

1 State of Arkansas  
2 80th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1995  
4 By: Senators Gordon and Hardin

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 510

## For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE INTERVENTION/PREVENTION GRANT  
PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS SCHOOL CHILDREN; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES."

### Subtitle

"TO ESTABLISH THE INTERVENTION/  
PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS  
SCHOOL CHILDREN"

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

SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Growing numbers of children live in conditions that place them at risk of school failure;

(2) The provision of school and support services to these children and their families by public and nonprofit agencies is fragmented and does not prepare these children to learn effectively and have a successful school experience;

(3) The lack of collaboration among schools, families, local agencies, and other groups involved in family support and youth development activities results in the inefficient and ineffective use of resources to meet the needs of these children;

(4) Schools are dedicating an increasing amount of their time and resources to responding to disruptive and violent behavior rather than fulfilling their mission to challenge with high expectations each child to learn, to achieve, and to fulfill his or her potential;

(5) The relationships between school failure, disruptive and violent behavior in schools, unemployment, and criminal behavior are clear;

1 (6) The continued failure to overcome the causes of school failure and  
2 criminal behavior has caused the unacceptable dependency on costly long-term  
3 social programs and the criminal justice system.

4 (7) Responding to the needs of students who are at risk of school  
5 failure and providing for a safe and secure learning environment are  
6 cost-effective because it enables the State to substitute preventive measures  
7 for expensive crisis intervention;

8 (8) Differing local needs and local resources necessitate the  
9 development of locally generated, community-based plans that coordinate and  
10 leverage existing resources, not the imposition of uniform and inflexible,  
11 State-mandated plans; and

12 (9) The Governor is appointing a Governor\_s Partnership Council on  
13 Children and Families, a collaborative comprised of the Directors of the  
14 Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services, with representatives of  
15 local private non-profit organizations, school districts, the justice system,  
16 parents, and businesses. This council is appropriate to serve as the review  
17 and approval entity for the Intervention/Prevention Grant Program for  
18 Arkansas School age children.

19 Therefore, there is established the Intervention/Prevention Grant  
20 Program for Arkansas School Children. The purpose of the program is to  
21 provide grants to local community partnerships for locally designed  
22 innovative local programs that target juvenile crime by (i) enhancing  
23 educational attainment through coordinated services to respond to the needs  
24 of students who are at risk of school failure and at risk of participation in  
25 juvenile crime and (ii) providing for a safe and secure learning environment.

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27 SECTION 2. Applications for grants.

28 (a) *A local community partnership may apply for grant funds. Such*  
29 *partnership shall include representation of at least one (1) school district*  
30 *and may include existing educational service cooperatives, multiple school*  
31 *districts, multiple counties, or regional school districts.*

32 (b) The local community partnership may be a current entity or an  
33 entity organized for the purpose of this grant program. The local community  
34 partnership shall hold public hearings on the application for grant funds.  
35 During these hearings the local community partnerships shall accept comments

1 regarding the applications for grant funds from parents, the judiciary,  
2 businesses, community organizations, and representatives from the  
3 participating school district(s) and the local department of health and human  
4 services.

5 (c) The Governor\_s Partnership Council for Children and Families will  
6 develop application guidelines and requirements. The guidelines will require  
7 that grant applicants prepare a plan that shall include establishment or  
8 *expansion of existing program models, which may include the following, as*  
9 *well as other innovative locally or regionally developed programs:*

- 10 (1) *School-based Resource Center Model;*  
11 (2) *After School Program Model;*  
12 (3) *Cities in Schools and Families First Program Model;*  
13 (4) *Alternative Learning Program Model; and*  
14 (5) *Safe Schools Program Model.*

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16 SECTION 3. Review of applications.

17 (a) The Governor\_s Partnership Council for Children and Families will  
18 be responsible for review and approval of grant applications.

19 (b) In reviewing grant applications, the Partnership Council shall  
20 consider the demographic profile of the applicants, including but not limited  
21 to the prevalence of underserved students and families in low-income  
22 neighborhoods and in isolated rural areas in the area for which the grant is  
23 requested, the severity of the local problems with regard to children at risk  
24 of school failure and with regard to school discipline, the prevalence of  
25 juvenile crime, whether the proposed program meets State standards, and the  
26 likelihood that the locally designed plan will deal with the problems  
27 effectively.

28 (c) During the review process, the Partnership Council may recommend  
29 modifications in grant applications to applicants.

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31 SECTION 4. Award of grants.

32 The Partnership Council shall select the grant recipients prior to  
33 October 15, 1995, for local programs that will be in operation at the  
34 beginning of the second semester of the 1995-96 school year.

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1 SECTION 5. Requests for modifications of grants or for additional  
2 funds to implement grants.

3 A grant recipient may request a modification of a grant or additional  
4 funds to implement a grant through the grant application process. The  
5 request shall be reviewed and accepted or rejected in the same manner as a  
6 grant application.

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8 SECTION 6. Administration of the grant program.

9 The Partnership Council shall administer the grant program. The  
10 Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services shall provide technical  
11 assistance to grant applicants and recipients.

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13 SECTION 7. Cooperation of State and local agencies.

14 All agencies of the State and local government, including departments  
15 of social services, health departments, local mental health, mental  
16 retardation, and substance abuse authorities, court personnel, law  
17 enforcement agencies, state-supported institutions of higher learning, the  
18 community college system, and cities and counties, shall cooperate with the  
19 Partnership Council, local board(s) of education, and local community  
20 partnerships that receive grants in coordinating the program at the State  
21 level and in implementing the program at the local level. The directors of  
22 the Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services shall develop a plan  
23 for ensuring the cooperation of State agencies and local agencies, and  
24 encouraging the cooperation of private entities, especially those receiving  
25 State funds, in the coordination and implementation of the program.

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27 SECTION 8. Program evaluation; reporting requirements.

28 (a) The Partnership Council shall develop and implement an evaluation  
29 system that will assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the  
30 Intervention/Prevention Grant Program. This system shall be designed to:

31 (1) Provide information to the Partnership Council and to the  
32 General Assembly on how to improve and refine the programs;

33 (2) Enable the Partnership Council and the General Assembly to  
34 assess the overall quality, efficiency, and impact of the existing programs;

35 (3) Enable the Partnership Council and the General Assembly to

1 determine whether to modify the Intervention/Prevention Grant Program; and  
2           (4) Provide a detailed fiscal analysis of how State funds for  
3 these programs were used.

4           (b) The Partnership Council shall report to the Joint Interim  
5 Committee on Education by October 1, 1995 on its progress in developing the  
6 evaluation system and in developing and implementing the program. It shall  
7 report prior to January 1, 1996 on the evaluation system developed by the  
8 Partnership Council and on program implementation. The Partnership Council  
9 shall present a report prior to the 81st General Assembly and annually  
10 thereafter to the Joint Interim Committee on Education on the implementation  
11 of the program and the distribution of funds pursuant to this program.

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13           SECTION 9. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent  
14 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas  
15 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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17           SECTION 10. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
18 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
19 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
20 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
21 act are declared to be severable.

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23           SECTION 11. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
24 hereby repealed.

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*/s/Gordon*

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