

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H2/21/07 H2/23/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1632

5 By: Representatives Kenney, Abernathy, Blount, T. Bradford, Cheatham, Cook, Dickinson, Everett,
6 Harris, J. Johnson, Lamoureux, M. Martin, Norton, Petrus, Pickett, Rainey, Rosenbaum, Saunders,
7 Walters, Wood, Wagner
8 By: Senators Broadway, Critcher, Baker, Bookout, B. Johnson, Wilkins, Womack, Argue, Bisbee
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

10
11
12 AN ACT IN CONCORDANCE WITH THE 2006 ACT 57
13 ADEQUACY STUDY; TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
14 FUNDING ACT OF 2003 TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF PER
15 STUDENT FOUNDATION FUNDING AND CATEGORICAL
16 FUNDING; TO ENSURE THAT EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL
17 DISTRICT IN THE STATE RECEIVES THE FULL AMOUNT OF
18 FOUNDATION FUNDING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
19

Subtitle

20
21 AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
22 FUNDING ACT OF 2003 AND TO ENSURE THAT
23 EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE
24 STATE RECEIVES THE FULL AMOUNT OF
25 FOUNDATION FUNDING.
26
27

28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
29

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

31 The General Assembly declares this act to be in concordance with the
32 study of the state's system of public education conducted in 2006 by the
33 Adequacy Study Oversight Subcommittee, the House Interim Committee on
34 Education, and the Senate Interim Committee on Education in compliance with
35 Act 57 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003.
36



1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2303(11) through (22), concerning the
2 definitions relating to public school funding, are amended to read as
3 follows:

4 (11) "Miscellaneous funds" means the average of those funds
5 ~~collected either in the average of the~~ previous five (5) school years ~~or in~~
6 ~~the previous school year, whichever is less, and reported to the Department~~
7 ~~of Education by April 15 of each school year, consisting of:~~

8 (A) ~~from funds~~ Funds received by a school district
9 from federal forest reserves, federal grazing rights, federal mineral rights,
10 federal impact aid, federal flood control, wildlife refuge funds, severance
11 taxes,; and

12 (B) ~~funds~~ Funds received by the school district in
13 lieu of taxes, ~~and local sales and use taxes dedicated to education pursuant~~
14 ~~to §§ 26-74-201 et seq., 26-74-301 et seq., 26-75-301 et seq., and 14-164-301~~
15 ~~et seq.;~~

16
17 (12)(A) "National school lunch students" means those students or
18 the percentage of enrolled students from low socioeconomic backgrounds as
19 indicated by eligibility for free or reduced-price meals under the National
20 School Lunch Act as determined on October 1 of each previous school year and
21 submitted to the department, unless the school district is identified by the
22 ~~department~~ department as participating in the special assistance certification
23 and reimbursement alternative implemented under 42 U.S.C. § 1759a, as
24 interpreted in 7 C.F.R. § 245.9.

25 (B)~~(i)~~ If the school district is participating under 42
26 U.S.C. § 1759a, then for purposes of funding under § 6-20-2305(b), such a
27 school district's annual percentage of national school lunch students shall
28 be equal to the percentage submitted in the base year, which means the last
29 school year for which eligibility determinations were made and meal counts
30 were taken by type ~~except for the 2005-2006 school year as explicated in~~
31 ~~subdivision (12)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

32 ~~(ii)~~ ~~If a school district received funding for~~
33 ~~national school lunch students in the 2004-2005 school year as though one~~
34 ~~hundred percent (100%) of its students were eligible for free meals because~~
35 ~~of the school district's participation under 42 U.S.C. § 1759a, then that~~
36 ~~school district shall be funded for the 2005-2006 school year based upon the~~

1 ~~October 1, 2005, submission by a school district to the department if the~~
 2 ~~school district has completed a new student eligibility determination and~~
 3 ~~submitted that new eligibility determination to the department by October 1,~~
 4 ~~2005;~~

5 (13) "Net revenues" means actual revenues received from ad
 6 valorem taxes collected on behalf of a school district, multiplied by the
 7 uniform rate of tax over the total millage rate of the school district.

8 ~~(13)(14)~~ "Previous year" or "previous school year" means the
 9 school year immediately preceding the school year or fiscal year in which
 10 funds are allocated;

11 ~~(14)(A)(15)(A)~~ "Professional development" means a coordinated
 12 set of planned learning activities for teachers and administrators that are
 13 standards-based.

