

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
4

Call Item 4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1091

5 By: Representative Judy
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REMOVE NONACADEMIC BARRIERS TO ACADEMIC
10 SUCCESS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILY
11 RESOURCE CENTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13 THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS ACT.
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16

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
18

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 9, Chapter 32, is amended to add an
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:

21 9-32-301. Title.

22 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Family Resource
23 Centers Act".
24

25 9-32-302. Definitions.

26 9-32-302. Definitions.

27 For the purpose of this subchapter:

28 (1) "Board" means the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
29 Board;

30 (2) "Core component" means one (1) of the activities or services
31 for children and their families provided by a family resource center pursuant
32 to the school district's grant application;

33 (3) "Family resource center" means a center in or near a
34 priority elementary school;

35 (4) "National school lunch students" mean those students from
36 low socioeconomic backgrounds as indicated by eligibility for free or



1 reduced-priced meals under the National School Lunch Act as calculated on
 2 October 1 of each year and submitted to the Department of Education;

3 (5) "Optional component" means one (1) of the activities or
 4 services for children or their families provided by a family resource center
 5 to satisfy unique community needs;

6 (6) "Parent" means a parent, legal guardian, or person standing
 7 in loco parentis; and

8 (7) "Priority elementary school" means a public school that
 9 meets the following requirements:

10 (A) Has one (1) or more of grades kindergarten through six
 11 (K-6); and

12 (B)(i) Has fifty percent (50%) or more of the enrolled
 13 students that are national school lunch students based on data from the 2002-
 14 2003 school year; or

15 (ii) Has fifty percent (50%) or more of the students
 16 that are performing below proficient on any or all benchmark examinations
 17 based on examination results from the 2002-2003 school year.

18
 19 9-32-303. Administration.

20 This subchapter shall be administered by the State Child Abuse and
 21 Neglect Prevention Board as created under § 9-30-104.

22
 23 9-32-304. Duties.

24 (a) The State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board shall have the
 25 following duties:

26 (1) To determine which schools are priority elementary schools
 27 under this subchapter;

28 (2) To review grant applications and to award grants to school
 29 districts for family resource centers;

30 (3)(A) To formulate and assist with the implementation of an
 31 implementation plan to establish a minimum of ten (10) family resource
 32 centers.

33 (B) The family resource centers shall be designed to meet
 34 the following goals:

35 (i) To remove nonacademic barriers to student
 36 success in school;

1 (ii) To enhance the abilities of students to succeed
 2 in school; and

3 (iii) To meet the needs of children and their
 4 families;

5 (4) To monitor the family resource centers;

6 (5) To modify the implementation plans as necessary;

7 (6) To promulgate rules and forms for the administration of this
 8 subchapter;

9 (7) To employ administrative or training staff as needed;

10 (8) To create local advisory groups; and

11 (9) Other duties as determined by the board.

12 (b) On or before October 1 of each year, the chairperson of the board
 13 or his or her designee shall report to the House Interim Committee on Aging,
 14 Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and Senate Interim
 15 Committee on Children and Youth regarding the status of the development of
 16 the family resource centers and the outcomes achieved at each operational
 17 family resource center.

18
 19 9-32-305. Purposes.

20 (a) Family resource centers shall be designed to remove nonacademic
 21 barriers to success and to enhance the abilities of the students to succeed
 22 in school.

23 (b) Students and families who are the most economically disadvantaged
 24 shall have priority status for receiving services at the family resource
 25 centers.

26
 27 9-32-306. Implementation plans.

28 (a) The implementation plan developed by the State Child Abuse and
 29 Neglect Prevention Board with input from the local advisory groups, the local
 30 school district, and the priority elementary school shall include an effort
 31 to implement a network of family resource centers across the state.

32 (b) The family resource centers shall be located in or near each
 33 priority elementary school.

34 (c) The implementation plan shall promote identification and
 35 coordination of existing resources.

36 (d) The implementation plan may include the following components for

1 each site:

2 (1)(A) Information and referral activities for off-site services
 3 to assist participants in having their basic needs met.

4 (B) Information and referral activities provide
 5 participants with a point of entry to available support networks.

6 (C) Examples of off-site service referrals include, but
 7 are not limited to, the following:

- 8 (i) Child care centers;
- 9 (ii) Health care providers;
- 10 (iii) Counseling services;
- 11 (iv) Legal aid;
- 12 (v) Food banks;
- 13 (vi) Housing and domestic violence shelters;

14 and

15 (vii) Federal agencies, state agencies, or other
 16 entities that provide benefits or services that the participants may need;

17 (2)(A) Parenting education services to promote the sharing of
 18 information, strategies, and tools to help parents with the difficult job of
 19 being parents.

20 (B) Examples of parenting activities include, but are not
 21 limited to, the following:

- 22 (i) Group-based parent education classes;
- 23 (ii) Providing credentialed guest speakers; or
- 24 (iii) Making materials on parenting issues available
 25 to parents through lending libraries or take home materials;

26 (3)(A) Child development activities to strengthen the parent and
 27 child bond and promote optimal development of a child by assisting parents in
 28 the utilization, understanding, and application of early child development
 29 activities.

30 (B) Child development activities shall emphasize child
 31 development during the earliest years, specifically age zero to three (0-3).

