

State of Arkansas

Call Item 4

84th General Assembly

A Bill

Second Extraordinary Session, 2003

HOUSE BILL 1048

By: Representatives J. Johnson, Cleveland

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REDUCE THE ACADEMIC DISPARITIES IN THE
ARKANSAS DELTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO REDUCE THE ACADEMIC
DISPARITIES IN THE ARKANSAS DELTA.

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

SECTION 1. (a) The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff may establish
a Delta Student Academic Success Plan to reduce the disparities in the
academic performance of youth in the Arkansas delta.

(b) The plan shall consist of the following components:

(1) A coalition effort between the University of Arkansas at
Pine Bluff and various school districts in Arkansas, Chicot, Drew, Jefferson,
and Lincoln counties;

(2) A plan to establish a standards-based curricula to be used
in the various school districts in mathematics, reading, and English using
instructional strategies based on students' assessed mastery level and
learning styles;

(3) Faculty development in:

(A) Standards-based mathematic, reading, and English;

(B) Use of student assessment data in instructional
design; and

(C) Instructional design based on assessed mastery and
learning styles;

(4) Development of an Arkansas Teacher Corp to increase the



1 number of new and certified teachers;

2 (5) Development of an after-school academic program to reinforce
3 knowledge and skills taught during the regular class day and to help develop
4 knowledge and skills in wellness, art, hobbies, personal growth, decision
5 making, and career awareness and requirements; and

6 (6) Development of a comprehensive evaluation program in which
7 key assessment measures shall include the number of participants, mastery of
8 English, mathematics, and reading as measured by the state benchmark
9 examinations, Stanford Achievement Test, and National Assessment of
10 Educational Progress measures, and admission to and graduation from an
11 accredited college or technical institution.

12 (c) The Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff may
13 enter into an agreement with the superintendents of the school districts
14 within Arkansas, Chicot, Drew, Jefferson, and Lincoln counties to implement
15 the Delta Student Academic Success plan, to the extent that the plan does not
16 conflict with Arkansas law or with the standards set forth by the Department
17 of Education.

18 (d) If a plan is established, the Chancellor of the University of
19 Arkansas at Pine Bluff shall make a yearly report of the progress of the plan
20 to the superintendents of the school districts in Arkansas, Chicot, Drew,
21 Jefferson, and Lincoln counties, the Department of Education, and the
22 Legislative Council.