

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 477

5 By: Senator J. English  
6 By: Representative Cozart  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
10 CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY; AND FOR  
11 OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
16 CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY.  
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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 § 6-15-1601(g)(6)(B), concerning reports to  
22 certain entities and persons by the Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap  
23 in Arkansas regarding chronically underperforming schools, is amended to read  
24 as follows:

25 (B) Profiles of ~~chronically under performing~~ schools and  
26 ~~school districts~~ identified as in need of comprehensive support and  
27 improvement, additional targeted support, or targeted support and improvement  
28 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Pub. L. No. 89-10, as  
29 amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95;  
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31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2701 is amended to read as follows:

32 6-15-2701. Closing achievement gap program – Definition.

33 (a) As used in this section, ~~“chronically underperforming school”~~  
34 “school in need of support” means a public school ~~that does not meet adequate~~  
35 ~~yearly progress under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301~~  
36 ~~et seq., as it existed on July 1, 2009, for three (3) or more consecutive~~



1 years identified as in need of comprehensive support and improvement,  
 2 additional targeted support, or targeted support and improvement under the  
 3 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Pub. L. No. 89-10, as amended by the  
 4 Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95.

5 (b)(1) A school district that has a ~~chronically underperforming~~ school  
 6 in need of support shall use its national school lunch state categorical  
 7 funding under § 6-20-2305(b)(4) to evaluate the impact of educational  
 8 strategies used by the ~~chronically underperforming~~ school in need of support  
 9 to address the achievement gaps among students in the ~~chronically~~  
 10 ~~underperforming~~ school in need of support.

11 (2) The evaluation shall:

12 (A) Identify the categories of programs and intervention  
 13 strategies used with national school lunch state categorical funding; and

14 (B) Report the ~~benchmark assessment scores~~ progress made  
 15 towards meeting the established goals for the school in need of support for  
 16 the end of the immediately preceding school year and for the end of the  
 17 current school year of students involved in the programs and intervention  
 18 strategies identified under this subdivision (b)(2).

19 (c) The Department of Education shall:

20 (1) Promulgate rules necessary to implement this section,  
 21 including without limitation establishing the categories by which a  
 22 ~~chronically underperforming~~ school in need of support shall identify programs  
 23 and intervention strategies under subsection (b) of this section; and

24 (2) In a ~~chronically underperforming school's comprehensive~~  
 25 ~~school improvement plan~~ school district's support plan, direct the use of  
 26 national school lunch state categorical funding for strategies to close gaps  
 27 in academic achievement, including without limitation:

28 ~~(A) Using an Arkansas Scholastic Audit;~~

29 ~~(B)(A)~~ Using disaggregated school data to set academic  
 30 improvement targets in reading, writing, mathematics, and science;

31 ~~(C)(B)~~ Using improvement targets to define professional  
 32 development needs related to content, instruction, differentiation, and best  
 33 practices in educating special education students, gifted and talented  
 34 students, English language learners, and other student subgroups as needed;

35 ~~(D)(C)~~ Developing interim building-level assessments to  
 36 monitor student progress toward proficiency on the state benchmark

1 assessments;

2 ~~(E)~~(D) Developing a plan to immediately address gaps in  
3 learning;

4 ~~(F)~~(E) Examining and realigning, as needed, school  
5 scheduling, academic support systems, and assignments of personnel; and

6 ~~(G)~~(F) Designing a plan for increasing parental knowledge  
7 and skill to support academic objectives; ~~and~~

8 ~~(3) By August 1 of each year, report to the House Committee on~~  
9 ~~Education and the Senate Committee on Education on:~~

10 ~~(A) The use of national school lunch state categorical~~  
11 ~~funding by chronically underperforming schools in the state; and~~

12 ~~(B) The status of the achievement gaps at chronically~~  
13 ~~underperforming schools in the state.~~

14 (d) The department shall identify the ~~chronically underperforming~~  
15 schools with the largest achievement gaps among students and give to those  
16 ~~chronically underperforming~~ schools in need of support the department's  
17 highest priority for:

18 (1) Monitoring ~~school~~ school-level improvement plans as required  
19 under § 6-15-2914; and

20 (2) Providing support under this subchapter.

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