

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H1/12/04 H1/17/04 S1/26/04* 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, subject to funding:

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;

31 (10) To find alternative funding sources for the board and the  
32 programs under this subchapter, including, but not limited to, grants or  
33 donations; and

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

35 (b)(1) This subchapter is the framework for schools to address student  
36 poverty issues and to remove nonacademic barriers that hinder student

1 performance.

2 (2) A school district may fund programs or services under this  
3 subchapter with moneys received from the Department of Education Public  
4 School Fund, or its successor fund, for poverty index funding, National  
5 School Lunch Act student funding, national school lunch students funding, or  
6 other funding for students eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch  
7 program.

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

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

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

25  
26 6-18-1405. Purposes.

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

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

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

36

1 6-18-1406. Implementation plans.

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

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

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

12 (d) The implementation plan may include the following components for  
13 each site:

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

16 (B) Information and referral activities that provide  
17 participants with a point of entry to available support networks.

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

20 (i) Child care centers;

21 (ii) Health care providers;

22 (iii) Counseling services;

23 (iv) Legal aid;

24 (v) Food banks;

25 (vi) Housing and domestic violence shelters;

26 and

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

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

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

34 (i) Group-based parent education classes;

35 (ii) Providing credentialed guest speakers; or

36 (iii) Making materials on parenting issues available

1 to parents through lending libraries or take home materials;

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

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

8 (C) Child development activities shall address the  
9 following:

10 (i) Healthy physical development;

11 (ii) Cognitive development;

12 (iii) Social development; or

13 (iv) Emotional development.

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

16 (i) Referring or establishing quality childcare or  
17 after-school care programs;

18 (ii) Providing developmental screenings;

19 (iii) Educating parents about developmental  
20 milestones;

21 (iv) Providing literacy and pre-literacy activities  
22 such as story time;

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

25 (iv) Establishing toy, book, computer, or technology  
26 sharing or lending libraries.

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

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

34 (A) Developing and maintaining a household budget;

35 (B) Shopping for and preparing nutritious meals;

36 (C) Securing and maintaining employment;

1 (D) Conflict resolution skills;

2 (E) Goal setting;

3 (F) Time management;

4 (G) Decision making; or

5 (H) Stress management;

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

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

9 (i) Adult literacy instruction for parents;

10 (ii) General education diploma instruction for  
11 parents;

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

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

17 (v) Child literacy programs; or

18 (vi) Parent and child literacy activities; and

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

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

25 (C) Examples of informal network building programs include  
26 the following:

27 (i) Support groups;

28 (ii) Social activities;

29 (iii) Family celebrations;

30 (iv) Recreational activities;

31 (v) Holiday gatherings; or

32 (vi) Newsletters.

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

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

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

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

9 (2) The board shall complete its implementation plan for a  
10 minimum of ten (10) priority elementary schools on or before December 1,  
11 2004, subject to funding.

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

15  
16 6-18-1407. Grant program.

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

20 (b) The implementation of the grant program under this section is  
21 subject to funding.

22 (c) Local school districts shall submit to the State Child Abuse and  
23 Neglect Prevention Board the grant applications and plans for their family  
24 resource centers by March 1, 2005.

25 (d) Beginning July 1, 2005, the board shall award grants to school  
26 districts that establish family resource centers at priority elementary  
27 schools in their districts.

28 (e)(1) The board or its designee shall develop a grant application  
29 process that includes the following:

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

31 (B) Instructions about the grant process; and

32 (C) Scoring procedures to determine the award of the  
33 grants.

34 (2)(A) The grant application process shall include the  
35 preparation of a grant application package that is distributed to each  
36 priority elementary school and the superintendent of the school district



1 containing each priority elementary school.

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

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

6 (f) In the award of grants under this subchapter, special  
7 consideration shall be given to the most impoverished and the lowest  
8 performing schools.

9  
10 6-18-1408. Local advisory councils.

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

13 (b) Members of the local advisory council shall be representative of  
14 the diversity of the students in the priority elementary school that is  
15 served.

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

18 (2) The superintendent of the priority elementary school shall  
19 appoint the initial chairperson for the purpose of calling the first  
20 organizational meeting.

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

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

26 (2) A quorum is not required for the council to transact  
27 business.

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

30 (e) The local school district shall provide meeting facilities for the  
31 council.

32  
33 6-18-1409. Family resource centers.

34 (a) Each family resource center shall have the following, subject to  
35 funding:

36 (1) A full-time coordinator;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33  
34 /s/ Judy  
35  
36