

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 730 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

As Engrossed: H3/9/09

**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1808

5 By: Representatives Allen, J. Roebuck, Abernathy, T. Baker, Betts, Blount, T. Bradford, Carnine,  
6 Cheatham, Cole, Cook, Davis, J. Dickinson, Greenberg, Hardy, D. Hutchinson, W. Lewellen, Saunders,  
7 G. Smith, Stewart, Summers, Tyler, Williams  
8 By: Senator G. Baker  
9

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

12 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND CAREER  
13 READINESS PLANNING PROGRAM ACT; TO LOWER  
14 EDUCATIONAL COSTS, SHORTEN A STUDENT'S TIME TO  
15 DEGREE COMPLETION, AND INCREASE THE OVERALL  
16 SUCCESS RATE OF ARKANSAS STUDENTS BY REDUCING THE  
17 NEED FOR REMEDIATION; TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS  
18 HAVE THE CAREER READINESS SKILLS TO COMPETE IN  
19 THE GLOBAL ECONOMY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
20

**Subtitle**

22 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND  
23 CAREER READINESS PLANNING PROGRAM ACT.  
24  
25

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
27

28 SECTION 1. FINDINGS. The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) Many Arkansas students enter college unprepared for the  
30 academic rigors of college and require noncredit remedial courses to attain  
31 skills and knowledge needed for regular credit coursework;

32 (2) There is a direct and significant link between students  
33 being academically prepared for college and success in postsecondary  
34 endeavors;

35 (3) Remediation lengthens the time required to obtain a degree,



1 imposes additional costs on students and colleges, and uses student financial  
2 aid for courses that will not count toward a degree;

3 (4) A precollege readiness assessment program in public high  
4 schools using pre-ACT or pre-SAT assessments will provide early benchmarks  
5 for student performance on college readiness exams and inform high school  
6 guidance counselors and teachers who assist students with academic  
7 achievement, course selection, and college readiness skills;

8 (5) A precollege readiness assessment program will provide  
9 reportable statewide data, enabling policy and program development that will  
10 benefit schools, parents, and students; and

11 (6) Consistent use of precollege assessments will increase the  
12 number of successful student transitions into postsecondary education.

13  
14 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 4, is amended  
15 to add an additional section to read as follows:

16 6-15-441. Arkansas College and Career Readiness Planning Program.

17 (a) As used in this section:

18 (1) "College readiness assessment" means a test of student  
19 educational development that measures student readiness for future learning  
20 that is used by:

21 (A) Institutions of higher education as part of their  
22 admissions, placement, and scholarship processes; and

23 (B) High schools to improve college and workforce  
24 readiness;

25 (2) "College and career readiness" means that a student is  
26 academically ready to succeed in college-level courses or in the workforce  
27 without the need to enroll in remedial courses during the student's first  
28 year;

29 (3) "EXPLORE" means the pre-ACT assessment designed to help  
30 students in grade eight (8) explore a broad range of options for their future  
31 and focus not only on high school coursework but also on post-high school  
32 choices as well;

33 (4) "PLAN" means the pre-ACT assessment for students in grade  
34 ten (10) used to help a student focus attention on improved academic  
35 achievement, career preparation, and planning for post-high school years; and

36 (5) "PSAT" means the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship

1 Qualifying Test that provides practice for the SAT Reasoning Test and gives  
2 students feedback on individual strengths and weaknesses on college readiness  
3 skills.

4 (b)(1)(A) Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, each public school  
5 that serves students in grade eight (8) shall administer EXPLORE to each  
6 student enrolled in grade eight (8) at the public school.

7 (B) Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, each public  
8 school that serves students in grade ten (10) shall administer PLAN or the  
9 PSAT to each student enrolled in grade (10) at the public school.

10 (2) Funding for the college readiness assessments listed in  
11 subdivision (b)(1) of this section may be paid by using Department of  
12 Education at-risk funding.

13 (c)(1) Each public school administering the college readiness  
14 assessments under this section shall use the college readiness assessments to  
15 assist students with college and workforce readiness skills, course selection  
16 in high school, and improved academic achievement.

17 (2) By the 2011-2012 school year, each public school shall fully  
18 incorporate the results from college readiness assessments listed in  
19 subdivision (b)(1) of this section into the college and career planning  
20 process for each student.

21 (d) Data collection shall be maintained by the Department of Education  
22 for the purpose of:

23 (1) Increasing college and career readiness skills;

24 (2) Improving instruction;

25 (3) Enhancing school improvement plans; and

26 (4) Reducing the college remediation rates of students.

27 (e) The Department of Education shall report to the House Committee on  
28 Education and The Senate Committee on Education no later than September 31,  
29 2010, and each year thereafter, on the implementation and effectiveness of  
30 the College and Career Readiness Planning Program.

31 (f) The department shall promulgate rules to implement this section  
32 and shall monitor the use of college readiness assessments administered under  
33 this section to ensure public school compliance.

34  
35 /s/ Allen

36 **APPROVED: 4/1/2009**