

**Hall of the House of Representatives**  
87th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2009  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of House Bill No. 1989**

"TO AMEND TITLE 6 CONCERNING HOME SCHOOL LAW."

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**Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1989.**

Amend House Bill No. 1989 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete all language after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-503 is amended to read as follows:  
6-15-503. Prerequisites to home schooling.

(a)(1) Parents or guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children must give written notice to the ~~superintendent of their local school district~~ Home School Office of the Department of Education of their intent to provide a home school for their children ~~and sign a waiver acknowledging that the State of Arkansas is not liable for the education of their children during the time that the parents choose to home school:~~

(A) At the beginning of each school year but no later than August 15;

(B) By December 15 for parents who decide to start home schooling at the beginning of the spring semester; or

(C) ~~Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, fourteen (14) calendar days prior to withdrawing the children from the local school district and at the beginning of each school year thereafter. The superintendent or the local school board of directors may waive the fourteen-day waiting period~~ Within five (5) days after withdrawing from public, private, or parochial school if the withdrawal occurs during the school year.

(2) Within thirty (30) calendar days of establishing residency within ~~the~~ a school district, parents or guardians moving into ~~the~~ a school district during the school year must give written notice to the ~~superintendent of their local school district~~ Home School Office of their intent to provide a home school for their children ~~and sign a waiver acknowledging that the State of Arkansas is not liable for the education of their children during the time that the parents choose to home school.~~

(3) The notice must include:

(A) The name, date of birth, grade level, and name and address of the school last attended, if any, of each student involved; and

(B) The location of the home school; .

(C) ~~The basic core curriculum to be offered;~~



~~(D) The proposed schedule of instruction; and~~

~~(E) The qualifications of the parent teacher.~~

~~(4) Parents or guardians shall deliver written notice in person to the superintendent of their local school district the first time such notice is given.~~

(b) This information may be used only for statistical purposes and test administration.

~~(c) Each local school district shall report the statistical data required by this section to the Department of Education each year.~~

~~(d) (1) No public school student shall be eligible for enrollment in a home school if the student is currently under disciplinary action for violation of any written school policy, including, but not limited to, excessive unexcused absences.~~

~~(2) Public school students who are under disciplinary action by the local school district shall be eligible for enrollment in a home school if:~~

~~(A) The superintendent or local school board of directors chooses to allow the child to enroll in a home school;~~

~~(B) The disciplinary action against the student has been completed or the school semester has ended, whichever occurs first; or~~

~~(C) The student has been expelled.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-504 is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

~~(B) For the purposes of this section, the superintendents of the Little Rock School District, North Little Rock School District, and Pulaski County Special School District shall act in lieu of an education service cooperative executive director~~ The directors of the education service cooperatives shall jointly hire one (1) state coordinator of home school testing.

~~(2) The executive directors of the education service cooperatives~~ state coordinator shall establish a common set of procedures approved by the Commissioner of Education for the proper administration of the tests required by this section.

(3) The administration shall include purchasing the test materials, giving the tests, scoring and interpreting the tests, and reporting test results to the parent or guardian of the home-schooled student.

(c) The cost of testing required by this section shall be the responsibility of the department when the tests are administered ~~by the directors of the education service cooperatives or other department designees~~ under the direction and control of the state coordinator.

(d)(1) ~~Alternate testing procedures may be approved by the executive director of an education service cooperative~~ state coordinator after consultation with the parents of a home-schooled student.

(2) The state coordinator may allow a parent or guardian of a home-schooled student to select a nationally recognized norm-reference test that was not selected by the State Board of Education.

(3) ~~However, any~~ Any costs associated with an alternate testing procedure shall be the responsibility of the parents.

(e)(1)(A) Any student who refuses to participate in the testing program or the alternate testing program required by this section and has not been excused from testing requirements by the state coordinator has not met the statutory prerequisites for home schooling and, as any other student, shall be subject to the applicable Arkansas laws regarding truancy.

(B)(i) Within thirty (30) days after the testing under this section is completed, the state coordinator shall prepare a list of students who are required to test but did not test and were not excused from testing.

(ii) The state coordinator shall prepare and send certified letters to the parent or guardian of the home-schooled student at the address on file with the Home School Office notifying them that:

(a) The home-schooled student has not met the statutory requirements for home schooling and that the parent or guardian must utilize the alternative testing procedures to have the home-schooled student tested; and

(b) Refusal to comply with the testing requirements may subject the home-schooled student to the truancy laws of the state.

(C) After a student corrects any refusal to participate in the testing program or the alternate testing program as determined by the department and required by this subsection, the student shall be restored to home school status after his or her parent or guardian has complied with all requirements of § 6-15-503.

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

(f)(1) ~~Each local school district may assess any home-schooled student who enrolls or reenrolls in the school district in order to determine proper educational placement.~~

(2) ~~Among other means of assessment, the local school district shall utilize the norm referenced test approved by the state board to assess the student and shall determine placement in the appropriate grade level as indicated by the test results~~ Within sixty (60) days after the testing under this section is completed, the state coordinator shall prepare a list of home-schooled students who complied with the testing requirements and send a letter to the parent or guardian of the home-schooled student to the address on file with the Home School Office notifying them that the home-schooled student has met the testing requirements required by law.

(g) A school district shall recognize the credits and courses taken by the home-schooled student in the same manner as credits and courses taken by a student who transfers into the school district from another school district, private school, or parochial school when a home-schooled student

transfers to a school district.

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

The Amendment was read \_\_\_\_\_

By: Representative M. Martin  
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Chief Clerk