

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 85th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2005

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1983

4  
5 By: Representative Mahony  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACADEMIC CHALLENGE  
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO DEFER THE END-OF-COURSE  
11 ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS; TO INCORPORATE THE  
12 REQUIREMENTS OF SMART CORE IN THE ACADEMIC  
13 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH  
14 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR END-OF-COURSE  
15 ASSESSMENTS; TO CREATE THE END-OF-COURSE SUCCESS  
16 INCENTIVE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
17

## Subtitle

18  
19 AN ACT TO ALIGN STATE LAWS REGARDING  
20 END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.  
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22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-15-421 is amended to read as follows:  
26 6-15-421. Awards and sanctions.

27 (a) The Department of Education is authorized to develop and  
28 implement, contingent upon appropriation and funding being provided by the  
29 General Assembly, a program of rewards to recognize individual schools that  
30 demonstrate exceptional performance in levels of student achievement and to  
31 recognize schools that demonstrate significant improvement in student  
32 achievement.

33 (b)(1)(A) Each school that does not attain the expected levels of  
34 student performance on state-mandated indicators and individual school  
35 improvement indicators shall be designated by one (1) of several levels of  
36 sanction.



1 (B) Each level of sanction shall determine specific  
2 interventions to be provided to the students of public schools or public  
3 school districts by the department.

4 (2) The levels of sanction developed under Act 1467 of 2003  
5 shall be incorporated into the existing comprehensive school improvement  
6 plan.

7 (c) The State Board of Education shall develop a clear, concise system  
8 of reporting the academic performance of each public school on the state-  
9 mandated criterion-referenced tests, developmentally appropriate assessments  
10 for grades kindergarten through two (K-2), benchmark examinations, and end-  
11 of-course examinations, which conforms with current state and federal law.

12 (d)(1) Within thirty (30) days of receiving the test scores on end-of-  
13 course assessments, each school district shall:

14 (A) Match each student's end-of-course test score with the  
15 letter grade received in the corresponding course;

16 (B) Report each student's end-of-course test score matched  
17 with the letter grade the student received in the corresponding course to the  
18 Division of Public School Accountability;

19 (C) Report the percentage of students who received a  
20 letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding course and passed the end-  
21 of-course assessment on his or her first attempt; and

22 (D) Report the percentage of students who received a  
23 letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding course and did not pass the  
24 end-of-course assessment on his or her first attempt.

25 (2)(A) No later than December 1 of each year, the Department of  
26 Education shall report to the State Board of Education and the General  
27 Assembly the name, address, and superintendent of any high school in which  
28 more than twenty percent (20%) of the students received a letter grade of "B"  
29 or above but did not pass the end-of-course assessment on his or her first  
30 attempt.

31 (B) The report shall indicate, by high school, the number  
32 of students receiving a letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding  
33 course who did not pass the end-of-course assessment on his or her first  
34 attempt, provided such disclosure is not in conflict with applicable federal  
35 or state law.

36 (3) The Department of Education shall:

1                   (A) Investigate the classroom practices of any school  
 2 district in which more than twenty percent (20%) of the students received a  
 3 letter grade of "B" or above but did not pass the end-of-course assessment on  
 4 his or her first attempt; and

5                   (B) Make in written form to the superintendent and local  
 6 school board of directors any recommendations or changes that would improve  
 7 classroom instruction and student performance on end-of-course assessments.

8                   (4) As a part of the school improvement plan pursuant to § 6-15-  
 9 2201, the state board shall ensure that each school district and high school  
 10 develops strategies to improve student readiness for the public postsecondary  
 11 level based on annual analysis of the feedback report data.

12                   (5) The Department of Education shall biennially recommend to  
 13 the General Assembly statutory changes to reduce the incidence of  
 14 postsecondary remediation in mathematics, reading, and writing for recent  
 15 high school graduates who enroll in an institution of higher education.

16                   ~~(d)~~(e) The state board, through the department, is hereby authorized  
 17 to promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the  
 18 provisions of this subchapter.

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 20                   SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 13 is amended  
 21 to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

22                   6-16-1301. End-of-Course Success Incentive Program.

23                   (a)(1) The End-of-Course Success Incentive Program is established to  
 24 be administered by the Director of the Department of Education.

25                   (2) Contingent upon legislative appropriations, schools will be  
 26 awarded fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each student passing the end-of-course  
 27 assessment on his or her first attempt.

28                   (3) These funds shall be utilized in the schools to improve  
 29 student academic performance.

30                   (b) Subject to legislative appropriations, a teacher teaching a course  
 31 that has a state-required end-of-course assessment may be awarded subsidized  
 32 teacher training for that particular course at a cost not to exceed six  
 33 hundred fifty dollars (\$650) per teacher.

34                   (c) The provisions of this section shall be contingent on the  
 35 appropriation and availability of funding for that purpose.

36                   (d) The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate rules

1 necessary to implement this subchapter.

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 3 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005(b)(5) pertaining to the Arkansas  
 4 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

5 (5)(A)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(5)(B) of this  
 6 section, the applicant has successfully completed the core curriculum  
 7 established by the State Board of Education and the Arkansas Higher Education  
 8 Coordinating Board pursuant to § 6-61-217.

9 (ii) An applicant who graduates from an Arkansas  
 10 high school after December 31, 2001, but before December 1, 2009, and who  
 11 meets the provisions of subdivisions (b)(1)-(4) of this section but who has  
 12 not completed the core curriculum defined in subdivision (b)(5)(A) of this  
 13 section by the end of the senior year of high school due to the  
 14 unavailability of the courses in the applicant's high school shall have a  
 15 grace period of twelve (12) months from the date of high school graduation in  
 16 which to make up any course deficiencies required for program eligibility,  
 17 and.

18 ~~(B)(i) The applicant has demonstrated proficiency in the~~  
 19 ~~application of knowledge and skills in reading and writing literacy and~~  
 20 ~~mathematics by passing the end-of-course examinations as may be developed by~~  
 21 ~~the Department of Education and as may be designated by the Department of~~  
 22 ~~Higher Education for this purpose.~~

23 ~~(ii) "End-of-course" examinations shall mean those~~  
 24 ~~examinations defined in § 6-15-419(9);~~

25 (B) An applicant who graduates from an Arkansas high  
 26 school after December 31, 2009, shall:

27 (i) Have successfully completed the Smart Core  
 28 Curriculum as established by the Department of Education; and

29 (ii)(a) Have demonstrated proficiency in the  
 30 application of knowledge and skills in reading and writing literacy and  
 31 mathematics by passing the end-of-course examinations as may be developed by  
 32 the Department of Education and as may be designated by the Department of  
 33 Higher Education for this purpose.

34 (b) "End-of-course" examinations means those  
 35 examinations defined in § 6-15-419(9);

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1           SECTION 4. (a) No less than one (1) time each school year, the  
2 Department of Education shall provide an opportunity to take end-of-course  
3 assessments required under § 6-15-433 or State Board of Education rule to  
4 students attending private schools, home schools, or transferring into a  
5 school district in the state from an out-of-state school after the time for  
6 the assessments has passed in the school district.

7           (b) The Department of Education may charge an administration fee not  
8 to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for each assessment.

9           (c) The Department of Education may contract with education service  
10 cooperatives or school districts to administer the assessments.

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