

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 603

5 By: Senators A. Clark, Elliott
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH STATE
9 CATEGORICAL FUNDING AND LEVELS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL
10 DISTRICT SUPPORT; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF
11 EDUCATION TO PROVIDE TO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH
12 CERTAIN SCORES ON THE STATE'S PRIOR YEAR SUMMATIVE
13 ASSESSMENT FOR READING LEVELS OF SUPPORT; TO AMEND
14 THE APPROVED PURPOSES ON WHICH NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH
15 STATE CATEGORICAL FUNDS MAY BE SPENT; AND FOR OTHER
16 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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19 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
20 PROVIDE CERTAIN LEVELS OF SUPPORT TO
21 CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS BASED ON
22 READING SCORES; AND TO AMEND THE PURPOSES
23 ON WHICH NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH STATE
24 CATEGORICAL FUNDS MAY BE SPENT.
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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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30 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

31 The General Assembly finds that:

32 (1) Full implementation of Arkansas' goal of a student-focused
33 education system for all students will require most schools to rethink, if
34 not restructure, their entire educational program and reallocate all current
35 and any new resources to a restructured and more effective educational
36 delivery;



1 (2) Since 2005, two billion six hundred eighty-six million eight
2 hundred five thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$2,686,805,850) in
3 national school lunch funds have been sent to public schools in Arkansas;

4 (3) National school lunch state categorical programs are
5 designed to provide extra help and strategies for struggling students and
6 must be focused to target the needs of struggling students;

7 (4) Current flexibility in national school lunch state
8 categorical funding allowable expenditures has not shown that the funds have
9 had a positive impact on student outcomes or successfully closed achievement
10 gaps;

11 (5) Public school districts spend the highest amount of national
12 school lunch state categorical funds on curriculum specialists and
13 instructional facilitators and other activities that are not specified by law
14 or Department of Education rule that have been approved by the Department of
15 Education, and transfer national school lunch state categorical funds to
16 other categorical programs;

17 (6) Thirty-four percent (34%) of Arkansas public students in
18 grades three through ten (3-10) are scoring at the lowest level of
19 performance on the ACT Aspire reading test;

20 (7) Six (6) Core Strategies were included in the Odden and Picus
21 Original 2003 Adequacy Report, the 2006 Recalibration report, and the 2014
22 Desk Audit, and all educational initiatives included in these reports and the
23 funding used for the educational initiatives are backed by evidence-based
24 research;

25 (8) Arkansas's students must be prepared for college, careers,
26 and citizenship in the current global economy, and work in the knowledge-
27 based economy requires the same skills and expertise to go to college or to
28 enter the work force after high school;

29 (9) Public schools must deploy more powerful instructional
30 strategies and use resources more productively, and need to change the
31 curriculum that is used, the means of organizing instruction, and how
32 resources are used;

33 (10) Teacher development opportunities must be redesigned to
34 provide personalized opportunities so that all teachers acquire the
35 instructional expertise to educate all students by using the extensive
36 professional development resources that are included in the funding model in

1 the most effective ways;

2 (11) Schools must reinforce achievement for struggling students
3 by providing a series of extended learning opportunities, such as some
4 combination of one-on-one and small group tutoring by a licensed teacher,
5 extended-day learning, and summer school programs, and must hold performance
6 standards high and vary instructional time so all students can achieve
7 rigorous standards in order to work towards closing the achievement gap; and

8 (12) The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee
9 on Education, meeting jointly, find it necessary to revise current national
10 school lunch state categorical funding allowable expenditures in order to
11 maximize the most effective use of funds and focus allowable expenditures on
12 targeted programs that maximize student achievement.

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14 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2913(a), concerning levels of school
15 district support, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
16 follows:

17 (3) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the department
18 shall provide:

19 (A)(i) Level 3 – Coordinated support to a public school
20 district in which forty percent (40%) or more of the public school district’s
21 students score "in need of support" on the state’s prior year summative
22 assessment for reading.

23 (ii) Level 3 – Coordinated support shall be provided
24 in collaboration with the public school district’s educational service
25 cooperative; and

26 (B) Level 4 – Directed support to a public school district
27 in which fifty percent (50%) or more of its students score "in need of
28 support" on the state’s prior year summative assessment for reading.

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30 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2914(d), concerning required public
31 school district support plans, is amended to add an additional subdivision to
32 read as follows:

33 (3)(A) A public school district in which forty percent (40%) or
34 more of the public school district’s students scored "in need of support" on
35 the state’s prior year summative assessment for reading shall develop a
36 literacy plan as part of the public school district support plan required

1 under this section.

2 (B) The public school district literacy plan shall include
3 without limitation:

4 (i) Goals for improving reading achievement
5 throughout the public school district; and

6 (ii) Information regarding the prioritization of
7 funding, including without limitation national school lunch state categorical
8 funds received under § 6-20-2305, for strategies to improve reading
9 achievement throughout the public school district.

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11 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(C)(i), concerning approved
12 programs and purposes for which national school lunch state categorical funds
13 may be expended, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
14 follows:

15 (c) The list of approved programs established
16 before the passage of this act by the state board under subdivision
17 (b)(4)(C)(i)(a) of this section shall expire on June 30, 2022.

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