

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

Call Item 4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1126

5 By: Representatives Fite, House, Seawel, Adams, Dickinson, Milligan, Norton, Oglesby, Rosenbaum,
6 Weaver
7
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION IN
11 ARKANSAS; TO CREATE EDUCATION EFFICIENCY AND
12 ADEQUACY UNITS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL
15 EDUCATION IN ARKANSAS AND TO CREATE
16 EDUCATION EFFICIENCY AND ADEQUACY UNITS.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, is amended to add an
22 additional subchapter to read as follows:

23 6-13-1601. Definitions.

24 For purposes of this subchapter:

25 (1) "Average daily membership" means the same as defined under §
26 6-20-303;

27 (2) "Education efficiency and adequacy unit" means a cooperative
28 endeavor established under § 6-13-1602; and

29 (3) "Participating school district" means a school district in
30 an education efficiency and adequacy unit.

31
32 6-13-1602. Education efficiency and adequacy units.

33 (a)(1) By June 1, 2004, every school district, regardless of size,
34 must be in an education efficiency and adequacy unit.

35 (2)(A) If the school district has an average daily membership of
36 one thousand five hundred (1,500) students or fewer for the previous school



1 year, the education efficiency and adequacy unit must include at least one
 2 (1) other school district.

3 (B)(i) The selection of school district partners shall be
 4 voluntary between the school districts.

5 (ii) However, if the Department of Education finds
 6 on June 1, 2004 that a school district has not selected at least one (1)
 7 participating school district as a partner in an education efficiency and
 8 adequacy unit, then by July 1, 2004, the department shall assign another
 9 school district to the education efficiency and adequacy unit. The school
 10 districts must be within a reasonable geographic proximity to one another.

11 (3) A school district having an average daily membership of more
 12 than one thousand five hundred (1,500) students for the previous school year
 13 may include another school district in its education efficiency and adequacy
 14 unit but is not required to include another school district.

15 (b) School districts may be partners in more than one (1) education
 16 efficiency and adequacy unit during a school year, and any school district
 17 may change education efficiency and adequacy units any year.

18 (c) Each school district shall provide the department with the names
 19 of entities in each education efficiency and adequacy unit in which the
 20 school district participates.

21 (d)(1) The partnership between school districts and the establishment
 22 of education efficiency and adequacy units under this subchapter shall not be
 23 construed to affect the powers of each school district to govern itself.

24 (2) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prohibit a
 25 school district from engaging in cooperative efforts with other school
 26 districts outside of the education efficiency and adequacy unit.

27
 28 6-13-1603. Higher education and education service cooperative
 29 partners.

30 (a) Any public institution of higher education that is situated within
 31 the boundaries of a participating school district shall participate as a
 32 partner in the education efficiency and adequacy unit.

33 (b)(1) Any education service cooperatives that are situated within the
 34 boundaries of a participating school district shall participate as a partner
 35 in the education efficiency and adequacy unit.

36 (2) An education service cooperative may participate as a

1 partner in more than one (1) education efficiency and adequacy unit.

2 (3) This section shall not limit the authority of an education
 3 service cooperative to engage in activities outside of the education
 4 efficiency and adequacy unit.

5
 6 6-13-1604. Unit supervisory boards.

7 (a) Each education efficiency and adequacy unit shall establish a unit
 8 supervisory board.

9 (b)(1) The unit supervisory board shall consist of an equal number of
 10 members from each school district in the education efficiency and adequacy
 11 unit, each public institution of higher education in the education efficiency
 12 and adequacy unit, and each education service cooperative education
 13 efficiency and adequacy unit.

14 (2) At least one (1) school board member from each participating
 15 school district shall be a member of the unit supervisory board.

16 (3) At least one (1) school administrator from each
 17 participating school district shall be a member of the unit supervisory
 18 board.

19 (c)(1) Each unit supervisory board shall elect a chair who shall
 20 preside over the meetings of the board.

21 (2) The chair shall be elected to serve a one-year term.

22 (d) Each unit supervisory board shall meet at three (3) times annually
 23 and at least one (1) of the meetings is to take place during the school year.

24 (e) Each participating school district shall equally furnish
 25 reasonable staff assistance to their education efficiency and adequacy unit.

26 (f) A majority vote of those members present shall be required for any
 27 action of the unit supervisory board.

28 (g) Members of the unit supervisory board shall serve without pay but
 29 may receive expense reimbursement from entity that the member represents, if
 30 authorized by the entity.

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 32 6-13-1605. Duties.

33 Each unit supervisory board shall:

34 (1) Develop plans for the efficient operation of the
 35 participating school districts in partnership with the other members of the
 36 education efficiency and adequacy unit and, if necessary, revise the plans;

1 (2) Implement the plan for the efficient operation of the
2 participating school districts which shall include, but not be limited to,
3 provisions for sharing:

4 (A) Certified personnel;

5 (B) Classified personnel;

6 (C) Curriculum and programs;

7 (D) Administrators;

8 (E) Maintenance and operation costs;

9 (F) Purchasing power through contracts and bids; or

10 (G) Any other operation of the school in which
11 efficiencies can be obtain through cooperation;

12 (3) Develop plans for enhanced and increased educational
13 opportunities;

14 (4) Ensure collaboration among the participating school
15 districts, the higher education institution partners, and the education
16 service cooperative partners;

17 (5) Actively encourage involvement of parents, guardians,
18 community members, and business leaders;

19 (6) Collect data necessary to evaluate the progress of the
20 participating school districts toward providing an efficient and adequate
21 education and increasing educational opportunities;

22 (7) By August 1, 2004, and each year thereafter, report to the
23 State Board of Education on:

24 (A) The plan for the efficient operation of the
25 participating school districts in the education efficiency and adequacy unit;
26 and

27 (B) The contribution that each partner will make toward
28 the efficient operation and increased educational opportunities of the
29 participating school districts by cooperating and sharing resources; and

30 (8) By January 1 of each year, report to the state board on the
31 efficiencies achieved and increased educational opportunities through the
32 cooperative efforts of the education efficiency and adequacy unit.

33
34 6-13-1606. Student eligibility for activities or classes.

35 At the discretion of the participating school districts, two (2) or
36 more participating school districts may agree to authorize students in the

1 school districts to be eligible to participate in activities or classes of a
2 participating school district, if the activity or class is not offered in the
3 student's school district.

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5 6-13-1607. State Board of Education -- Rules.

6 The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to implement this
7 subchapter.

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