

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-206

REQUESTING THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PARTNERSHIPS IN COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY PROGRAM (PICL) AS IMPLEMENTED IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS, THE EXPANSION OF PICL INTO PARTNERSHIPS WITH FOUR (4) EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVES, AND THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING OF THAT EXPANSION.

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas seeks to raise the literacy skills of high-poverty public school children before they reach high school; and

WHEREAS, increasingly since 2003, the General Assembly has maintained that professional development for teachers should improve the learning of all students; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, Partnerships in Comprehensive Literacy (PICL), formerly Arkansas Comprehensive Literacy Model), has been effective in raising the literacy skills of high-poverty public school children in over one hundred fifty (150) schools in Arkansas and ten (10) other states; and

WHEREAS, PICL provides effective professional development for teachers by using highly qualified literacy coaches to assist teachers in assessing students and analyzing data and in designing literacy instruction based on that data; and

WHEREAS, education service cooperatives use literacy coaches to reach schools outside of Central Arkansas, and by partnering with education service cooperatives PICL could provide more schools across the state with access to PICL; and

WHEREAS, the continued success of PICL depends on partnerships between classroom teachers, schools, education service cooperatives, universities, state education departments, and legislators,

1 NOW THEREFORE,  
2 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SENATE INTERIM  
3 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF  
4 ARKANSAS:

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6 THAT the House Interim Committee on Education, joined by the Senate  
7 Interim Committee on Education, study the effectiveness of Partnerships in  
8 Comprehensive Literacy (PICL) as implemented in Central Arkansas and the  
9 implications of expanding PICL's accessibility to schools throughout the  
10 state through partnership with the following four (4) education service  
11 cooperatives:

- 12 (a) Dawson Education Service Cooperative;
- 13 (b) Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative;
- 14 (c) South Central Arkansas Education Service Cooperative; and
- 15 (d) Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative; and

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17 THAT the House Interim Committee on Education study the need for  
18 additional funding to expand PICL to include partnerships.

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20 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the House Interim Committee on Education  
21 and Senate Interim Committee on Education report their findings and  
22 recommendations, including any draft legislation, resulting from this study  
23 on or before May 1, 2008.

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26 Respectfully submitted,

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30 Representative Rick Saunders

31 District 24

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36 Filed Date: 10/30/2007 By: CLR/clr