

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 956

5 By: Senator Elliott  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT  
9 OF EDUCATION TO REPORT GRADE INFLATION IN PUBLIC  
10 SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

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13 TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE  
14 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT GRADE  
15 INFLATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-419(16), concerning the definition of  
22 grade inflation under the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and  
23 Accountability Program, is repealed:

24 ~~(16) "Grade inflation rate" means the statistical gap between~~  
25 ~~actual grades assigned for core classes at the secondary level and student~~  
26 ~~performance on corresponding subjects on nationally normed college entrance~~  
27 ~~exams such as the ACT;~~  
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29 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2006(b)(3), concerning the annual  
30 report of a public secondary school, is amended to read as follows:

31 (3) The graduation rate, ~~grade inflation rate~~, drop-out rate for  
32 grades nine through twelve (9-12), and college remediation rate;  
33

34 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-421(d) and (e), concerning the  
35 Department of Education report on public school grade inflation, are amended  
36 to read as follows:



1           ~~(d)(1)(A) Within thirty (30) days of a student's completing a course~~  
2 ~~for which the state board has adopted an end-of-course assessment, the school~~  
3 ~~district shall provide the Division of Public School Accountability of the~~  
4 ~~Department of Education with each student's name, identification number, and~~  
5 ~~grade in the course.~~

6                     ~~(B) The division shall:~~

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

9                             ~~(ii) Report each student's end-of-course test score~~  
10 ~~matched with the letter grade the student received in the corresponding~~  
11 ~~course to the school district;~~

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

15                            ~~(iv) Create a report of the percentage of students~~  
16 ~~who received a letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding course and~~  
17 ~~did not pass the end-of-course assessment on the first attempt.~~

18           ~~(2)(A) No later than December 1 of each year, the division shall~~  
19 ~~report to the state board and the General Assembly the name, address, and~~  
20 ~~superintendent of any high school in which more than twenty percent (20%) of~~  
21 ~~the students received a letter grade of "B" or above but did not pass the~~  
22 ~~end-of-course assessment on the first attempt.~~

23                     ~~(B) The report shall indicate by high school the number of~~  
24 ~~students receiving a letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding course~~  
25 ~~who did not pass the end-of-course assessment on the first attempt, provided~~  
26 ~~such disclosure is not in conflict with applicable federal or state law.~~

27           ~~(3) The department shall:~~

28                            ~~(A) Investigate the classroom practices of any school~~  
29 ~~district in which more than twenty percent (20%) of the students received a~~  
30 ~~letter grade of "B" or above but did not pass the end-of-course assessment on~~  
31 ~~the first attempt; and~~

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

35           ~~(4) As a part of the school improvement plan pursuant to § 6-15-~~  
36 ~~2201, the state board shall ensure that each school district and high school~~

1 ~~develops strategies to improve student readiness for the public postsecondary~~  
2 ~~level based on annual analysis of the feedback report data.~~

3 ~~(5) The department shall biennially recommend to the General~~  
4 ~~Assembly statutory changes to reduce the incidence of postsecondary~~  
5 ~~remediation in mathematics, reading, and writing for recent high school~~  
6 ~~graduates who enroll in an institution of higher education.~~

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

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