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# Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:  
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

## Title 6. Education

### Chapter I. Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

#### Subchapter C. Educational Quality, Standards, and Assessment

#### Part 64. Rules Governing the Public School Rating System on Annual School Performance Reports and the School Recognition Program

##### Subpart 1. Generally

#### **6 CAR § 64-101. Purpose.**

The purpose of this part is to:

- (1) Establish the school rating system and designate school performance category levels or ratings pursuant to Arkansas Code §§ 6-15-2105 and 6-15-2106; and
- (2) Provide financial awards to public schools that experience high student performance and those with high student academic growth in accordance with Arkansas Code § 6-15-2107.

#### **6 CAR § 64-102. School rating system.**

(a) Each public school will receive a performance category level designation or rating, hereafter collectively referred to as "rating", of "A", "B", "C", "D", or "F" as described in Appendix A.

(b) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall assign the annual public school rating under this section using the following indicators for each designated grade span based on the grade configurations of the school:

**DRAFT**

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(1) In elementary and middle schools, the following indicators shall be used; without limitation:

(A) The percent of students meeting proficiency or exceeding proficiency on state summative exams in ELA, math and science;

(B) The percent of students meeting or exceeding individual growth score in ELA, math, and science; and

(C) The percent of students meeting or exceeding his or her individual growth in the lowest 25% of achievement on the previous state summative exams in ELA, math, and science.

(2) In high schools, the following indicators shall be used; without limitation:

(A) The percent of students meeting or exceeding proficiency on state summative exams in ELA, math and science;

(B) The percent of students meeting or exceeding his or her individual growth score in ELA, math, and science;

(C) The percent of students meeting individual growth in the lowest 25% of achievement on the previous state summative exams in ELA, math, and science combined;

(D) The four year graduation rate; and

(E) The number of students earning a diploma of merit or distinction that lead to enrollment, enlistment, or employment.

(c) For a school that does not have a complete data set due to grade configuration or the number of students per grade, the use of feeder school data, pairing, or proportional cuts, may be used to assign a school rating.

(d) The Division shall publish the annual Public School Rating Business Rules used to assign school ratings on the Division's website.

(e)(1) The Division shall recommend cut scores for each rating to the State Board of Education.

(2) The Division shall implement an "Automatic Grading Scale Increase" in any year in which 65 percent or more of the school statewide aggregate earn a grade of A or B, and raise the scale required to earn a school grade by five percent until the

scale reaches 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, and 0-59 = F.

~~(f)~~ The Department of Education-Division will shall engage stakeholder groups in the school rating process and utilize feedback from the stakeholder groups to make a final recommendation to the State Board of Education for the total score range for each rating.

~~(e)(g)~~ If a school district has an alternative learning environment (ALE) or an alternative education (AE) program and the ALE or AE has a local education agency (LEA) number, the school district shall, for purposes of a rating pursuant to this part only, include the ALE or AE students in their respective area schools.

~~(d)-(h)~~ Each school's rating shall be included in the annual school performance report, which shall be posted on the department's-Division's and school districts' websites.

~~(e)(i)~~ For purposes of this part only, tThe following entities shall be exempt from the designation ofreceiving a school rating:

(1) An open-enrollment public charter school whose mission and enrollment are primarily focused on students who:

- (A) Have dropped out of high school; or
- (B) Are identified as at risk of dropping out of school;

(2) A conversion public charter school whose mission and enrollment are primarily focused on students who:

- (A) Have dropped out of high school; or
- (B) Are identified as at risk of dropping out of school;

(3) An adult charter school serving students aged nineteen (19) or older;

(4) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind; and

~~(5) The Arkansas School for the Deaf; and~~

~~(6)~~ The Division of Youth Services' system of education.

## **6 CAR § 64-103. Arkansas School Recognition Program.**

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(a) Pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-15-2107, public schools that experience high student performance and those with high student academic growth, ~~which includes high school graduation rate comparisons for secondary schools,~~ shall be eligible for the Arkansas School Recognition Program.

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b)(1)(A)~~ For purposes of the Arkansas School Recognition Program, student performance in overall achievement will be calculated using weighted percent of students meeting proficiency in ELA, math and science as describe in the annual Public School Rating Business Rules ~~achievement as described in Appendix A.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (B)~~ Schools recognized for overall achievement shall have a school-wide value-added score that meets or exceeds expected growth to qualify for the Arkansas School Recognition Program.

