

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H1/12/04 H1/17/04* Call Item 4
2 84th General Assembly **A Bill**
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003 HOUSE BILL 1091
4

5 By: Representatives Judy, *C. Johnson, Borhauer, Chesterfield, Elliott, King*
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7

8 **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

13 **Subtitle**

14 THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS ACT.
15

16 *WHEREAS, the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board has a*
17 *proven record as an advocate for the children of the State of Arkansas; and*
18

19 *WHEREAS, the legislature has determined that, rather than create a new*
20 *board, commission, or agency to carry out the duties of the Family Resource*
21 *Centers Act and because of the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention*
22 *Board's proven record as an advocate for the children of the State of*
23 *Arkansas, the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board shall be given*
24 *the duties under this act,*
25

26 *NOW THEREFORE,*
27

28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
29

30 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, is amended to add an*
31 *additional subchapter to read as follows:*

32 *6-18-1401. Title.*

33 *This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Family Resource*
34 *Centers Act".*
35

36 *6-18-1402. Definitions.*



1 For the purpose of this subchapter:

2 (1) "Board" means the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
3 Board;

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

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

9 (4) "National school lunch students" mean those students from
10 low socioeconomic backgrounds as indicated by eligibility for free or
11 reduced-priced meals under the National School Lunch Act as calculated on
12 October 1 of each year and submitted to the Department of Education;

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

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

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

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

22 (B)(i) Has fifty percent (50%) or more of the enrolled
23 students that are national school lunch students based on data from the 2002-
24 2003 school year; or

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

28
29 6-18-1403. Administration.

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

32
33 6-18-1404. Duties.

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

36 (1) To determine which schools are priority elementary schools

1 under this subchapter;

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

4 (3)(A) To formulate and assist with the implementation of an
5 implementation plan to establish a goal of ten (10) family resource centers,
6 subject to funding.

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

9 (i) To remove nonacademic barriers to student
10 success in school;

11 (ii) To enhance the abilities of students to succeed
12 in school; and

13 (iii) To meet the needs of children and their
14 families;

15 (4) To monitor the family resource centers;

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

17 (6) To promulgate rules and forms for the administration of this
18 subchapter;

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

20 (8) To create local advisory groups;

21 (9)(A) To provide additional resources to assist school
22 districts in the development of methods and strategies to effectively use
23 poverty funding that they receive more effectively.

24 (B) The resources may include the following:

25 (i) Technical assistance;

26 (ii) Organizational assistance;

27 (iii) Program assistance;

28 (iv) Professional assistance; or

29 (v) Any other assistance that is determined to be
30 needed to help school districts overcome nonacademic barriers; and

31 (10) Other duties as determined by the board.

32 (b)(1) This subchapter is the framework for schools to address student
33 poverty issues and to remove nonacademic barriers that hinder student
34 performance.

35 (2) A school district may fund programs or services under this
36 subchapter with moneys received from the Department of Education Public

1 School Fund, or its successor fund, for poverty index funding, National
2 School Lunch Act student funding, national school lunch students funding, or
3 other funding for students eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch
4 program.

5 (3) The programs under this subchapter shall be included in any
6 list of approved programs and purposes established by rule of the Department
7 of Education, any successor agency of the Department of Education, or the
8 State Board of Education regarding the use of poverty index funding, National
9 School Lunch Act student funding, national school lunch students funding, or
10 other funding for students eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch
11 program.

12 (4) School districts may use any available funding resources to
13 establish and administer family resource centers under this subchapter,
14 including, but not limited to, federal or state Medicaid moneys or
15 reimbursements.

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

22
23 6-18-1405. Purposes.

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

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

30 (c) Family resource centers shall work in conjunction with the parent
31 facilitator at the school to avoid duplication of services and to maximize
32 personnel and resources.

33
34 6-18-1406. Implementation plans.

35 (a) The implementation plan developed by the State Child Abuse and
36 Neglect Prevention Board with input from the local advisory groups, the local

1 school district, and the priority elementary school shall include an effort
2 to implement a network of family resource centers across the state.

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

5 (c) The implementation plan shall promote identification and
6 coordination of existing resources including any program that currently
7 exists at the school under a parental involvement plan under §§ 6-15-1701
8 through 6-15-1705.

9
10 (d) The implementation plan may include the following components for
11 each site:

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

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

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

18 (i) Child care centers;

19 (ii) Health care providers;

20 (iii) Counseling services;

21 (iv) Legal aid;

22 (v) Food banks;

23 (vi) Housing and domestic violence shelters;

24 and

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

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

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

32 (i) Group-based parent education classes;

33 (ii) Providing credentialed guest speakers; or

34 (iii) Making materials on parenting issues available
35 to parents through lending libraries or take home materials;

36 (3)(A) Child development activities to strengthen the parent and

1 child bond and promote optimal development of a child by assisting parents in
2 the utilization, understanding, and application of early child development
3 activities.

