

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 913

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5 By: Senators Wilkins, Broadway  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE § 6-17-208 TO  
10 PROVIDE FOR PROCEDURES TO THE GRIEVANCE LAW; AND  
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE § 6-17-208  
14 TO PROVIDE FOR PROCEDURES TO THE  
15 GRIEVANCE LAW.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-208 is amended to read as follows:  
22 6-17-208. Grievance procedure.

23 (a)(1) It is the public policy of the State of Arkansas that:

24 (A) each ~~Each~~ school district shall have a written  
25 grievance procedure which provides for an orderly method of resolving  
26 concerns raised by an employee at the lowest possible administrative level  
27 and in a clear and timely manner for both parties;

28 (B) All school employees or group of employees shall have  
29 the right to file grievances and have those grievances heard.

30 (2)(A) "Grievance" means any concern related to personnel  
31 ~~policies or salary policy, salary, federal or state laws and regulations, or~~  
32 terms or conditions of employment, raised by an employee; and

33 (B) "Employee" means a person employed by a school  
34 district under a written contract.

35 (b)(1) The grievance policy shall at least include the following  
36 provisions:



1 (A) A procedure for resolving the matter informally with  
2 the employee's immediate supervisor;

3 (B) A procedure to appeal in writing an unsatisfactorily  
4 resolved grievance from the immediate supervisor to the superintendent of  
5 schools or his or her designee;

6 (C)(i) A procedure to appeal in writing an  
7 unsatisfactorily resolved grievance from the superintendent or his or her  
8 designee to the school board at the next regularly scheduled school board  
9 meeting unless both parties have agreed to a different date.

10 (ii) The hearing shall be open or closed at the  
11 discretion of the employee.

12 (iii) If the hearing is open, the parent or guardian  
13 of any student under the age of eighteen (18) years who gives testimony may  
14 elect to have the student's testimony given in a closed session; and

15 (D) The right of all parties to be represented by a person  
16 of his or her own choosing, ~~at least at the school board level~~ at any level  
17 of the procedure.

18 (2)(A) The determination by the principal, superintendent, or  
19 their designees that the concern expressed by the employee is not a grievance  
20 may be appealed to the school board for a final decision.

21 (B) At the hearing, the employee shall have an adequate  
22 opportunity to present the grievance, without time limits, and both parties  
23 shall have the opportunity to present and question witnesses.

24 (c) The grievance policy shall be adopted in accordance with this  
25 subchapter and other applicable policies of the district.

26 (d) There shall be no reprisals of any kind against any individual who  
27 exercises his or her rights under this act.

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