American history each year  
5 with emphasis on 20th Century America;  
6 (b) One (1) unit world history;  
7 (c) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) civics or government;  
8 (d) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of Arkansas history, if not  
9 taught in grades seven (7) or eight (8); and  
10 (e) Other options as approved by the  
11 Department of Education;  
12 (viii) One and one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit health and safety  
13 education and physical education; including:  
14 (a) One (1) unit physical education; and  
15 (b) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit health and safety  
16 education;  
17 (ix) Nine (9) units of career and technical  
18 education, with no less than eight (8) units taught every year;  
19 (x) A minimum of three (3) programs of study  
20 selected from three (3) different occupational and technical programs offered  
21 annually from the following list:  
22 (a) Agriculture education;  
23 (b) Business technology;  
24 (c) Health occupations;  
25 (d) Home economics education;  
26 (e) Marketing technology;  
27 (f) Trade, industrial, and technical  
28 education; and  
29 (g) Work-based learning or apprenticeship;  
30 (xi) The course offerings should include appropriate  
31 advanced placement courses; and  
32 (xii) Additional foreign language courses such as  
33 the level III and IV of the same foreign language and other foreign languages  
34 should be included.  
35 (G)(i) For student in grades nine through twelve (9-12)  
36 beginning with the 2004-2005 school year and each year thereafter, the

1 courses set forth under subdivision (a)(3)(F) shall be increased by the State  
2 Board of Education to forty-three (43) units which shall be taught every year  
3 by an accredited high school.

4 (ii) The additional five (5) units shall be required  
5 as determined by the State Board of Education after public hearing and  
6 comments regarding appropriate course selection.

7  
8 6-15-1704. Graduation requirements.

9 (a) At least a total of twenty-one (21) units earned in grades nine  
10 through twelve (9-12) shall be required for high school graduation. Only one  
11 (1) of these units may be in physical education.

12 (b) A unit of credit shall be defined as the credit given for a  
13 course that meets for a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) clock hours. A  
14 minimum average six-hour day or minimum average thirty (30) hour week is  
15 required.

16 (c)(1) Beginning in the school year 2001-2002, twenty-one (21) units  
17 of credit will be required for graduation.

18 (2) These requirements shall include the following:

19 (A) The common core of fifteen (15) units which shall  
20 include:

21 (i) Four (4) units of English;

22 (ii) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit of oral communications;

23 (iii) Three (3) units of social studies, including:

24 (a) One (1) unit of world history;

25 (b) One (1) unit of U. S. history; and

26 (c) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit of civics or government;

27 (iv) Three (3) units of mathematics which must build  
28 on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills, including:

29 (a) One (1) unit of algebra or its equivalent;

30 and

31 (b) One (1) unit of geometry or its

32 equivalent; or

33 (c) A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-  
34 year geometry equivalent may be counted as two units of the three-unit  
35 requirement;

36 (v) Three (3) units of science, including:

1 (a) At least one (1) unit of biology or its  
 2 equivalent; and

3 (b) One (1) unit of a physical science;  
 4 (vi) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit of physical education;  
 5 (vii) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit of health and one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )  
 6 unit safety; and

7 (viii) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit of fine arts; and

8 (B)(i) Career focus units.

9 (ii) All units in the career focus requirement shall  
 10 be established through guidance and counseling at the local school district  
 11 based on the students contemplated work aspirations.

12 (iii) Career focus courses shall conform to local  
 13 district policy and reflect state frameworks through course sequencing and  
 14 career course concentrations where appropriate.

15 (d)(1) Local school districts may require additional units for  
 16 graduation beyond the fifteen (15) common core and the career focus units.

17 (2) These may be in academic or technical areas, or both.

18 (e) All the common core, career focus, and elective units must total  
 19 at least twenty-one (21) units to graduate.

20  
 21 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-202 is amended to read as follows:

22 6-15-202. Accreditation - Development of regulations and standards.

23 (a)(1) The Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, the State Board  
 24 of Education is authorized and directed to develop comprehensive regulations,  
 25 criteria, and minimum standards to be used by the board and the Department of  
 26 Education in the accreditation of school programs in elementary and secondary  
 27 public schools in this state.

28 (2) Until the 2006-2007 school year, the core curriculum  
 29 requirements the Standards of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools shall  
 30 be as set forth under §§ 6-15-1701 and 6-15-1704.

31 (b) After the regulations are adopted and implemented by the board,  
 32 standards shall regularly be reviewed by the House and Senate Interim  
 33 Committees on Education at least once every two (2) years, and  
 34 recommendations and advice in regard thereto may be filed by the committees  
 35 with the board for its consideration.

36 /s/ Cleveland

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