

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.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003  
4

*As Engrossed: H4/11/03*

# A Bill

Act 1793 of 2003  
HOUSE BILL 2879

5 By: Representative Hardwick  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN LAWS PERTAINING TO HOME  
9 SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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### Subtitle

11 AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN LAWS PERTAINING  
12 TO HOME SCHOOLS.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-504 is amended to read as follows:*

20 *6-15-504. Home-schooled students - Achievement tests - Enrollment or*  
21 *reenrollment in local schools.*

22 *(a) Each student enrolled in a home school program who is considered*  
23 *to be at a grade level, or no more than two (2) years beyond the normal age*  
24 *for the appropriate grade, for which the state mandates norm-referenced tests*  
25 *for public school students shall be tested using a nationally recognized*  
26 *norm-referenced achievement test selected by the State Board of Education.*

27 *(b)(1)(A) The administration of the tests required of home-schooled*  
28 *students shall be by the directors of the education service cooperatives*  
29 *established under § 6-13-1001 et seq. or as otherwise designated by the*  
30 *Department of Education.*

31 *(B) For the purposes of this section, the superintendents*  
32 *of the Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Pulaski County school districts*  
33 *shall act in lieu of an education service cooperative director.*

34 *(2) The directors of the education service cooperatives shall*  
35 *establish a common set of procedures, approved by the Director of the*  
36 *Department of Education, for the proper administration of the tests required*



1 by this section.

2 (3) The administration shall include purchasing the test  
3 materials, giving the tests, scoring and interpreting the tests, and  
4 reporting test results.

5 (c) The cost of testing required by this section shall be the  
6 responsibility of the department when the tests are administered by the  
7 directors of the education service cooperatives or other department  
8 designees.

9 (d) Alternate testing procedures may be approved by the director of an  
10 education service cooperative after consultation with the parents of a home-  
11 schooled student; provided, however, that any costs associated with an  
12 alternate testing procedure shall be the responsibility of the parents.

13 (e)(1)(A) Any student that refuses to participate in the testing  
14 program or the alternate testing program required by this section has not met  
15 the statutory prerequisites for home schooling and shall be subject to the  
16 applicable Arkansas laws regarding truancy as any other student.

17 (B) After a student corrects any refusal to participate in  
18 the testing program or the alternate testing program as determined by the  
19 Department of Education required by this subsection (e), the student shall be  
20 restored to his or her home school status after his or her parent or guardian  
21 has complied with all requirements of § 6-15-503.

22 (2) This subsection (e) shall not be applicable to any parent  
23 who can present written acknowledgement that the child has been enrolled in a  
24 public, private, or parochial school within thirty (30) days of the  
25 administration of the state-mandated achievement test.

26 (f)(1) Each local school district shall have authority to assess any  
27 home-schooled student who enrolls or reenrolls in the district in order to  
28 determine proper educational placement.

29 (2) The local school district shall utilize, among other means  
30 of assessment, the norm-referenced test approved by the board to assess the  
31 student and shall determine placement in the appropriate grade level as  
32 indicated by the test results.

33 (g) Any home-schooled student who enrolls or reenrolls in a local  
34 school district must attend classes for at least nine (9) months immediately  
35 prior to graduation before the student can become eligible to receive a high  
36 school diploma from the district.

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SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-507 is amended to read as follows:

6-15-507. Ineligibility of home schools for local, state, or federal funds.

(a) Home schools authorized by this subchapter shall are not be eligible for entitled to local, state, or federal funds allocated to a public school district. For purposes of this section, eligible children with disabilities, identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., in home school settings shall be given the same consideration afforded to students in private school settings for special education services as provided for in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

(b) School districts providing services to home school students shall be eligible for local, state, or federal funds allocated or approved for such services.

/s/ Hardwick

APPROVED: 4/22/2003