

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 2197 of the Regular Session

As Engrossed: H3/29/05 H4/5/05

A Bill

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

HOUSE BILL 1983

4
5 By: Representative Mahony
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO DEFER THE END-OF-COURSE
11 ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS; TO INCORPORATE THE
12 REQUIREMENTS OF SMART CORE IN THE ACADEMIC
13 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH
14 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR END-OF-COURSE
15 ASSESSMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

16
17 AN ACT TO ALIGN STATE LAWS REGARDING
18 END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.
19
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-15-421 is amended to read as follows:
24 6-15-421. Awards and sanctions.

25 (a) The Department of Education is authorized to develop and
26 implement, contingent upon appropriation and funding being provided by the
27 General Assembly, a program of rewards to recognize individual schools that
28 demonstrate exceptional performance in levels of student achievement and to
29 recognize schools that demonstrate significant improvement in student
30 achievement.

31 (b)(1)(A) Each school that does not attain the expected levels of
32 student performance on state-mandated indicators and individual school
33 improvement indicators shall be designated by one (1) of several levels of
34 sanction.

35 (B) Each level of sanction shall determine specific



1 interventions to be provided to the students of public schools or public
2 school districts by the department.

3 (2) The levels of sanction developed under Act 1467 of 2003
4 shall be incorporated into the existing comprehensive school improvement
5 plan.

6 (c) The State Board of Education shall develop a clear, concise system
7 of reporting the academic performance of each public school on the state-
8 mandated criterion-referenced tests, developmentally appropriate assessments
9 for grades kindergarten through two (K-2), benchmark examinations, and end-
10 of-course examinations, which conforms with current state and federal law.

11 (d)(1)(A) Within thirty (30) days of a student completing a course for
12 which the State Board of Education has adopted an end-of-course assessment,
13 the school district shall provide the Division of Public School
14 Accountability with a each student's name, identification number, and grade
15 in the course.

16 (B) The Division of Public School Accountability shall:

17 (i) Match each student's end-of-course test score
18 with the letter grade received in the corresponding course;

19 (ii) Report each student's end-of-course test score
20 matched with the letter grade the student received in the corresponding
21 course to the school district;

22 (iii) Create a report of the percentage of students
23 who received a letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding course and
24 passed the end-of-course assessment on his or her first attempt; and

25 (iv) Create a report of the percentage of students
26 who received a letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding course and
27 did not pass the end-of-course assessment on his or her first attempt.

28 (2)(A) No later than December 1 of each year, the Division of
29 Public School Accountability shall report to the State Board of Education and
30 the General Assembly the name, address, and superintendent of any high school
31 in which more than twenty percent (20%) of the students received a letter
32 grade of "B" or above but did not pass the end-of-course assessment on his or
33 her first attempt.

34 (B) The report shall indicate, by high school, the number
35 of students receiving a letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding
36 course who did not pass the end-of-course assessment on his or her first

1 attempt, provided such disclosure is not in conflict with applicable federal
2 or state law.

3 (3) The Department of Education shall:

4 (A) Investigate the classroom practices of any school
5 district in which more than twenty percent (20%) of the students received a
6 letter grade of "B" or above but did not pass the end-of-course assessment on
7 his or her first attempt; and

8 (B) Make in written form to the superintendent and local
9 school board of directors any recommendations or changes that would improve
10 classroom instruction and student performance on end-of-course assessments.

11 (4) As a part of the school improvement plan pursuant to § 6-15-
12 2201, the state board shall ensure that each school district and high school
13 develops strategies to improve student readiness for the public postsecondary
14 level based on annual analysis of the feedback report data.

15 (5) The Department of Education shall biennially recommend to
16 the General Assembly statutory changes to reduce the incidence of
17 postsecondary remediation in mathematics, reading, and writing for recent
18 high school graduates who enroll in an institution of higher education.

19 ~~(d)~~(e) The state board, through the department, is hereby authorized
20 to promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the
21 provisions of this subchapter.

22
23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 13 is amended
24 to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

25 6-16-1301. End-of-Course Success Incentive Program.

26 (a)(1) The End-of-Course Success Incentive Program is established to
27 be administered by the Director of the Department of Education.

28 (2) Contingent upon legislative appropriations, schools will be
29 awarded fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each student passing the end-of-course
30 assessment on his or her first attempt.

31 (3) These funds shall be utilized in the schools to improve
32 student academic performance.

33 (b) Subject to legislative appropriations, a teacher teaching a course
34 that has a state-required end-of-course assessment may be awarded subsidized
35 teacher training for that particular course at a cost not to exceed six
36 hundred fifty dollars (\$650) per teacher.

1 (c) The provisions of this section shall be contingent on the
2 appropriation and availability of funding for that purpose.

3 (d) The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate rules
4 necessary to implement this subchapter.

5
6 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005(b)(5) pertaining to the Arkansas
7 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

8 (5)(A)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(5)(B) of this
9 section, the applicant has successfully completed the core curriculum
10 established by the State Board of Education and the Arkansas Higher Education
11 Coordinating Board pursuant to § 6-61-217.

12 (ii) An applicant who graduates from an Arkansas
13 high school after December 31, 2001, but before December 1, 2009, and who
14 meets the provisions of subdivisions (b)(1)-(4) of this section but who has
15 not completed the core curriculum defined in subdivision (b)(5)(A) of this
16 section by the end of the senior year of high school due to the
17 unavailability of the courses in the applicant's high school shall have a
18 grace period of twelve (12) months from the date of high school graduation in
19 which to make up any course deficiencies required for program eligibility,
20 and.

21 ~~(B)(i) The applicant has demonstrated proficiency in the~~
22 ~~application of knowledge and skills in reading and writing literacy and~~
23 ~~mathematics by passing the end-of-course examinations as may be developed by~~
24 ~~the Department of Education and as may be designated by the Department of~~
25 ~~Higher Education for this purpose.~~

26 ~~(ii) "End-of-course" examinations shall mean those~~
27 ~~examinations defined in § 6-15-419(9);~~

28 (B) An applicant who graduates from an Arkansas high
29 school after December 31, 2009, shall:

30 (i) Have successfully completed the Smart Core
31 Curriculum as established by the Department of Education; and

32 (ii)(a) Have demonstrated proficiency in the
33 application of knowledge and skills in reading and writing literacy and
34 mathematics by passing the end-of-course examinations as may be developed by
35 the Department of Education and as may be designated by the Department of
36 Higher Education for this purpose.

1 (b) "End-of-course" examinations means those
2 examinations defined in § 6-15-419(9);

3
4 SECTION 4. The Department of Higher Education may recognize a sub-score
5 of nineteen (19) or higher in the applicable subject area on the American
6 College Test as meeting the requirements for passing end-of-course
7 examinations under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and
8 the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program, for a student:

9 (1) That has not had an opportunity to take an end-of-course
10 examination;

11 (2) That has not passed the end-of-course examination; or

12 (3) Attending a private school or home school.

13
14 /s/ Mahony

15
16
17 APPROVED: 4/13/2005

1