14 (B) Professional development shall result in individual,
 15 schoolwide, and systemwide improvement designed to ensure that all students
 16 demonstrate proficiency in the state academic standards;

17 (16)(A) "Revenues" means:

18 (i) The following items collected or received on
 19 behalf of a school district:

20 (a) Current year ad valorem taxes; plus

21 (b) Delinquent ad valorem taxes; plus

22 (c) Homestead tax credit; plus

23 (d) Interest earned on any tax funds held in
 24 trust; less

25 (ii) All costs and net commissions relating to the
 26 collection of ad valorem taxes authorized by law that are collected or
 27 withheld for later distribution by the county offices.

28 (B) On or before March 31 of each year, the Assessment
 29 Coordination Department shall compile the revenues for each school district
 30 for the calendar year preceding the end of the school fiscal year.

31 (C) The calculation of revenues shall be made in
 32 accordance with rules established by the Assessment Coordination Department.

33 ~~(15)(17)~~ "School district" means a geographic area with an
 34 elected board of directors that qualifies as a taxing unit for purposes of ad
 35 valorem property taxes under title 26 of the Arkansas Code, which board
 36 conducts the daily affairs of public schools pursuant to the supervisory

1 authority vested in it by the General Assembly and title 6 of the Arkansas
2 Code;

3 ~~(16)~~(18) "Secondary vocational area center" means a public
4 secondary vocational institution organized for the specific purpose of
5 educating high school students in specific occupational or vocational areas
6 and serving students from more than one (1) participating school district;

7 ~~(17)~~(19) "Special education catastrophic occurrences" means
8 individual cases in which special education and related services required by
9 the individualized education program of a particular student with
10 disabilities are unduly expensive, extraordinary, or beyond the routine and
11 normal costs associated with special education and related services provided
12 by a school district and funding is pursuant to rules promulgated by the
13 state board;

14 ~~(18)~~(20) "State foundation funding aid" means the amount of
15 state financial aid provided to each school district and computed as the
16 difference between the foundation funding amount established by the General
17 Assembly and the sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the uniform rate of tax
18 multiplied by the property assessment of the school district plus ~~seventy-~~
19 ~~five percent (75%)~~ of the miscellaneous funds of the school district;

20 ~~(19)(A)~~(21) "Student growth funding" means the amount of state
21 financial aid provided to each school district from funds made available for
22 ~~that purpose~~ the growth in the average daily membership for the school
23 district.

24 ~~(B) For school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, student~~
25 ~~growth funding is calculated as five thousand four hundred dollars (\$5,400)~~
26 ~~multiplied by the increase, if any, in the school district's two-quarter~~
27 ~~average of the average daily membership of the current school year over the~~
28 ~~local school district's two-quarter average of the average daily membership~~
29 ~~for the previous school year, excluding any increase resulting solely from~~
30 ~~consolidation or annexation with another school district;~~

31 ~~(20)~~(22) "Teachers of the gifted and talented" means individuals
32 certified by the state board to teach students identified as gifted and
33 talented;

34 ~~(21)~~(23) "Technology" means any equipment for instructional
35 purposes that is electronic in nature, including, but not limited to,
36 computer hardware, computer software, Internet connectivity, and distance

1 learning; and

2 ~~(22)~~(24) "Uniform rate of tax" means a uniform rate of ad
3 valorem property tax of twenty-five (25) mills to be levied on the assessed
4 value of all taxable real, personal, utility, and regulated carrier property
5 in the state to be used solely for the maintenance and operation of the
6 public schools as required by Arkansas Constitution, Article 14, § 3, as
7 amended by Arkansas Constitution, Amendments 11, 40, and 74.

8

9 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(a) through (b)(4)(A), concerning
10 foundation funding and categorical funding, are amended to read as follows:

11 (a)(1)(A) For each school year, each school district shall receive
12 state foundation funding aid computed as the difference between the
13 foundation funding amount pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section and
14 the sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the uniform rate of tax multiplied
15 by the property assessment of the school district plus ~~seventy-five percent~~
16 ~~(75%) of the~~ miscellaneous funds of the school district.

17 (B) The Department of Education shall distribute state
18 foundation funding aid to each school district in eleven (11) equal monthly
19 payments.

