

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
5 By: Senator Broadway
6
7

A Bill

SENATE BILL 770

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE COLLEGE REMEDIATION RATE
10 FOR ARKANSAS COLLEGE STUDENTS; TO ENSURE A
11 GENERAL, SUITABLE, AND EFFICIENT CURRICULUM-BASED
12 ACHIEVEMENT SYSTEM OF COLLEGE AND WORKFORCE
13 READINESS FOR ALL ARKANSAS PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
14 STUDENTS; TO SUPPORT VOLUNTARY STATEWIDE ACT
15 ASSESSMENT FOR ALL ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS IN
16 ARKANSAS; TO ENCOURAGE GREATER PARTICIPATION IN
17 THE SMART CORE CURRICULUM; AND FOR OTHER
18 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

21 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE VOLUNTARY
22 UNIVERSAL ACT PROGRAM.
23
24

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
26

27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15 is amended to add an
28 additional subchapter to read as follows:

29 6-15-2601. Findings - Purpose.

30 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

31 (1) While the college remediation rate of Arkansas students has
32 steadily declined in recent years, at least forty-four percent (44%) of
33 students entering college require some kind of remediation;

34 (2) Students in need of remediation have scored less than
35 nineteen (19) on the ACT;

36 (3) According to ACT, the recommended core courses include four



1 (4) years or more of English, three (3) years or more of mathematics, three
 2 (3) years or more of social studies, and three (3) years or more of natural
 3 sciences;

4 (4) Students who take at least the recommended core courses in
 5 the Smart Core curriculum continue to perform better on the ACT compared with
 6 students who take less than the recommended core courses;

7 (5) The grade eleven (11) ACT assessment is a tool for parents,
 8 public schools, and public school districts to assist students in improving
 9 individual progress and improving college and workforce readiness; and

10 (6) Many students do not take the grade eleven (11) ACT
 11 assessment due to financial constraints.

12 (b) The purpose of this act is to improve the college readiness of
 13 students grade eleven (11) in Arkansas and to reduce the college remediation
 14 rate in Arkansas institutions of higher education through the use of the
 15 grade eleven (11) ACT assessment.

16
 17 6-15-2602. Definitions.

18 As used in this subchapter:

19 (1) "ACT assessment" means the curriculum-based achievement
 20 assessment that:

21 (A) Is aligned with state learning standards;

22 (B) Is used nationally to provide high school students
 23 with an early indication of college readiness in English, mathematics,
 24 reading, and science;

25 (C) May be used by colleges as part of their admissions,
 26 placement, and scholarship processes; and

27 (D) May be used by high schools to improve college and
 28 workforce readiness of students; and

29 (2) "Smart Core" means the curriculum required by the
 30 Department of Education that is part of Next Step, a state initiative focused
 31 on improving Arkansas public high schools for all students so they are
 32 prepared for life beyond graduation.

33
 34 6-15-2603. Establishment.

35 Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, the Voluntary Universal ACT
 36 Program is established to:

1 (1) Increase the number of Arkansas high school students taking
2 the ACT during grade eleven (11) to meet the following objectives:

3 (A) Increase the number of first-generation college
4 students in Arkansas;

5 (B) Increase the college participation rates of:

6 (i) Students from low-income families;

7 (ii) Students who are English-language learners; and

8 (iii) Minority students;

9 (C) Improve student preparation for college and the
10 workforce;

11 (D) Improve the course selection patterns of high school
12 students; and

13 (E) Increase the early identification of college-ready
14 students;

15 (2) Support students participating in the Smart Core curriculum
16 by:

17 (A) Providing a baseline for individual student college
18 and workforce readiness; and

19 (B) Providing an opportunity to benefit from earlier
20 remediation such as the College Proficiency Examination Program (CPEP) and
21 course selection review;

22 (3) Provide a link between what students have learned, what
23 they need to learn next, and what is necessary in order to be ready for
24 college or the workforce; and

25 (4) Establish individual student expectations and measure
26 progress toward the expectations.

27
28 6-15-2604. Reporting ACT scores.

29 (a) As students taking the Eleventh Grade Assessment have not
30 completed all required courses, the assessment will not be used for district,
31 state or national comparisons.

32 (b) ACT scores for each graduating class of Arkansas students:

33 (1) Will continue to be reported in the annual school
34 performance report under § 6-15-1402; and

35 (2) Will be used for district, state, or national comparisons.
36

1 6-15-2605. Fees.

2 (a) The grade eleven (11) ACT assessment shall be administered under
3 this subchapter at no cost to the student.

4 (b) The state shall reimburse a school district that administers the
5 grade eleven (11) ACT assessment for the fees for administering the
6 assessment.

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8 6-15-2606. Rules - Reports.

9 (a) The Department of Education, with the cooperation of the
10 Department of Higher Education, shall establish rules to implement this
11 subchapter.

12 (b) On or before December 1 of each year, the Department of Higher
13 Education and the Department of Education shall report to the General
14 Assembly on the implementation of this subchapter and its impact on the
15 college and workforce readiness of Arkansas high school students.