1 2	State of Arkansas 91st General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2017		HOUSE BILL 1646
4			
5	By: Representative Cozar	t	
6			
7		For An Act To Be Entitled	
8	AN ACT	TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKAN	SAS
9	CODE CO	NCERNING PUBLIC EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER	
10	PURPOSE	S.	
11			
12			
13		Subtitle	
14	TO	O AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE	
15	AF	RKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC	
16	EI	DUCATION.	
17			
18			
19	BE IT ENACTED BY TH	E GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKAN	SAS:
20			
21		rkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 5, Subchap	ter, l is
22	repealed.		
23	Subchapter l	- Early Childhood Development Projects	
24			
25	6-5-101. Auth		
26		ol district or any combination of school	
27		to join with a state-supported junior c	
28	-	ny combination of state-supported junior	_
29	_	sities in this state and develop a pilot	
30		hildhood development and teaching and to	
31		tion for approval and funding of the pro	
32		ect to be approved must be a program com	_
33	-	nt for the children involved in the projection of a contract the children involved in the projection of the children involved in the children involved involved in the children involved i	ect and training
34 35	ior teachers in the	area of early childhood development.	
35 36	6_5_102 Proi	est suidelines.	

1	(a) The Department of Education shall develop guidelines to assist
2	school districts and colleges and universities in developing projects to be
3	submitted for approval and funding pursuant to this subchapter.
4	(b) These guidelines will include, but will not be restricted to,
5	criteria for:
6	(1) Instructional objectives;
7	(2) Classroom characteristics;
8	(3) Competence of the classroom workers;
9	(4) Evaluation of the program;
10	(5) Dissemination of program ideas and training procedures;
11	(6) Reports of progress and findings; and
12	(7) Age of children to be eligible for participation.
13	
14	6-5-103. College role.
15	The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board will be apprised of
16	the role of the colleges in these projects and will advise the Department of
17	Education with respect to the efficient coordination of the college portions
18	of the program.
19	
20	6-5-104. Funding.
21	After approval, a program shall then be funded out of the funds
22	appropriated in this subchapter in an amount as shall be approved by the
23	Department of Education in consultation with the Arkansas Higher Education
24	Coordinating Board.
25	
26	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-10-119 is amended to read as follows:
27	6-10-119. Medicaid billing.
28	(a)(1) By May 1 of each year, the Special Education Section of the
29	Department of Education shall determine which identify school districts that
30	are underperforming in the area of direct-service Medicaid billing.
31	(2) Based on this determination, underperforming The department
32	shall direct identified school districts shall be directed by the section to
33	increase direct-service Medicaid billing by district staff or enter into an
34	agreement associate with an education service cooperative or other public or
35	private entity for the provision of direct-service Medicaid billing services
36	(b) The school district for which billing services are rendered shall

1 pay the education service cooperative providing the billing services an 2 amount necessary to compensate the education service cooperative for costs 3 associated with providing the services, subject to the review and approval of 4 the section. 5 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict qualified 6 public or private providers from developing, maintaining, or expanding 7 service relationships with school districts. 8 9 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-10-121(a)(1), concerning tornado safety 10 drills, is amended to read as follows: 11 (a)(1) As used in this section, "public school" means: 12 (A) a A school that is part of a public school district 13 under the control and management of a local school district board of 14 directors; or 15 (B) An open enrollment public charter school. 16 17 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-11-104(b), concerning meetings of the 18 State Board of Education, is amended to read as follows: 19 (b) The state board will meet each December to In any of its meetings before the end of the calendar year, the state board shall determine the 20 21 meeting dates for the following year. 22 23 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-11-105(a)(3), concerning the powers and 24 duties of the State Board of Education, is repealed. 25 (3) Prescribe rules for the examination of pupils to detect 26 contagious and infectious diseases and physical defects; 27 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-11-112 is amended to read as follows: 28 29 6-11-112. Power to make plans coordinating state and federal laws. 30 The State Board of Education is empowered to make plans, promulgate 31 rules, and seek waivers for flexibility as necessary for this state to meet 32 the requirements of a law enacted by Congress for general education, 33 including without limitation the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of

