

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1677

5 By: Representative Cozart
6 By: Senator Irvin
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS
10 CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING AMOUNTS; TO
11 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
16 ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL
17 FUNDING AMOUNTS; AND TO DECLARE AN
18 EMERGENCY.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(a)(2), concerning per-student
24 foundation funding amounts, is amended to read as follows:

25 (2)(A) For the ~~2019-2020~~ 2021-2022 school year, the foundation
26 funding amount is equal to ~~six thousand eight hundred ninety-nine dollars~~
27 ~~(\$6,899)~~ seven thousand one hundred eighty-two dollars (\$7,182) multiplied by
28 the school district's average daily membership for the previous school year.

29 (B) For the ~~2020-2021~~ 2022-2023 school year and each
30 school year thereafter, the foundation funding amount is equal to ~~seven~~
31 ~~thousand eighteen dollars (\$7,018)~~ seven thousand three hundred forty-nine
32 dollars (\$7,349) multiplied by the school district's average daily membership
33 for the previous school year.
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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(2)(A), concerning per-student
36 categorical funding amounts for alternative learning environments, is amended



1 to read as follows:

2 (2)(A)(i) For ~~each~~ the 2021-2022 school year, alternative
3 learning environment funding shall be ~~four thousand seven hundred dollars~~
4 ~~(\$4,700)~~ four thousand seven hundred ninety-four dollars (\$4,794) multiplied
5 by the number of identified alternative learning environment students
6 enrolled during the previous school year.

7 (ii) For the 2022-2023 school year, alternative
8 learning environment funding shall be four thousand eight hundred ninety
9 dollars (\$4,890) multiplied by the number of identified alternative learning
10 environment students enrolled during the previous school year.

11 ~~(ii)~~(iii) Funding for students in alternative
12 learning environments shall be distributed based on rules promulgated by the
13 State Board of Education.

14

15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(3), concerning per-student
16 state categorical funding amounts for English-language learners, is amended
17 to read as follows:

18 (3)(A) For the ~~2019-2020~~ 2021-2022 school year, funding for
19 students who are identified as English-language learners shall be ~~three~~
20 ~~hundred forty five dollars (\$345)~~ three hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$359) for
21 each identified English-language learner.

22 (B) Funding for English-language learners shall be
23 distributed to public school districts for students who have been identified
24 as not proficient in the English language based upon a state-approved English
25 proficiency assessment instrument.

26 (C) Funds allocated for English-language learners to
27 public school districts under this subchapter shall be expended only for
28 eligible activities as identified in current rules promulgated by the State
29 Board of Education and are a supplement to funding for national school lunch
30 students provided in subdivision (b)(4) of this section.

31 (D) For the ~~2020-2021~~ 2022-2023 school year and each
32 school year thereafter, funding for students who are identified as English-
33 language learners shall be ~~three hundred fifty two dollars (\$352)~~ three
34 hundred sixty-six dollars (\$366) for each identified English-language
35 learner.

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1 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(A), concerning per-student
2 Enhanced Student Achievement Funding, is amended to read as follows:

3 (4)(A) Enhanced Student Achievement Funding for each identified
4 national school lunch student shall be as follows:

5 (i) For a public school district in which ninety
6 percent (90%) or more of the previous school year's enrolled students are
7 national school lunch students, the amount of per-student Enhanced Student
8 Achievement Funding ~~is for each the 2021-2022 school year, one thousand five~~
9 ~~hundred seventy six dollars (\$1,576)~~ is one thousand five hundred ninety-four
10 dollars (\$1,594) and for the 2022-2023 school year is one thousand six
11 hundred thirteen dollars (\$1,613);

12 (ii) For a public school district in which at least
13 seventy percent (70%) but less than ninety percent (90%) of the previous
14 school year's enrolled students are national school lunch students, the
15 amount of per-student Enhanced Student Achievement Funding ~~is for each the~~
16 ~~2021-2022 school year, one thousand fifty one dollars (\$1,051)~~ is one
17 thousand sixty-three dollars (\$1,063) and for the 2022-2023 school year is
18 one thousand seventy-six dollars (\$1,076); and

19 (iii) For a public school district in which less
20 than seventy percent (70%) of the previous school year's enrolled students
21 are national school lunch students, the amount of per-student Enhanced
22 Student Achievement Funding ~~is for each the 2021-2022 school year, five~~
23 ~~hundred twenty six dollars (\$526)~~ is five hundred thirty-two dollars (\$532)
24 and for the 2022-2023 school year is five hundred thirty-eight dollars
25 (\$538).

26
27 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(5), concerning per-student
28 state categorical funding amounts for professional development, is amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (5)(A) For ~~the 2019-2020~~ each school year, professional
31 development funding shall be equal to an amount of up to ~~thirty two dollars~~
32 ~~and forty cents (\$32.40)~~ forty dollars and eighty cents (\$40.80) multiplied
33 by the school district's previous school year average daily membership.

34 ~~(B) For the 2020-2021 school year, professional~~
35 ~~development funding shall be equal to an amount of up to forty dollars and~~
36 ~~eighty cents (\$40.80) multiplied by the school district's previous school~~

1 ~~year average daily membership.~~

2 ~~(C)(B)~~ Funding for professional development for teachers
 3 in Arkansas public schools required under the Teacher Excellence and Support
 4 System, § 6-17-2801 et seq., other law or rule, or by the school district
 5 shall be used for professional development activities and materials that:

6 (i) Improve the knowledge, skills, and effectiveness
 7 of teachers;

8 (ii) Address the knowledge and skills of
 9 administrators and paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional
 10 strategies, methods, and skills;

11 (iii) Lead to improved student academic achievement;
 12 and

13 (iv) Provide training for school bus drivers as
 14 outlined in rules promulgated by the Commission for Arkansas Public School
 15 Academic Facilities and Transportation.

16 ~~(D)(i)(C)(i)~~ For the ~~2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years~~
 17 2021-2022 school year, additional funding up to ~~twelve million five hundred~~
 18 ~~thousand dollars (\$12,500,000)~~ fourteen million five hundred thousand dollars
 19 (\$14,500,000) and for the 2022-2023 school year, additional funding up to
 20 sixteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$16,500,000), provided for
 21 professional development above the amount in ~~subdivisions (b)(5)(A) and (B)~~
 22 subdivision (b)(5)(A) of this section shall be used by the Division of
 23 Elementary and Secondary Education for the development and administration of
 24 professional learning communities for the benefit of public school districts.

25 (ii)(a) The Division of Elementary and Secondary
 26 Education shall promulgate rules to administer the additional professional
 27 development funding under subdivision ~~(b)(5)(D)(i)~~ (b)(5)(C)(i) of this
 28 section.

29 (b) The Division of Elementary and Secondary
 30 Education may partner with or choose a person, firm, corporation, or
 31 education service cooperative to provide the knowledge, skills, experience,
 32 and expertise for the development of a research-based process for the
 33 implementation of professional learning communities.

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 35 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 36 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that funding for public schools is

1 the obligation of the state; that ensuring that adequate funding is provided
 2 is the duty of the General Assembly; and that this act is immediately
 3 necessary to ensure that funding is provided for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
 4 school years so that school districts can budget accordingly. Therefore, an
 5 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for
 6 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
 7 effective on:

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

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

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

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