20 ~~(2)(A) For the 2005-2006 school year, the foundation funding~~
21 ~~amount is equal to five thousand four hundred eighty-six dollars (\$5,486)~~
22 ~~multiplied by the district's average daily membership for the previous school~~
23 ~~year.~~

24 ~~(B)(2)(A) For the 2006-2007~~ 2007-2008 school year, the
25 foundation funding amount is equal to ~~five thousand six hundred twenty~~
26 ~~dollars (\$5,620)~~ five thousand seven hundred nineteen dollars (\$5,719)
27 multiplied by the school district's average daily membership for the previous
28 school year.

29 (B) For the 2008-2009 school year, the foundation funding
30 amount is equal to five thousand seven hundred eighty-nine dollars (\$5,789)
31 multiplied by the school district's average daily membership for the previous
32 school year.

33 ~~(C) For the 2005-2006 school year and the 2006-2007 school~~
34 ~~year, the foundation funding amount provided under subdivisions (a)(2)(A) and~~
35 ~~(B) of this section shall be increased by forty-two dollars (\$42.00)~~
36 ~~multiplied by the district's average daily membership for the previous school~~

1 ~~year to pay for increased school district costs resulting from the 2005-2006~~
2 ~~and 2006-2007 increases in the employer's rate of contribution to the~~
3 ~~Arkansas Teacher Retirement System from thirteen percent (13%) to fourteen~~
4 ~~percent (14%).~~

5 (3)(A) ~~During the 2006-2007, school year, a~~ A school district
6 ~~with an~~ that has experienced a decline in average daily membership over the
7 two (2) immediately preceding school years that is less than the school
8 district's previous year's average daily membership shall receive:

9 (i) Declining enrollment funding equal to the
10 difference between the average of the two (2) immediately preceding years'
11 average daily memberships and the average daily membership for the previous
12 school year multiplied by five thousand six hundred twenty dollars (\$5,620)
13 the amount of foundation funding set forth in subdivision (a)(2) of this
14 section; or

15 (ii) Special needs isolated funding under § 6-20-
16 604.

17 (B) Any funding appropriated and available for declining
18 enrollment funding under subdivision (a)(3)(A)(i) of this section or special
19 needs isolated funding under § 6-20-604 that is not distributed under
20 subdivision (a)(3)(A) of this section shall be prorated and distributed
21 equally per average lost student to school districts that meet the
22 qualifications for both declining enrollment funding under subsection
23 (a)(3)(A)(i) of this section and special needs isolated funding under § 6-20-
24 604.

25 (C) No school district shall receive both declining
26 enrollment funding under subdivision (a)(3)(A)(i) of this section and student
27 growth funding under § 6-20-2305(c).

28 (4)(A) By the end of each school fiscal year, for a school
29 district whose net revenues are less than the sum of ninety-eight percent
30 (98%) of the uniform rate of tax multiplied by the property assessment of the
31 school district, the department shall distribute to the school district the
32 difference between:

33 (i) The net revenues of the school district; and

34 (ii) The sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the
35 uniform rate of tax multiplied by the property assessment of the school
36 district.

1 (B) For a school district whose net revenues are more than the
 2 sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the uniform rate of tax multiplied by
 3 the property assessment of the school district, the department, under the
 4 authority of § 6-20-2306, shall recoup from the school district an amount
 5 equal to the difference between:

6 (i) The net revenues of the school district; and

7 (ii) The sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the
 8 uniform rate of tax multiplied by the property assessment of the school
 9 district.

10 (b)(1) In addition to state foundation funding aid, each school
 11 district shall receive funding for additional education categories as
 12 provided in ~~subdivisions (b)(2)-(6) of this section~~ subsection (b).

13 ~~(2)(A)(i) For school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007~~ Beginning
 14 with the 2007-2008 school year, alternative learning environment funding and
 15 secondary vocational area center funding shall be three thousand two hundred
 16 fifty dollars (\$3,250) ~~four thousand sixty-three dollars (\$4,063)~~ multiplied
 17 by:

18 ~~(i) The~~ the number of identified alternative
 19 learning environment students enrolled during the previous school year; ~~and~~
 20 ~~(ii) The number of students enrolled in a secondary~~
 21 ~~vocational area center during the previous school year.~~

22 ~~(B)(ii)~~ Funding for students in alternative learning
 23 environments shall be distributed based on rules promulgated by the State
 24 Board of Education.

