

1 State of Arkansas

2 78th General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 1991

4 By: *Representatives Mahony, J. J. Roberts and J. Smith*

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO BE KNOWN AS 'THE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES

9 ACT'; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

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13 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Public

14 School Student Services Act."

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16 SECTION 2. PURPOSE. It is the intent of the General Assembly to
17 articulate the functions served by each of the components of a program of
18 student services. It is further the intent of the General Assembly that each
19 school district develop and implement a plan for providing student services to
20 all students in the public school system, including area vocational-technical
21 schools. Such plan shall be implemented no later than the 1991-92 school
22 year. It is the intent of the General Assembly that student services
23 coordinators be given time to fulfill their responsibilities under this act.

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25 SECTION 3. A "student services program" is defined as a coordinated
26 effort which shall include, but is not limited to:

27 (1) Guidance services, which shall include, but are not limited to:

28 (A) the availability of individual and group counseling to all
29 students;

30 (B) orientation programs for new students at each level of
31 education and for transferring students;

32 (C) class scheduling for students;

33 (D) consultation with parents, faculty, and out-of-school
34 agencies concerning student problems and needs;

35 (E) utilization of student records and files;

1 (F) supervision of standardized testing and interpretation of
2 results;

3 (G) the following-up of early school dropouts and graduates;

4 (H) a school-initiated system of parental involvement;

5 (I) an organized system of informational resources on which to
6 base educational and vocational decision-making; and

7 (J) an educational and job placement, including advising students
8 on the availability of vocational and alternative programs that could provide
9 successful high school completing opportunities for students at risk of
10 dropping out of school.

11 (2) Psychological services, which shall include, but are not limited to
12 the following:

13 (A) evaluation of students with learning or adjustment problems;

14 (B) evaluation of students in exceptional-child education
15 programs;

16 (C) consultation and counseling with parents, students, and
17 school personnel;

18 (D) a system for the early identification of learning potential
19 and factors which affect the child's educational performance;

20 (E) a system of liaison and referrals, with resources available
21 outside the school; and

22 (F) written policies which assure ethical procedures in
23 psychological activities.

24 (3) Visiting teacher and school social work services, which shall
25 include, but are not limited to the following:

26 (A) providing casework to assist in the prevention and
27 remediation of problems of attendance, behavior, adjustment, and learning; and

28 (B) serving as liaison between the home and school by making home
29 visits and referring students and parents to appropriate school and community
30 agencies for assistance.

31 (4) Occupational and placement services, which shall include, but are
32 not limited to the dissemination of career education information, placement
33 services, and follow-up studies.

34 (5) Group conflict resolution services, which shall include, but are
35 not limited to the following:

36 (A) educational and social programs which help students develop

1 skills enabling them to resolve differences and conflicts between groups; and

2 (B) programs designed to promote understanding, positive
3 communication, and a greater utilization of a race relations specialist or
4 human relations specialist to assist in the development of intergroup skills.

5 (6) Health services.

6 (7) The distribution of a suicide prevention public awareness program
7 developed for distribution by the inter-program task force established by the
8 Lieutenant Governor's Teen-age Suicide Prevention Task Force.

9 (8) *The provisions of this section shall be implemented by each school*
10 *district of this state beginning September 1, 1991, provided the State Board*
11 *of Education does not by regulation redefine the duties of school counselors.*

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13 SECTION 4. (a) Each school district shall develop and implement a plan
14 which ensures that individual student services are coordinated in a manner
15 utilizing such techniques as differentiated staffing as to make maximum use of
16 the contribution of each service.

17 (b) Each school district plan shall reflect the use of alternative
18 methods of classroom management. Such methods may include, but are not
19 limited to, the following:

- 20 (1) behavioral contracting;
21 (2) dispute resolution;
22 (3) classroom meetings;
23 (4) logical consequences;
24 (5) assertive discipline; and
25 (6) behavior modification.

26 (c) It is the responsibility of district placement to make written
27 recommendations to the superintendent for consideration by the district school
28 board concerning areas of curriculum deficiency having an adverse effect on
29 the employability of job candidates or progress in subsequent education
30 experiences.

31 (d) Further, district administrative personnel shall report to the
32 school board concerning adjustments in program outcomes, curricula, and
33 delivery of instruction as they are made with the use of placement and follow-
34 up information.

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36 SECTION 5. (a) Each school district plan shall provide for a district

1 level tracking system for school dropouts.

2 (b) The tracking system shall include provisions for student services
3 personnel in all schools to conduct an exit interview of students who are
4 dropping out of school and for follow-up of such students when possible.

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6 SECTION 6. School counselors shall spend at least seventy-five percent
7 (75%) of work time providing direct counseling related to students, and shall
8 devote no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of work time to administrative
9 activities, provided that such activities relate to the provision of guidance
10 services.

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12 SECTION 7. (a) The follow-up studies conducted by occupational and
13 placement services shall be on a statistically valid random-sampling basis
14 when appropriate and shall be stratified to reflect the appropriate vocational
15 programs of students graduating from or leaving the public school system.

16 (b) The occupational and placement specialist shall serve as liaison
17 between employers and the school.

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19 SECTION 8. The State Board of Education is authorized to adopt rules to
20 carry out the intent of this legislation; such rules shall include, but need
21 not be limited to:

22 (1) A description of the student services program at all educational
23 levels for which the school board is responsible.

24 (2) Criteria for the development by each school of a building-based
25 student services plan which reflects input from parents, teachers, principals,
26 students, and other agencies.

27 (3) Identification of alternative student services personnel who do not
28 meet traditional graduate school requirements and who may be used by the
29 school board in providing the recommended students services, including, but
30 not limited to, paraprofessionals, teachers, parents, and representatives of
31 business and industry.

32 (4) Establishment of minimum standards for all areas of student
33 services personnel.

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35 SECTION 9. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature

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