

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  
4

*As Engrossed: H3/29/05*

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1983

5 By: Representative Mahony  
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7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO ALIGN STATE LAWS REGARDING  
17 END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-15-421 is amended to read as follows:  
24 6-15-421. Awards and sanctions.

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

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

35 (B) Each level of sanction shall determine specific  
36 interventions to be provided to the students of public schools or public



1 school districts by the department.

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

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

10 (d)(1)(A) Within thirty (30) days of a student completing a course for  
11 which the State Board of Education has adopted an end-of-course assessment,  
12 the school district shall provide the Division of Public School  
13 Accountability with a each student's name, identification number, and grade  
14 in the course.

15 (B) The Division of Public School Accountability shall:

16 (i) Match each student's end-of-course test score  
17 with the letter grade received in the corresponding course;

18 (ii) Report each student's end-of-course test score  
19 matched with the letter grade the student received in the corresponding  
20 course to the school district;

21 (iii) Create a report of the percentage of students  
22 who received a letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding course and  
23 passed the end-of-course assessment on his or her first attempt; and

24 (iv) Create a report of the percentage of students  
25 who received a letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding course and  
26 did not pass the end-of-course assessment on his or her first attempt.

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

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

1 or state law.

2 (3) The Department of Education shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 6-16-1301. End-of-Course Success Incentive Program.

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

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

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

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

36 (c) The provisions of this section shall be contingent on the

1 appropriation and availability of funding for that purpose.

2 (d) The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate rules  
3 necessary to implement this subchapter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (b) "End-of-course" examinations means those

1 examinations defined in § 6-15-419(9);  
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3 SECTION 4. (a) No less than one (1) time each school year, the  
4 Department of Education shall provide an opportunity to take end-of-course  
5 assessments required under § 6-15-433 or State Board of Education rule to  
6 students attending private schools, home schools, or transferring into a  
7 school district in the state from an out-of-state school after the time for  
8 the assessments has passed in the school district.

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

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

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14 /s/ Mahony  
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