25 ~~(G)(B)(i)~~ Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year,
 26 secondary vocational area center funding shall be three thousand two hundred
 27 fifty dollars (\$3,250) multiplied by the number of students enrolled in a
 28 secondary vocational area center during the previous school year.

29 (ii) Funding for students in secondary vocational
 30 area centers shall be distributed based on rules promulgated by the State
 31 Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities.

32 ~~(3)(A) For school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, the English-~~
 33 ~~language learners funding~~ Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, funding
 34 for students who are identified as English-language learners shall be ~~one~~
 35 hundred ninety five dollars (\$195) ~~two hundred ninety-three dollars (\$293)~~
 36 for each identified English-language learner.

1 (B) Funding for ~~English-language learner students~~ English-
 2 language learners shall be distributed to school districts for students who
 3 have been identified as not proficient in the English language based upon a
 4 state-approved English proficiency assessment instrument.

5 (C) Funds allocated for English-language learners to
 6 school districts under this subchapter shall be expended only for eligible
 7 activities as identified in current rules promulgated by the State Board of
 8 Education and are a supplement to funding for national school lunch students
 9 provided in subdivision (b)(4) of this section.

10 (4)(A) ~~For school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007~~ Beginning with
 11 the 2007-2008 school year, national school lunch student funding for each
 12 identified national school lunch student shall be as follows:

13 (i) For a school ~~districts~~ district in which ninety
 14 percent (90%) or greater of the previous school year's enrolled students are
 15 national school lunch students, funding shall be ~~one thousand four hundred~~
 16 ~~forty dollars (\$1,440)~~ one thousand four hundred eighty-eight dollars
 17 (\$1,488);

18 (ii) For school districts in which at least seventy
 19 percent (70%) but less than ninety percent (90%) of the previous school
 20 year's enrolled students are national school lunch students, funding shall be
 21 ~~nine hundred sixty dollars (\$960)~~ nine hundred ninety-two dollars (\$992);
 22 and

23 (iii) For school districts in which less than
 24 seventy percent (70%) of the previous school year's enrolled students are
 25 national school lunch students, funding shall be ~~four hundred eighty dollars~~
 26 ~~(\$480)~~ four hundred ninety-six dollars (\$496).

27
 28 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(5), concerning categorical
 29 funding for professional development, is amended to read as follows:

30 (5)(A) Beginning with school year 2007-2008, Professional
 31 professional development funding ~~for school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007~~
 32 shall be equal to an amount of up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) multiplied by the
 33 school district's previous school year average daily membership.

34 (B) Funding for professional development for teachers in
 35 Arkansas public schools shall be used for professional development ~~training~~
 36 ~~conferences, materials, and other professional development activities~~ and

1 materials that improve the knowledge of teachers, administrators, and
 2 paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional strategies, methods, and
 3 skills for improving teaching practices and student academic achievement as
 4 outlined in rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.

5
 6 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 20, Subchapter 23 is amended
 7 to add an additional section to read as follows:

8 6-20-2307. Property tax report.

9 In order to provide relevant information to the General Assembly
 10 impacting the funding of public education, upon approval of the Legislative
 11 Joint Auditing Committee, the Division of Legislative Audit shall prepare a
 12 report regarding the assessment and collection of property taxes.

13
 14 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(c), concerning isolated funding,
 15 student growth funding, and special education-catastrophic occurrences
 16 funding, is amended to read as follows:

17 (c) Isolated funding under § 6-20-601, student growth funding, and
 18 special education-catastrophic occurrences funding shall be funded as
 19 follows:

20 (1) Isolated funding and special education-catastrophic
 21 occurrences funding shall be allocated and funded to school districts in a
 22 line item appropriation within the Public School Fund pursuant to law or
 23 rules promulgated by the State Board of Education; and

24 (2)(A) Student growth funding is calculated as the sum of the
 25 following amounts:

26 (i) One quarter (1/4) of the per student foundation
 27 funding for the school district under § 6-20-2305(a)(2) multiplied by the
 28 increase, if any, of each of the following:

29 (a) The school district's quarterly average
 30 daily membership for the first quarter of the current school year over
 31 average daily membership of the previous school year;

32 (b) The school district's quarterly average
 33 daily membership for the second quarter of the current year over the average
 34 daily membership of the previous school year;

35 (c) The school district's quarterly average
 36 daily membership for the third quarter of the current school year over the

1 average daily membership of the previous school year; and

2 (d) The school district's quarterly average
3 daily membership for the fourth quarter of the current school year over the
4 average daily membership of the previous school year; and

5 (ii) ~~excluding~~ Excluding any increase resulting
6 solely from consolidation or annexation with another school district.