1965, Pub. L. No. 89-10, as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of

2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110, Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, or

any supplementary federal regulations, directives, or decisions of the United

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1	States Department of Education pertaining to that legislation.
2	
3	SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-11-119 is repealed.
4	6-11-119. Correspondence courses.
5	(a) The State Board of Education shall promulgate reasonable rules,
6	regulations, and standards for the accreditation of persons, firms, schools,
7	or educational institutions offering correspondence courses to the people of
8	this state and may grant certificates of approval to those persons, firms,
9	schools, or educational institutions offering correspondence courses that
10	meet the approval of its rules, regulations, and standards.
11	(b) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, school, or educational
12	institution to advertise by newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, handbill, or other
13	printed method published in this state or by radio or by television in this
14	state the offering of any correspondence courses unless that person, firm,
15	school, or educational institution shall have first registered with the State
16	Board of Education and shall have been approved by the State Board of
17	Education as an accredited correspondence school.
18	(c)(1) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to all
19	schools or educational institutions offering correspondence courses whether
20	the schools are located in this state or in some other state.
21	(2) However, these provisions shall not apply to those schools
22	or educational institutions regulated by the State Board of Private Career
23	Education or by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
24	(d) Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a violation
25	and upon conviction shall be fined in the sum of not less than two hundred
26	fifty dollars (\$250) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).
27	
28	SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-11-128(b), concerning school district use
29	of a software system other than the Arkansas Public School Computer Network,
30	is repealed.
31	(b) After approval by the Department of Education, a school district
32	may use a different software system at the school district level if:
33	(1) The Department of Education determines that the school
34	district's software meets the minimum reporting requirements provided by the
35	Arkansas Public School Computer Network; and
36	(2) The school district supplies all school district transaction

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1
    information to the Arkansas Public School Computer Network in a compatible
 2
    format and in sufficient detail as required by the Department of Education.
 3
           SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-11-128(c)(6), concerning a certification
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 5
    program for the Arkansas Public School Computer Network, is repealed.
 6
                 (6)(A) Developing a certification program to certify:
 7
                             (i) At least one (1) person in each school district
8
    as a certified APSCN financials user and trainer; and
9
                             (ii) At least one (1) person in each school district
10
    as a certified APSCN student management user and trainer.
11
                       (B) The certification process shall require an applicant
12
    for certification to successfully complete the following components,
13
    including without limitation:
14
                             (i) Courses in the application area;
15
                             (ii) Training in using the network's reporting
16
    tools: and
17
                            (iii) An examination that tests the applicant's
    knowledge and skills in the application area and the Arkansas Public School
18
19
    Computer Network's reporting tools.
                       (C) In a school district of five hundred (500) or fewer
20
     students, one (1) person may be certified in both financials and student
21
22
    management; and
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24
           SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-11-131 is repealed.
25
          6-11-131. Divisions of the Department of Education.
26
          (a)(1) Effective July 1, 2005, the Department of Education shall
27
    consist of a central administration and the following divisions:
28
                       (A) The Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services;
29
                       (B) The Division of Human Resources:
30
                       (C) The Division of Learning Services; and
31
                       (D) The Division of Research and Technology.
32
                 (2) Effective April 11, 2006, the Division of Public School
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    Academic Facilities and Transportation, established under § 6-21-112, shall
34
    be under the department.
35
                 (3) Effective July 1, 2007, the Division of Public School
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    Accountability, established under § 6-15-102, shall be under the department.
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1	(b)(1) The Division of Public School Accountability shall have such
2	duties as provided by law.
3	(2) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and
4	Transportation shall have duties as provided by law and such responsibility
5	and programs as may be assigned by the Commission for Arkansas Public School
6	Academic Facilities and Transportation.
7	(3) The remaining divisions shall have such responsibility and
8	programs as may be assigned to them by the Commissioner of Education.
9	(c)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, each
10	division of the department shall be under the direction, control, and
11	supervision of the Commissioner of Education.
12	(2) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and
13	Transportation shall be under the direction, control, and supervision of the
14	Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation.
15	
16	SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1505(d)(1), concerning creation of a
17	school district, is amended to read as follows:
18	(d)(1) The ad $\frac{\text{valorum}}{\text{valorem}}$ tax rate of the new school district
19	shall remain the same as that of the original school district until an
20	election is held in the new school district and a rate of tax is approved and
21	shall be allocated in the same proportion between maintenance and operation
22	and debt service as was allocated by the original school district.
23	
24	SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1505(e)(2), concerning creation of a
25	school district, is amended to read as follows:
26	(2) Enter into lease with purchase lease-purchase agreements,
27	revolving loans <u>under 6-20-801 et seq.</u> , term loans, post date <u>post-dated</u>
28	warrants, or installment contracts;
29	
30	SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1505(h)(2), concerning creation of a
31	school district, is amended to read as follows:
32	(2) At the school election or any subsequent school election, a
33	new school district may present to the qualified electors of the new school
34	district a proposed ad ${\color{red} {\tt valorum}} \ {\color{red} {\tt valorem}} \ {\color{red} {\tt tax}} \ {\color{red} {\tt for}} \ {\color{red} {\tt the}} \ {\color{red} {\tt maintenance}} \ {\color{red} {\tt and}} \ {\color{red} {\tt operation}}$