(2) Recognition will be determined based on the ranking of ~~all~~ schools by grade span and of the total score for the ~~weighted~~ achievement indicator.

~~(c)(1)~~ (3) Student academic growth shall be determined by using school value-added scores that will be calculated using the state's value-added formula as described in the annual Public School Rating Business Rules.

(4) Recognition for high student academic growth will be determined based on the ranking of the school value-added score of all schools by grade span.

(5) For a school without a complete data set, recognition will be based on the rank of the school value-added score of the school with the tested grade levels that is paired with the feeder school within a district.

~~For purposes of the Arkansas School Recognition Program, student academic growth and school value-added scores will be calculated as described in Appendix A.~~

~~(2) Recognition for high student academic growth, which includes high school graduation rate comparisons for secondary schools, will be determined based on the ranking of all schools using the following criteria:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (A) For public schools that include at least one (1) of the tested grade levels of grades three through ten (3—10) but do not include a terminal grade level of grade twelve (12), recognition will be determined based on the rank of the school~~

value-added score;

~~—————(B) For public schools that only include grade levels lower than grades three through ten (3—10) (feeder schools), recognition will be determined based on the rank of the school value-added score of the school with tested grade levels that is paired with the feeder school within a district; and~~

~~—————(C)(i) For public schools that include at least one (1) of the tested grade levels of grades three through ten (3—10) and a terminal grade level of grade twelve (12), recognition will be determined based on the rank of the sum of the school value-added score (thirty-five percent (35%) weight) and the adjusted cohort graduation rate score (fifteen percent (15%) weight), multiplied by two (2).~~

~~—————(ii) For public schools that only include grade levels higher than grades three through ten (3—10) that have a terminal grade level of twelve (12), recognition will be determined based on the rank of the sum of the school value-added score (thirty-five percent (35%) weight) of the school paired with it and the adjusted cohort graduation rate score (fifteen percent (15%) weight), multiplied by two (2).~~

## **Appendix A. School Rating System**

**Link:**

**<https://CodeOfARRules.arkansas.gov/docs/CARCodeAppendices/Appendices/314/6CARpt.64AppendixA.pdf>**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: H3/17/25

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1598

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

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM; TO  
10 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A  
11 NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO  
12 REMOVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM SCHOOL RATINGS FOR CERTAIN  
13 SCHOOL YEARS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
14  
15

## Subtitle

16  
17 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
18 TO ESTABLISH A NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM  
19 FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND TO REMOVE PUBLIC  
20 SCHOOLS FROM SCHOOL RATINGS FOR CERTAIN  
21 SCHOOL YEARS.  
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
24

25 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE.

26 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

27 (1) A change in the assessment system for public schools and  
28 public school districts in Arkansas was necessary to align with the  
29 educational priorities established by Acts 2023, No. 237, also known as the  
30 "LEARNS Act";

31 (2) The development of a revised accountability system that  
32 includes the new assessment system and better meets the needs of Arkansas  
33 students is currently in progress; and

34 (3) A pause in new letter grade designations for the 2023-2024  
35 and 2024-2025 school years under the existing school rating system will allow  
36 the collection of necessary data to provide accurate and reliable



1 accountability information, which is essential for Arkansans to make informed  
2 decisions regarding their children's education.

3 (b) The Department of Education shall not assign to public schools new  
4 school ratings calculated under the current school rating system under § 6-  
5 15-2105 for the 2023-2024 school year.

6 (c) The department shall:

7 (1) Establish a new accountability system; and

8 (2)(A) Issue all public schools, including open-enrollment  
9 public charter schools, a letter grade for the 2024-2025 school year using  
10 the new accountability system established under subdivision (c)(1) of this  
11 section.

12 (B)(i) If a public school or an open-enrollment public  
13 charter school does not improve or maintain its most recent letter grade  
14 under the new accountability system established under subdivision (c)(1) of  
15 this section, then the public school or open-enrollment public charter school  
16 may request a review by the Division of Public School Accountability.

17 (ii) The division shall review all applicable data  
18 and information upon receipt of a request from a public school or an open-  
19 enrollment public charter school under subdivision (c)(2)(B)(i) of this  
20 section and make a determination regarding the public school's or open-  
21 enrollment public charter school's letter grade.

22 (e) This section shall expire on June 30, 2026.

23  
24 /s/Brooks

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27 **APPROVED: 4/8/25**  
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