32 (C) Child development activities shall address the
 33 following:

- 34 (i) Healthy physical development;
- 35 (ii) Cognitive development;
- 36 (iii) Social development; or

- 1 (iv) Emotional development.
- 2 (D) Specific strategies to promote child development
- 3 within family resource centers may include the following:
- 4 (i) Referring or establishing quality childcare or
- 5 after-school care programs;
- 6 (ii) Providing developmental screenings;
- 7 (iii) Educating parents about developmental
- 8 milestones;
- 9 (iv) Providing literacy and pre-literacy activities
- 10 such as story time;
- 11 (v) Providing play groups or “make and take”
- 12 activities for young children; or
- 13 (vi) Establishing toy or book lending libraries.
- 14 (E) Child development activities may be conducted at the
- 15 family resource centers or through home visiting programs;
- 16 (4) Life skills education to provide an opportunity for
- 17 participants to strengthen skills and competencies that will help them
- 18 succeed in everyday tasks to include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 19 (A) Developing and maintaining a household budget;
- 20 (B) Shopping for and preparing nutritious meals;
- 21 (C) Securing and maintaining employment;
- 22 (D) Conflict resolution skills;
- 23 (E) Goal setting;
- 24 (F) Time management;
- 25 (G) Decision making; or
- 26 (H) Stress management;
- 27 (5)(A) Family literacy to connect education for children with
- 28 literacy instruction for their parents.
- 29 (B) Family literacy activities may include the following:
- 30 (i) Adult literacy instruction for parents;
- 31 (ii) General education diploma instruction for
- 32 parents;
- 33 (iii) Child literacy programs; or
- 34 (iv) Parent and child literacy activities; and
- 35 (6)(A) Informal network building to assist families in
- 36 developing a network of mutual support to include caring, resource sharing,

1 emotional support, and social support.

2 (B) The informal network building program shall be
 3 designed to promote activities to help parents get to know one another, raise
 4 their social capitol, and reduce their isolation.

5 (C) Examples of informal network building programs include
 6 the following:

- 7 (i) Support groups;
- 8 (ii) Social activities;
- 9 (iii) Family celebrations;
- 10 (iv) Recreational activities;
- 11 (v) Holiday gatherings; or
- 12 (vi) Newsletters.

13 (e) The board and the local advisory group shall agree which of the
 14 components in subsection (d) of this section are core components or optional
 15 components based on the individual implementation plan for each priority
 16 elementary school's family resource center.

17 (f)(1) The board shall determine which schools meet the definition of
 18 priority elementary schools under this subchapter by July 1, 2004.

19 (2) The Department of Education and the State Board of Education
 20 shall provide all information necessary in the format necessary for the board
 21 to meet the deadline under this subsection (f).

22 (g)(1) The board shall select a minimum of ten (10) eligible priority
 23 elementary schools for which an implementation plan shall be completed.

24 (2) The board shall complete its implementation plan for a
 25 minimum of ten (10) priority elementary schools on or before December 1,
 26 2004.

27 (h) On or before August 1, 2005, family resource centers shall be
 28 established in or adjacent to a minimum of ten (10) priority elementary
 29 schools.

30
 31 9-32-307. Grant program.

32 (a) A grant program is established to provide financial assistance to
 33 school districts with priority elementary schools that establish family
 34 resource centers.

35 (b) Local school districts shall submit to the State Child Abuse and
 36 Neglect Prevention Board the grant applications and plans for their family

1 resource centers by March 1, 2005.

2 (c) Beginning July 1, 2005, the board shall award grants to school
 3 districts that establish family resource centers at priority elementary
 4 schools in their districts.

5 (d)(1) The board or its designee shall develop a grant application
 6 process that includes the following:

7 (A) An application for a grant under this subchapter;

8 (B) Instructions about the grant process; and

9 (C) Scoring procedures to determine the award of the
 10 grants.

11 (2)(A) The grant application process shall include the
 12 preparation of a grant application package that is distributed to each
 13 priority elementary school and the superintendent of the school district
 14 containing each priority elementary school.

15 (B) The board shall distribute the grant application
 16 package no later than December 15, 2004.

17 (3) The grant application process shall be straightforward and
 18 require a minimum amount of paperwork.

19
 20 9-32-308. Local advisory councils.

21 (a) Each family resource center shall have a local advisory council
 22 that has a central role in designing and delivering services.

23 (b) Members of the local advisory council shall be representative of
 24 the diversity of the students in the priority elementary school that is
 25 served.

26 (c)(1) Except for the initial chairperson, the members shall determine
 27 annually and by majority vote who shall serve as chairperson.

28 (2) The superintendent of the priority elementary school shall
 29 appoint the initial chairperson for the purpose of calling the first
 30 organizational meeting.

31 (3) The initial chairperson shall call an organizational meeting
 32 no fewer than thirty (30) days after all of the members are appointed.

33 (d)(1) The council shall meet at such times and places that the
 34 chairperson deems necessary but no meetings shall be held outside of the
 35 county where the priority elementary school is located.

36 (2) A quorum is not required for the council to transact

1 business.

2 (3) All actions of the council shall be by a majority vote of
3 all members who are present.

4 (e) The local school district shall provide meeting facilities for the
5 council.

6
7 9-32-309. Family resource centers.

8 (a) Each family resource center shall have the following:

9 (1) A full-time coordinator;

10 (2) At least fifteen (15) hours a week of social work services;

11 and

12 (3) Sufficient staff to implement the plan submitted with the
13 grant application.

14 (b) The services provided at the family resource centers shall take
15 into consideration the schedule of the student and the student's family to
16 provide discreet after-hour services where appropriate.

17 (c) The family resource centers shall work with the local advisory
18 council to give the members notice of all activities and needs of the family
19 resource centers.

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