35 36 of schools and the retirement of indebtedness.

1	SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1606 is repeated.
2	6-13-1606. Development of plan to track student progress.
3	(a) Following the administrative consolidation or administrative
4	annexation under §§ 6-13-1601 - 6-13-1603, 6-13-1604 [repealed], and 6-13-
5	1605 [repealed] effective before December 1, 2004, and before any
6	consolidation, annexation, detachment, approval of a conversion charter, or
7	any other type of reclassification or reorganization of a school district
8	after December 1, 2004, each receiving district or resulting district and the
9	Department of Education shall develop a plan to track the educational
10	progress of all students from the affected district and the following
11	subgroups of those students:
12	(1) Students who have been placed at risk of academic failure as
13	required under § 6-15-1602;
14	(2) Economically disadvantaged students;
15	(3) Students from major racial and ethnic groups; and
16	(4) Specific population groups as identified by the State Board
17	of Education, the department, the affected district, or the receiving
18	district as target groups for closing the achievement gaps.
19	(b) The receiving or resulting district shall obtain and retain all
20	student records from the affected district for the five (5) years immediately
21	preceding the administrative consolidation or administrative annexation,
22	specifically including, but not limited to:
23	(1) Individual student records;
24	(2) Attendance records;
25	(3) Enrollment records;
26	(4) Assessment records for assessments required under the
27	Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, §
28	6-15-401 et seq., specifically including benchmark assessments and end-of-
29	course assessments; and
30	(5) ACT and SAT results and records.
31	(c) The school district shall report to the department information
32	determined by the department as necessary to track the educational progress
33	of all students from the affected district as a subgroup and the following
34	subgroups of those transferred students:
35	(1) Students who have been placed at risk of academic failure as
36	required under § 6-15-1602:

1	(2) Economically disadvantaged students; and
2	(3) Students from major racial and ethnic groups.
3	(d) By November 1, 2005, and by November 1 each year thereafter, the
4	department shall file a written report with the Governor, the chair of the
5	House Committee on Education, the chair of the Senate Committee on Education,
6	and the secretary of the Legislative Council assessing the educational
7	progress of all students from the affected district as a subgroup and the
8	following subgroups of those transferred students:
9	(1) Students who have been placed at risk of academic failure as
10	required under § 6-15-1602;
11	(2) Economically disadvantaged students; and
12	(3) Students from major racial and ethnic groups.
13	
14	SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 6-15-902(c)(2)(C)(i), concerning grading
15	scales, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:
16	(c) Attends a College Board endorsed training
17	at intervals recommended by the College Board; or
18	
19	SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(b)(4)(B), concerning the
20	contents of a school performance report, is amended to read as follows:
21	(B) Of that total, the number who meet each of the
22	following criteria:
23	(i) Highly qualified teacher;
24	(ii)— Identified as proficient or above under the
25	Teacher Excellence and Support System for the school; and
26	(iii)(ii) Certified by the National Board for
27	Professional Teaching Standards.
28	
29	SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1601(g)(2), concerning the duties of
30	the Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap in Arkansas, is amended to reach
31	as follows:
32	(2) Monitor the Department of Education's efforts to comply with
33	federal guidelines on improving the academic achievement of the
34	disadvantaged, specifically including, but not limited to, including without
35	<u>limitation</u> the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 Elementary and Secondary
36	Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 80-10, as reauthorized by the Every

