

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 807 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/2/07 H3/16/07 H3/19/07 H3/21/07

2 86th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2007

HOUSE BILL 1517

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5 By: Representatives Cook, Blount, T. Bradford, J. Johnson, Rainey, Saunders, Walters

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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT IN CONCORDANCE WITH THE 2006 ACT 57 STUDY;
10 TO EXPAND MONITORING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
11 EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF
12 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

13

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Subtitle

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AN ACT TO EXPAND MONITORING BY THE
16 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL
17 DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL
18 IMPROVEMENT PLANS.

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

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23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. ACT 57 COMPLIANCE.

24 The General Assembly declares this act to be in concordance with the
25 study of the state's system of public education conducted in 2006 by the
26 Adequacy Study Oversight Subcommittee, the Senate Interim Committee on
27 Education, and the House Interim Committee on Education in compliance with
28 Act 57 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003.

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30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-426(e)-(f), concerning school
31 improvement, is amended to read as follows:

32 (e) ~~Any~~ Each public school or school district ~~classified as in school~~
33 ~~improvement~~ shall develop and file with the department a ~~revised~~
34 comprehensive school improvement plan which shall be reviewed by the
35 department and shall be designed to ensure that all students have an



1 opportunity to obtain an adequate education and demonstrate proficiency on
2 all portions of the state-mandated ~~critierion-referenced tests~~ assessments.

3 (f) The comprehensive school improvement plan shall ~~strategies~~
4 ~~to address the achievement gap existing for any identifiable group or~~
5 ~~subgroup as identified in the program and the gap of that subgroup from the~~
6 ~~academic standard.;~~

7 (1) Be based on an analysis of student performance data and
8 other relevant data that provides a plan of action to address deficiencies in
9 student performance and any academic achievement gap evidenced in the
10 Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program; and

11 (2) Include the public school or school district's use of
12 categorical funding for:

13 (A) Alternative learning environments;

14 (B) Professional development;

15 (C) English-language learners; and

16 (D) National school lunch students, as defined by § 6-20-
17 2303(12)(A).

18 (g) Any public school or school district classified as in school
19 improvement under § 6-15-425 shall develop and file with the department a
20 revised comprehensive school improvement plan meeting the requirements of
21 this section and containing any additional requirements determined necessary
22 by the department to ensure that all students in the public school or school
23 district have an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency on all portions of
24 the state-mandated assessments.

25 (h)(1) At the end of each school year, the school district shall
26 assess the effectiveness of an intervention or other action included in the
27 comprehensive school improvement plan in improving student performance and
28 include the assessment in the comprehensive school improvement plan for the
29 following school year.

30 (i)(1) The department shall monitor each public school's and school
31 district's compliance regarding its comprehensive school improvement plan,
32 including without limitation:

33 (A) The use of public school funding under the Public
34 School Funding Act of 2003, § 6-20-2301 et seq. for the following:

35 (i) Instructional facilitators, as that term is
36 defined by the State Board of Education;

1 (ii) Alternative learning environments,
2 professional development, English-language learners, and national school
3 lunch students identifying specific:

4 (a) Educational strategies;

5 (b) Resources used, including tutors,
6 teachers' aides, counselors, social workers, and nurses; and

7 (c) Expenditures made from categorical funds
8 provided under § 6-20-2305(b); and

9 (B) The implementation of programs for students whose
10 academic achievement is below proficient.

11 (2) As part of the monitoring process under this subsection (i),
12 the department shall evaluate the research cited by the public school or
13 school district in its comprehensive school improvement plan in support of
14 the proposed interventions and actions to assess its independence and
15 empirical support for the effectiveness of the program.

16 (3) The department shall use the information obtained through
17 monitoring comprehensive school improvement plans under this section to:

18 (A) Determine the compliance of the public school or
19 school district with the provisions of this subchapter; and

20 (B) Evaluate whether the assessment conducted by the
21 public school or school district under subsection (h) of this section was
22 conducted properly, and assess the areas in which the public school or school
23 district needs to revise its plan.

24 (j) The State Board of Education shall incorporate the provisions of
25 subsections (f) through (i) of this section into its rules for comprehensive
26 school improvement plans and may amend those rules in the same manner as
27 provided by law for other rules established by the state board.

28 ~~(f) Professional development activities of a public school or public~~
29 ~~school district in school improvement shall be related to the comprehensive~~
30 ~~school improvement plan and designed to increase student learning and~~
31 ~~achievement.~~

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33 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
34 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that in order to ensure an adequate
35 education for all Arkansas public school students, public schools or school
36 districts should be required to file detailed school improvement plans with

1 the Department of Education, and the Department of Education should monitor
2 compliance with those plans; and that this act is immediately necessary
3 because the determination of educational strategies and the use of public
4 funds to develop and implement school improvement plans depends on early
5 planning by public school districts; that if these plans are not developed by
6 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
7 bill; or

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

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11 */s/ Cook, et al*

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13 **APPROVED: 4/2/2007**
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