

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

As Engrossed: S3/17/97 S3/18/97 S3/20/97 S3/27/97

A Bill

SENATE BILL 670

4
5 By: Senator Mahony
6 By: Representatives Wilkins and Judy Smith

For An Act To Be Entitled

7
8
9
10 "AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
11 STUDENT SERVICES ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

12
13
14 "TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE PUBLIC
15 SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES ACT."

16
17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

18
19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-18-1004 is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 "6-18-1004. School district plan.

22 (a) Each school district shall develop and implement a plan which
23 ensures that individual student services are coordinated in a manner utilizing
24 such techniques as differentiated staffing as to make maximum use of the
25 contribution of each service. Only those trained and certified in the
26 appropriate specialty or following a Department of Education Deficiency
27 Removal Plan will be assigned to carry out duties of each service.

28
29 (b) Each school district plan shall reflect the use of alternative
30 methods of classroom management. Such methods may include, but are not
31 limited to, the following:

- 32 (1) Behavioral contracting;
33 (2) Dispute resolution;
34 (3) Classroom meetings;
35 (4) Logical consequences;
36 (5) Assertive discipline; and

1 (6) Behavior modification.

2 (c)(1) Each school district plan shall provide for a district level
3 tracking system for school dropouts.

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

7 (d) The superintendent of a school district not in substantial
8 compliance with the terms of its plan may be requested to appear before the
9 Interim Senate and House Committees on Education."

10

11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-18-1005 is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 "6-18-1005. Student services program defined.

14 (a) A student services program is defined as a coordinated effort
15 which shall include, but is not limited to:

16 (1) Guidance and counseling services, which shall include, but
17 are not limited to:

18 (A) The availability of individual and group counseling to
19 all students;

20 (B) Orientation programs for new students at each level of
21 education and for transferring students;

22 (C) ~~Class scheduling for students~~ Academic advisement for
23 class selection;

24 (D) Consultation with parents, faculty, and out-of-school
25 agencies concerning student problems and needs;

26 (E) Utilization of student records and files;

27 (F) ~~Supervision~~ Interpretation of standardized testing and
28 ~~interpretation~~ dissemination of results to the school community;

29 (G) The following-up of early school dropouts and
30 graduates;

31 (H) A school-initiated system of parental involvement;

32 (I) An organized system of informational resources on which
33 to base educational and vocational decision-making; ~~and~~

34 (J) Educational and ~~job placement~~ career guidance,
35 including advising students on the availability of vocational and alternative
36 programs that could provide successful high school completing opportunities

1 for students at risk of dropping out of school; and

2 (K) Coordinating administration of the Test for Adult Basic
3 Education (T.A.B.E.) or the General Educational Development (G.E.D.) pre-test
4 to students by designating appropriate personnel, other than the school
5 guidance counselor, to administer the tests;

6 (L) Classroom guidance which shall be limited to thirty
7 (30) minute class sessions, not to exceed three (3) per day or ten (10) per
8 week;

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

11 (A) Evaluation of students with learning or adjustment
12 problems;

13 (B) Evaluation of students in exceptional-child education
14 programs;

15 (C) Consultation and counseling with parents, students, and
16 school personnel;

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

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

21 (F) Written policies which assure ethical procedures in
22 psychological activities;

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

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

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

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

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

35 (A) Educational and social programs which help students
36 develop skills enabling them to resolve differences and conflicts between

1 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; and

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

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

14

15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-18-1007 is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 "6-18-1007. School student services status report.

18 (a) By January 1, 1994, and each year thereafter, the Department of
19 Education shall compile and present to the Governor, the State Board of
20 Education, and the ~~Joint~~ Interim Senate and House Committee Committees on
21 Education a report outlining the status of implementing each of the provisions
22 of the Public School Student Services Act, § 6-18-1001 et seq., by the various
23 school districts, including which districts are in substantial compliance with
24 the plan required under § 6-18-1004.

25 (b)(1) By January 1, 1998, the Department of Education shall have in
26 place a staffing structure that assures the department's administration and
27 field service staff are responsible for monitoring Department of Education and
28 local school district implementation and compliance with the provisions of
29 this subchapter. The Department of Education shall employ one (1) or more
30 persons, who shall have a minumum qualification of certification as school
31 counselors.

32 (2) Each school district shall be responsible for submitting a
33 quarterly report to the Assistant Director for Monitoring and Compliance,
34 Department of Education, outlining their compliance with and implementation
35 plans for the provisions of this act.

36 (3) The Assistant Director for Curriculum and Instruction and the

1 Assistant Director for Monitoring and Compliance shall designate an individual
2 or individuals who shall have a minimum qualification of certification as a
3 school counselor to be responsible for coordinating monitoring compliance with
4 this act. Such monitoring shall include interviews with administrators,
5 counselors, students, and teachers. The Department of Education shall submit
6 a quarterly report of monitoring findings to the Senate and House Interim
7 Committees on Education."

8

9 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
10 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
11 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

12

13 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
14 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
15 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
16 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
17 act are declared to be severable.

18

19 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
20 hereby repealed.

21

/s/Mahony

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35