7 (B)(i) The State Board of Education shall establish by
8 rule the timing of distributions of student growth funding and the mechanism
9 for determining the quarterly average daily membership to be used in
10 calculating student growth funding under this subsection (c).

11 (ii)(a) As the fourth quarter average daily membership
12 count will not be available until the following school fiscal year, the final
13 distribution for each school year shall include one half (1/2) of the per
14 student foundation funding for the school district under § 6-20-2305(a)(2)
15 multiplied by the increase, if any, of the school district's quarterly
16 average daily membership for the third quarter of the current school year
17 over the average daily membership of the previous school year.

18 (b) As a result of calculating the
19 distribution in subdivision (c)(2)(B)(i) of this section, either an
20 adjustment shall be made in the initial distribution of growth funding for
21 the district in the following school year to be based on the actual fourth
22 quarter growth determined in subdivision (c)(2)(A)(i)(d) or the school
23 district shall refund the overpayment in growth funding.

24
25
26 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2403(b) and (c), concerning the
27 minimum teacher compensation schedule, is amended to read as follows:

28 ~~(b)(1) In school year 2004-2005, each school district in the state~~
29 ~~shall have in place a salary schedule with at least the following minimum~~
30 ~~levels of compensation for a basic contract:~~

Years of Experience	BA Degree Salary	MA Degree Salary
0	\$27,500	\$31,625
1	27,950	32,125
2	28,400	32,625
3	28,850	33,125

1	4	29,300	33,625
2	5	29,750	34,125
3	6	30,200	34,625
4	7	30,650	35,125
5	8	31,100	35,625
6	9	31,550	36,125
7	10	32,000	36,625
8	11	32,450	37,125
9	12	32,900	37,625
10	13	33,350	38,125
11	14	33,800	38,625
12	15	34,250	39,125

13

14 ~~(2) In school year 2005-2006, each school district in the state~~
 15 ~~shall have in place a salary schedule with at least the following minimum~~
 16 ~~levels of compensation for a basic contract:~~

17

18	Years of Experience	BA Degree Salary	MA Degree Salary
19	0	\$27,940	\$32,131
20	1	28,390	32,631
21	2	28,840	33,131
22	3	29,290	33,631
23	4	29,740	34,131
24	5	30,190	34,631
25	6	30,640	35,131
26	7	31,090	35,631
27	8	31,540	36,131
28	9	31,990	36,631
29	10	32,440	37,131
30	11	32,890	37,631
31	12	33,340	38,131
32	13	33,790	38,631
33	14	34,240	39,131
34	15	34,690	39,631

35

36 ~~(c) In school year 2006-2007 and each school year thereafter, each~~

1 ~~school district in the state shall have in place a salary schedule with at~~
 2 ~~least the following minimum levels of compensation for a basic contract:~~

3

4 Years of Experience	BA Degree Salary	MA Degree Salary
5 0	\$28,611	\$32,902
6 1	29,061	33,402
7 2	29,511	33,902
8 3	29,961	34,402
9 4	30,411	34,902
10 5	30,861	35,402
11 6	31,311	35,902
12 7	31,761	36,402
13 8	32,211	36,902
14 9	32,661	37,402
15 10	33,111	37,902
16 11	33,561	38,402
17 12	34,011	38,902
18 13	34,461	39,402
19 14	34,911	39,902
20 15	35,361	40,402

21

22 (b) In school year 2007-2008, each school district in the state shall
 23 have in place a salary schedule with at least the following minimum levels of
 24 compensation for a basic contract:

