

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

SENATE BILL

35

By: Senators Yates and Russ

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO CREATE AN INTENSIVE POST-SECONDARY PREPARATORY PROGRAM IN MATHEMATICS, ENGLISH, AND READING FOR STUDENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. The State Board of Education is authorized and directed to develop and implement an intensive post-secondary preparatory instruction program for public school students in designated grades who choose to participate in these programs.

SECTION 2. The programs established under authority of this act shall:

- (1) Provide advice which will better prepare students for entry level post-secondary work in the areas of mathematics, English, and reading; and
- (2) Improve diagnostic efforts, counseling, placement, and instruction for secondary school students based on identified needs for college enrollment and placement.

SECTION 3. Beginning with the 1989-90 school year, the following programs shall be in effect in the public schools of Arkansas:

- (1) Every public school in Arkansas shall develop a local plan for diagnosis of its students academic deficiencies. Based on the diagnosis of deficiencies, counseling shall be provided to encourage students to enroll in secondary school courses that would result in the improvement of academic skills in mathematics, English, and reading. Local plans shall provide for parental involvement in student counseling and placement for students.
- (2) Every eleventh-grade student enrolled in a public school of Arkansas who chooses to do so may take a placement test which has been approved by the State Board of Education, during a time frame set by the State Board of

Education. Students who score less than the statewide minimum scores established by the State Board of Higher Education for mathematics, English, and reading, shall receive counseling and strong encouragement to enroll during their senior year in regular school instructional courses designated by local school officials to assist in the improvement of scores in the areas of deficiency.

(3) During a time frame to be established by the State Board of Education, every twelfth-grade student enrolled in a public school of Arkansas who chooses to do so may take a placement test which has been approved by the State Board of Education. All students who plan to enroll in post-secondary programs at a state-supported college, university, or post-secondary vocational school in Arkansas shall be permitted to enroll in a state-approved intensive non-credit preparatory program, to be offered at locations designated by the Arkansas Department of Education, during the summer immediately following their senior year in high school. Students who choose to do so may take a placement test which has been approved by the State Board of Education upon completion of their summer school studies.

SECTION 4. (a) Course content guides for summer school preparatory courses shall be developed by the Arkansas Department of Education with assistance from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

(b) Guidelines for the testing and post-secondary preparatory programs shall be prepared and promulgated by the Arkansas Department of Education, with the length of the summer school term to be five (5) weeks and the number and location of sites for these programs to be determined by the Arkansas Department of Education.

SECTION 5. Scores on placement tests approved by the State Board of Higher Education and taken by students enrolled in a public school of Arkansas under authority of this Act at the request of those students will be made available to, and will be accepted and recognized toward meeting enrollment requirements by state-supported colleges, universities, and post-secondary vocational schools in Arkansas.

SECTION 6. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code

Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 8. Emergency. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the development of an intensive post-secondary preparatory program for students in public schools of this state would reduce costs for remediation occurring during the freshman year of enrollment in state colleges, universities or post-secondary vocational schools, and that the development of this program in the Arkansas Department of Education which would conserve state revenue is in the best interests of all citizens of this state. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act, being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and welfare, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.