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

6 (C) Child development activities shall address the
7 following:

8 (i) Healthy physical development;

9 (ii) Cognitive development;

10 (iii) Social development; or

11 (iv) Emotional development.

12 (D) Specific strategies to promote child development
13 within family resource centers may include the following:

14 (i) Referring or establishing quality childcare or
15 after-school care programs;

16 (ii) Providing developmental screenings;

17 (iii) Educating parents about developmental
18 milestones;

19 (iv) Providing literacy and pre-literacy activities
20 such as story time;

21 (v) Providing play groups or "make and take"
22 activities for young children; or

23 (iv) Establishing toy, book, computer, or technology
24 sharing or lending libraries.

25 (E) Child development activities may be conducted at the
26 family resource centers, through home visiting programs such as Home
27 Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI), or as part of Head
28 Start;

29 (4) Life skills education to provide an opportunity for
30 participants to strengthen skills and competencies that will help them
31 succeed in everyday tasks to include, but not be limited to, the following:

32 (A) Developing and maintaining a household budget;

33 (B) Shopping for and preparing nutritious meals;

34 (C) Securing and maintaining employment;

35 (D) Conflict resolution skills;

36 (E) Goal setting;

1 (F) Time management;

2 (G) Decision making; or

3 (H) Stress management;

4 (5)(A) Family literacy to connect education for children with
5 literacy instruction for their parents.

6 (B) Family literacy activities may include the following:

7 (i) Adult literacy instruction for parents;

8 (ii) General education diploma instruction for
9 parents;

10 (iii) Referral to a vocational educational
11 institution or an institution of higher education in the state;

12 (iv) Providing information on scholarships that
13 might be available to the parent if the parent decides to proceed with higher
14 education;

15 (v) Child literacy programs; or

16 (vi) Parent and child literacy activities; and

17 (6)(A) Informal network building to assist families in
18 developing a network of mutual support to include caring, resource sharing,
19 emotional support, and social support.

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

23 (C) Examples of informal network building programs include
24 the following:

25 (i) Support groups;

26 (ii) Social activities;

27 (iii) Family celebrations;

28 (iv) Recreational activities;

29 (v) Holiday gatherings; or

30 (vi) Newsletters.

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

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

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

4 (g)(1) The board shall select a minimum of ten (10) eligible priority
5 elementary schools for which an implementation plan shall be completed,
6 subject to funding.

7 (2) The board shall complete its implementation plan for a
8 minimum of ten (10) priority elementary schools on or before December 1,
9 2004, subject to funding.

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

13
14 6-18-1407. Grant program.

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

18 (b) Local school districts shall submit to the State Child Abuse and
19 Neglect Prevention Board the grant applications and plans for their family
20 resource centers by March 1, 2005.

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

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

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

27 (B) Instructions about the grant process; and

28 (C) Scoring procedures to determine the award of the
29 grants.

30 (2)(A) The grant application process shall include the
31 preparation of a grant application package that is distributed to each
32 priority elementary school and the superintendent of the school district
33 containing each priority elementary school.

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

36 (3) The grant application process shall be straightforward and

1 require a minimum amount of paperwork.

2 (e) In the award of grants under this subchapter, special
3 consideration shall be given to the most impoverished and the lowest
4 performing schools.

5
6 6-18-1408. Local advisory councils.

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

9 (b) Members of the local advisory council shall be representative of
10 the diversity of the students in the priority elementary school that is
11 served.

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

14 (2) The superintendent of the priority elementary school shall
15 appoint the initial chairperson for the purpose of calling the first
16 organizational meeting.

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

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

22 (2) A quorum is not required for the council to transact
23 business.

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

26 (e) The local school district shall provide meeting facilities for the
27 council.

28
29 6-18-1409. Family resource centers.

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

31 (1) A full-time coordinator;

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

33 and

34 (3) Sufficient staff to implement the plan submitted with the
35 grant application.

36 (b) The services provided at the family resource centers shall take

1 into consideration the schedule of the student and the student's family to
2 provide discreet after-hour services where appropriate.

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

6
7 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
8 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court in
9 Lake View District No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351 Ark. 31 (2002) declared our
10 current public education system to be unconstitutional because it is both
11 inequitable and inadequate; that the Arkansas Supreme Court has set forth the
12 test for a constitutional system to be one in which the state has an
13 "absolute duty" to provide an "equal opportunity to an adequate education";
14 that the Arkansas Supreme Court has instructed the General Assembly to
15 correct these constitutional infirmities with our public education system;
16 and that this act is immediately necessary to provide additional resources to
17 the poorest and most disadvantaged students in the state that face countless
18 nonacademic barriers in their quest for academic success. Therefore, an
19 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for
20 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
21 effective on:

22 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

23 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
24 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
25 bill; or

26 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
27 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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29 /s/ Judy, et al
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