25

26 <u>Years of Experience</u>	<u>BA Degree Salary</u>	<u>MA Degree Salary</u>
27 <u>0</u>	<u>\$28,897</u>	<u>\$33,231</u>
28 <u>1</u>	<u>29,352</u>	<u>33,736</u>
29 <u>2</u>	<u>29,806</u>	<u>34,241</u>
30 <u>3</u>	<u>30,261</u>	<u>34,746</u>
31 <u>4</u>	<u>30,715</u>	<u>35,251</u>
32 <u>5</u>	<u>31,170</u>	<u>35,756</u>
33 <u>6</u>	<u>31,624</u>	<u>36,261</u>
34 <u>7</u>	<u>32,079</u>	<u>36,766</u>
35 <u>8</u>	<u>32,533</u>	<u>37,271</u>
36 <u>9</u>	<u>32,988</u>	<u>37,776</u>

1	<u>10</u>	<u>33,442</u>	<u>38,281</u>
2	<u>11</u>	<u>33,897</u>	<u>38,786</u>
3	<u>12</u>	<u>34,351</u>	<u>39,291</u>
4	<u>13</u>	<u>34,806</u>	<u>39,796</u>
5	<u>14</u>	<u>35,260</u>	<u>40,301</u>
6	<u>15</u>	<u>35,715</u>	<u>40,806</u>

7

8 (c) In school year ~~2006-2007~~ 2008-2009 and each school year
9 thereafter, each school district in the state shall have in place a salary
10 schedule with at least the following minimum levels of compensation for a
11 basic contract:

12

13	<u>Years of Experience</u>	<u>BA Degree Salary</u>	<u>MA Degree Salary</u>
14	<u>0</u>	<u>\$29,533</u>	<u>\$33,963</u>
15	<u>1</u>	<u>29,998</u>	<u>34,479</u>
16	<u>2</u>	<u>30,462</u>	<u>34,995</u>
17	<u>3</u>	<u>30,927</u>	<u>35,511</u>
18	<u>4</u>	<u>31,391</u>	<u>36,027</u>
19	<u>5</u>	<u>31,856</u>	<u>36,543</u>
20	<u>6</u>	<u>32,320</u>	<u>37,059</u>
21	<u>7</u>	<u>32,785</u>	<u>37,576</u>
22	<u>8</u>	<u>33,249</u>	<u>38,092</u>
23	<u>9</u>	<u>33,714</u>	<u>38,608</u>
24	<u>10</u>	<u>33,508</u>	<u>39,124</u>
25	<u>11</u>	<u>34,643</u>	<u>39,640</u>
26	<u>12</u>	<u>35,107</u>	<u>40,156</u>
27	<u>13</u>	<u>35,572</u>	<u>40,672</u>
28	<u>14</u>	<u>36,036</u>	<u>41,188</u>
29	<u>15</u>	<u>36,501</u>	<u>41,705</u>

30

31 SECTION 8. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The amendment to the minimum teacher
32 compensation schedule contained in Section 5 of this act reflects the overall
33 increase in foundation funding. This amendment is a significant step in
34 closing the teacher salary gap. The increased minimum teacher compensation
35 schedule helps in recruiting and retaining teachers in Arkansas. Most
36 importantly, it makes Arkansas more competitive for quality teachers when

1 compared to surrounding states and Southern Regional Education Board member
2 states.

3
4 SECTION 9. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The document attached hereto titled
5 "Education Funding Recommendations for the 2007-2009 Biennium", contains the
6 Education Funding Recommendations of the Adequacy Study Oversight
7 Subcommittee, the House Interim Committee on Education, and the Senate
8 Interim Committee on Education. Since January 22, 2007, when those
9 recommendations were adopted by the House Education Committee and the Senate
10 Education Committee, some calculation errors were identified and
11 recalculations were made. The recalculations are also contained in this
12 document in narrative form. This document and its final recommendations are
13 specifically adopted by the House Education Committee and the Senate
14 Education Committee and recommended to the General Assembly. The document,
15 "Education Funding Recommendations for the 2007-2009 Biennium", shall be
16 filed in the journals of the House and Senate.

17
18 SECTION 10. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
19 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the 2006 Act 57 study
20 recommended that foundation funding and categorical funding be increased for
21 the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years; that the method of calculating the
22 state foundation funding aid should be changed to ensure that all public
23 school districts receive the full amount of foundation funding; and that this
24 act is immediately necessary to ensure that public school districts receive
25 adequate foundation funding for the 2007-2008 school year. Therefore, an
26 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for
27 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
28 effective on July 1, 2007.

29
30 /s/ Kenney, et al
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