

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-205

REQUESTING THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION
REVIEW THE ADEQUACY OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS PROVIDED IN THE
STATE'S JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS.

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Constitution mandates that the General Assembly
ensure that all public school students receive an adequate education; and

WHEREAS, public school students who are detained in juvenile detention
centers have special social and educational needs; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to the health, welfare, and safety of the
citizens of Arkansas that students in juvenile detention centers receive the
same educational opportunities as students in regular public schools,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE
EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Interim Committee on Education, joined by the Senate
Interim Committee on Education, review the system of public education
provided to students in juvenile detention centers in Arkansas, including:

- 1) Whether students receive the same educational opportunities
needed to receive an adequate education as students in regular public
schools;
- 2) Whether educational programs in juvenile detention centers follow
the same educational standards as regular public schools;
- 3) Whether juvenile detention centers recruit and retain qualified
teachers and whether ineligibility for the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System
impacts the availability of quality teachers in these programs;
- 4) Whether educational programs in juvenile detention centers are
evaluated by and accountable to the Department of Education through (a)
school improvement plans (ACSIP), and (b) accessibility and use of statewide
assessments, and accountability and reporting systems (APSCN);
- 5) Whether students receive the same social services and assessment

1 services needed for educational adequacy as students in regular public
2 schools, and if special education services are needed, whether they are
3 receiving appropriate special education services needed to obtain an adequate
4 education;

5 6) Whether the system oversight of educational programs by local
6 school districts is adequate;

7 7) Whether student records are maintained and transmitted uniformly
8 across the state and according to Department of Education standards;

9 8) Whether appropriate transition activities (for entry or exit) are
10 uniformly utilized in juvenile detention centers across the state;

11 9) Whether there needs to be improved interagency collaboration
12 among the Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Division of
13 Youth Services, Department of Workforce Education, and other agencies in
14 order to provide an adequate education for students in juvenile detention
15 centers;

16 10) Whether the amount and system of funding educational programs in
17 juvenile detention centers is adequate; and

18 11) Whether the academic facilities and equipment used by juvenile
19 detention centers are adequate.
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21 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED, that the House Interim Committee on Education
22 and Senate Interim Committee on Education shall report their findings and
23 recommendations on or before May 1, 2008.
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25 Respectfully submitted,
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29 Representative Janet Johnson
30 District 29
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34 Filed Date: 10/30/2007 By: CLR/clr