

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-001

2
3 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONDUCT AN INTERIM
4 STUDY TO DETERMINE EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO ENSURE THAT ALL
5 ARKANSAS STUDENTS ARE READING AT GRADE LEVEL BY THE END OF THE
6 THIRD GRADE BY 2020.

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8 WHEREAS, reading proficiently by the end of third grade is one of the
9 most important indicators of school success and high school graduation; and

10 WHEREAS, third grade marks the turning point between learning to read
11 and reading to learn; and

12 WHEREAS, increased efforts are needed to achieve student reading
13 proficiency by improving school readiness, reducing chronic absence, stopping
14 summer learning loss, and strengthening parent and community engagement; and

15 WHEREAS, a review of Arkansas benchmark exam data reveals that many
16 children still do not read proficiently - thirty-nine percent (39%) of
17 African American children, twenty-nine percent (29%) of Hispanic children,
18 and eighteen percent (18%) of Caucasian children; and

19 WHEREAS, Arkansas lags behind other states in reading proficiency by
20 the end of the third grade,

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22 NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE 89TH GENERAL
24 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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26 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council conduct an interim study to
27 determine effective strategies to ensure that all Arkansas students are
28 reading at grade level by the end of the third grade by 2020.

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30 Respectfully submitted,

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34 Senator David Johnson
35 District 32

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2 By: CLR/KFW
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