1	Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95;
2	
3	SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1601(h)(2), concerning the Commission
4	on Closing the Achievement Gap in Arkansas, is amended to read as follows:
5	(2) Relevant technical experts to assist in drafting and monitoring
6	the department's efforts to comply with federal guidelines on improving the
7	academic achievement of the disadvantaged, specifically including without
8	limitation the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.
9	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 80-10, as
10	reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95;
11	
12	SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2502(d)(3)(C)(iii), concerning the
13	criteria for designating education renewal zones and participating schools,
14	is repealed.
15	(iii) The school demonstrates an inability to hire
16	and retain highly qualified teachers as defined by the state plan for
17	compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §
18	6301 et seq.;
19	
20	SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 6-16-1405(a)(4), concerning the approval
21	of digital learning providers, is amended to read as follows:
22	(4)(A) Utilizes highly qualified teachers to deliver digital
23	learning courses to public school students.
24	(B) A highly qualified teacher that <u>who</u> delivers digital
25	learning courses under this subchapter is not required to be licensed as a
26	teacher or administrator by the state board, but shall meet the minimum
27	qualifications for teaching in a core content area established by rules of
28	the state board.
29	
30	SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 6-17-704(d), concerning school district
31	professional development plans, is amended to read as follows:
32	(d) The professional development offerings may include approved
33	conferences, workshops, institutes, individual learning, mentoring, peer-
34	coaching, study groups, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
35	certification, distance learning, <u>micro-credentialing approved by the</u>
36	department, internships, and college or university course work.

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2	SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 6-17-705(e), concerning professional
3	development credit, is amended to read as follows:
4	(e) A person who holds any license issued by the State Board of
5	Education may obtain credit for required professional development through a
6	micro-credentialing process approved by the department.
7	(f) The State Board of Education state board shall promulgate the
8	rules necessary for the proper implementation of this section.
9	
10	SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 6-17-707(e), concerning the Arkansas
11	Online Professional Development Initiative, is amended to read as follows:
12	(e)(1) The department shall determine the content of and preapprove
13	all professional development courses or programs delivered by the network
14	that qualify for professional development credit as required by the Standards
15	for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts or teacher
16	licensure requirements.
17	(2) The department may approve professional development obtained
18	through a micro-credentialing process.
19	
20	SECTION 24. Arkansas Code § 6-17-919(b), concerning the warrants
21	issued without a valid teaching license, is amended to read as follows:
22	(b) $\underline{(1)}$ The school district superintendent and the superintendent's
23	surety shall be liable for any warrants that he or she countersigns in
24	payment of teachers' salaries unless and until the state board has issued a
25	valid license or the department <u>Department of Education</u> has provided the
26	documentation required by subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section.
27	(2) An online copy that is accessible on a website designated by
28	the department is sufficient evidence of the issuance of a valid license or
29	the documentation required by subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section.
30	
31	SECTION 25. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 3, is
32	amended to add an additional section to read as follows:
33	6-18-320. Unsafe school choice program.
34	(a) Any student that becomes the victim of a violent criminal offense
35	while in or on the grounds of an Arkansas public elementary, secondary, or
36	public charter school or who is attending a persistently dangerous public

