

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **80th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1995**

A Bill

ACT 712 OF 1995
SENATE BILL 510

4 **By: Senators Gordon and Hardin**

5
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE INTERVENTION/PREVENTION GRANT
9 PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS SCHOOL CHILDREN; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES."

11

Subtitle

12
13 "TO ESTABLISH THE INTERVENTION/
14 PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS
15 SCHOOL CHILDREN"

16

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

18

19 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that:

20 (1) Growing numbers of children live in conditions that place them at
21 risk of school failure;

22 (2) The provision of school and support services to these children and
23 their families by public and nonprofit agencies is fragmented and does not
24 prepare these children to learn effectively and have a successful school
25 experience;

26 (3) The lack of collaboration among schools, families, local agencies,
27 and other groups involved in family support and youth development activities
28 results in the inefficient and ineffective use of resources to meet the needs
29 of these children;

30 (4) Schools are dedicating an increasing amount of their time and
31 resources to responding to disruptive and violent behavior rather than
32 fulfilling their mission to challenge with high expectations each child to
33 learn, to achieve, and to fulfill his or her potential;

34 (5) The relationships between school failure, disruptive and violent
35 behavior in schools, unemployment, and criminal behavior are clear;

36 (6) The continued failure to overcome the causes of school failure and

1 criminal behavior has caused the unacceptable dependency on costly long-term
2 social programs and the criminal justice system.

3 (7) Responding to the needs of students who are at risk of school
4 failure and providing for a safe and secure learning environment are
5 cost-effective because it enables the State to substitute preventive measures
6 for expensive crisis intervention;

7 (8) Differing local needs and local resources necessitate the
8 development of locally generated, community-based plans that coordinate and
9 leverage existing resources, not the imposition of uniform and inflexible,
10 State-mandated plans; and

11 (9) The Governor is appointing a Governor_s Partnership Council on
12 Children and Families, a collaborative comprised of the Directors of the
13 Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services, with representatives of
14 local private non-profit organizations, school districts, the justice system,
15 parents, and businesses. This council is appropriate to serve as the review
16 and approval entity for the Intervention/Prevention Grant Program for Arkansas
17 School age children.

18 Therefore, there is established the Intervention/Prevention Grant
19 Program for Arkansas School Children. The purpose of the program is to
20 provide grants to local community partnerships for locally designed innovative
21 local programs that target juvenile crime by (i) enhancing educational
22 attainment through coordinated services to respond to the needs of students
23 who are at risk of school failure and at risk of participation in juvenile
24 crime and (ii) providing for a safe and secure learning environment.

25

26 SECTION 2. Applications for grants.

27 (a) *A local community partnership may apply for grant funds. Such*
28 *partnership shall include representation of at least one (1) school district*
29 *and may include existing educational service cooperatives, multiple school*
30 *districts, multiple counties, or regional school districts.*

31 (b) The local community partnership may be a current entity or an
32 entity organized for the purpose of this grant program. The local community
33 partnership shall hold public hearings on the application for grant funds.
34 During these hearings the local community partnerships shall accept comments
35 regarding the applications for grant funds from parents, the judiciary,

1 businesses, community organizations, and representatives from the
2 participating school district(s) and the local department of health and human
3 services.

4 (c) The Governor_s Partnership Council for Children and Families will
5 develop application guidelines and requirements. The guidelines will require
6 that grant applicants prepare a plan that shall include establishment or
7 *expansion of existing program models, which may include the following, as well*
8 *as other innovative locally or regionally developed programs:*

- 9 (1) *School-based Resource Center Model;*
- 10 (2) *After School Program Model;*
- 11 (3) *Cities in Schools and Families First Program Model;*
- 12 (4) *Alternative Learning Program Model; and*
- 13 (5) *Safe Schools Program Model.*

14

15 SECTION 3. Review of applications.

16 (a) The Governor_s Partnership Council for Children and Families will
17 be responsible for review and approval of grant applications.

18 (b) In reviewing grant applications, the Partnership Council shall
19 consider the demographic profile of the applicants, including but not limited
20 to the prevalence of underserved students and families in low-income
21 neighborhoods and in isolated rural areas in the area for which the grant is
22 requested, the severity of the local problems with regard to children at risk
23 of school failure and with regard to school discipline, the prevalence of
24 juvenile crime, whether the proposed program meets State standards, and the
25 likelihood that the locally designed plan will deal with the problems
26 effectively.

27 (c) During the review process, the Partnership Council may recommend
28 modifications in grant applications to applicants.

29

30 SECTION 4. Award of grants.

31 The Partnership Council shall select the grant recipients prior to
32 October 15, 1995, for local programs that will be in operation at the
33 beginning of the second semester of the 1995-96 school year.

34

35 SECTION 5. Requests for modifications of grants or for additional funds

1 to implement grants.

2 A grant recipient may request a modification of a grant or additional
3 funds to implement a grant through the grant application process. The request
4 shall be reviewed and accepted or rejected in the same manner as a grant
5 application.

6

7 SECTION 6. Administration of the grant program.

8 The Partnership Council shall administer the grant program. The
9 Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services shall provide technical
10 assistance to grant applicants and recipients.

11

12 SECTION 7. Cooperation of State and local agencies.

13 All agencies of the State and local government, including departments of
14 social services, health departments, local mental health, mental retardation,
15 and substance abuse authorities, court personnel, law enforcement agencies,
16 state-supported institutions of higher learning, the community college system,
17 and cities and counties, shall cooperate with the Partnership Council, local
18 board(s) of education, and local community partnerships that receive grants in
19 coordinating the program at the State level and in implementing the program at
20 the local level. The directors of the Departments of Education, Health, and
21 Human Services shall develop a plan for ensuring the cooperation of State
22 agencies and local agencies, and encouraging the cooperation of private
23 entities, especially those receiving State funds, in the coordination and
24 implementation of the program.

25

26 SECTION 8. Program evaluation; reporting requirements.

27 (a) The Partnership Council shall develop and implement an evaluation
28 system that will assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the
29 Intervention/Prevention Grant Program. This system shall be designed to:

30 (1) Provide information to the Partnership Council and to the
31 General Assembly on how to improve and refine the programs;

32 (2) Enable the Partnership Council and the General Assembly to
33 assess the overall quality, efficiency, and impact of the existing programs;

34 (3) Enable the Partnership Council and the General Assembly to
35 determine whether to modify the Intervention/Prevention Grant Program; and

1 (4) Provide a detailed fiscal analysis of how State funds for
2 these programs were used.

3 (b) The Partnership Council shall report to the Joint Interim Committee
4 on Education by October 1, 1995 on its progress in developing the evaluation
5 system and in developing and implementing the program. It shall report prior
6 to January 1, 1996 on the evaluation system developed by the Partnership
7 Council and on program implementation. The Partnership Council shall present
8 a report prior to the 81st General Assembly and annually thereafter to the
9 Joint Interim Committee on Education on the implementation of the program and
10 the distribution of funds pursuant to this program.

11

12 SECTION 9. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
13 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
14 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

15

16 SECTION 10. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
17 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
18 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
19 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
20 act are declared to be severable.

21

22 SECTION 11. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
23 hereby repealed.

24

/s/Gordon

25

APPROVED: 3-21-95

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

- 1
- 2
- 3