1	school shall be allowed to attend a safe public school within the local
2	educational agency under rules established by the State Board of Education.
3	(b) The state board may promulgate rules to administer this section.
4	
5	SECTION 26. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 8 is
6	repealed.
7	Subchapter 8 - School Safety Patrols
8	
9	6-18-801. Rules and regulations.
10	The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations by
11	which every school district board of directors in this state may organize,
12	regulate, and supervise school safety patrols for the purpose of:
13	(1) Influencing and encouraging the other pupils to refrain from
14	erossing public highways and streets at points other than at regular
15	erossings;
16	(2) Influencing and encouraging pupils to refrain from crossing
17	at regular crossings when the presence of traffic would render such crossing
18	unsafe; and
19	(3) Assisting drivers of school buses in maintaining safety
20	rules and in ascertaining that pupils are received and discharged from buses
21	in safety.
22	
23	6-18-802. Liability.
24	No liability shall attach either to the State Board of Education, the
25	school district, a superintendent, teacher, safety patrol member, or other
26	school authority by virtue of the organization, maintenance, or operation of
27	a school safety patrol organized, maintained, and operated under authority of
28	and in compliance with this subchapter.
29	
30	6-18-803. Powers and duties.
31	(a)(1) Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize or
32	permit the use of any safety patrol member for the purpose of directing
33	vehicular traffic.
34	(2) However, this shall not prohibit the use of a flag or other
35	approved signal by a safety patrol member for the purpose of indicating to a
26	duites that asked shilden one amagine the atmost

1 (b) No safety patrol member shall be stationed in that portion of the 2 highway intended for the use of vehicular traffic but shall perform his or her duties from the curb and sidewalk areas. 3 4 5 6-18-804. Age and consent requirements. 6 (a) No pupil shall be designated a safety patrol member under this 7 subchapter unless he or she is eleven (11) years of age or older and has the 8 written permission of a parent or guardian. 9 (b) Any teacher or board member using any pupil for safety patrol 10 purposes without the written permission of a parent or guardian shall be 11 guilty of a violation and upon conviction shall be fined not less than 12 twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100) for each offense. 13 14 15 SECTION 27. Arkansas Code § 6-18-1005(a)(1)(L), concerning student 16 guidance services, is amended to read as follows: 17 (L) Classroom guidance, which shall be limited to forty-18 minute class sessions, not to exceed three (3) per day or and not to exceed 19 ten (10) per week; and 20 21 SECTION 28. Arkansas Code § 6-20-1908(d), concerning the length of 22 fiscal distress status, is amended to read as follows: 23 (d) Except under $\S -6-20-1910(d)$ $\S -20-1910(e)$, a school district 24 shall not be allowed to remain in fiscal distress status for more than five 25 (5) consecutive school years from the date that the school district was 26 classified as being in fiscal distress status. 27 28 SECTION 29. Arkansas Code § 6-20-1908(i), concerning State Board of 29 Education action regarding fiscal distress, is amended to read as follows: 30 (i) Except under $\S 6-20-1910(d)$ $\S 6-20-1910(e)$, the state board shall 31 consolidate, annex, or reconstitute any school district that fails to remove 32 itself from the classification of a school district in fiscal distress within 33 five (5) consecutive school years of classification of fiscal distress status 34 unless the state board, at its discretion, issues a written finding supported

district could not remove itself from fiscal distress due to impossibility

by a majority of the state board, explaining in detail that the school

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1	caused by external forces beyond the school district's control.
2	
3	SECTION 30. Arkansas Code § 6-20-1910(d)(1), concerning state
4	assumption of authority of a school district in fiscal distress, is amended
5	to read as follows:
6	(d) If the Commissioner of Education assumes authority over a public
7	school district in fiscal distress under subsection (a) of this section § 6-
8	20-1909, the state board may pursue the following process for returning a
9	public school district to the local control of its residents:
10	(1) During the second $full$ school year following a school
11	district's classification as being in fiscal distress status the assumption
12	of authority, the state board shall determine the extent of the school
13	district's progress toward correcting all issues that caused the
14	classification of fiscal distress;
15	
16	SECTION 31. Arkansas Code § 6-41-407 is amended to read as follows:
17	6-41-407. Accommodation for students with sensory processing
18	difficulty.
19	When administering a state-mandated assessment or a state-mandated
20	test, the Department of Education and each school district shall allow a
21	student that has been evaluated through appropriate testing, including a
22	comprehensive eye examination by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist, and
23	identified as having difficulty with sensory processing in reaction to
24	oversensitivity to full spectrum light to use color overlays specific to the
25	student's oversensitivity that alter the contrast between the words and the
26	page so that the student can visually comprehend the words on a page of a
27	state mandated assessment or a state-mandated test, if made available by the
28	test developer.
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