

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 2422

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

8  
9 AN ACT TO EQUALIZE THE ALLOCATION OF EARLY  
10 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUNDING BASED UPON THE  
11 PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES IN POVERTY IN EACH COUNTY;  
12 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

14  
15 AN ACT TO EQUALIZE THE ALLOCATION OF  
16 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUNDING BASED  
17 UPON THE PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES IN  
18 POVERTY IN EACH COUNTY.  
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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 § 6-45-106 is amended to read as follows:  
24 6-45-106. Application process - Allocation of funding.

25 (a)(1)(A) Any early childhood program accredited and quality approved  
26 by the Department of Human Services according to standards approved by the  
27 Department of Education may apply for funding, regardless of the sponsorship  
28 of the program. Local school districts may apply for funding to operate early  
29 childhood programs, not including public school kindergarten, but an  
30 appropriate early childhood program need not be affiliated with a school  
31 district in order to receive funding.

32 (B) All applications submitted by sectarian or sectarian-  
33 affiliated programs must first be reviewed to assure that any approval of  
34 funding will not result in a violation of the United States Constitution,  
35 Amendment One.

36 (2)(A) A local-to-state match will be required in the ratio of



1 forty to sixty (40:60), except that the Division of Child Care and Early  
 2 Childhood Education of the Department of Human Services may waive the  
 3 requirement of the local-to-state match if:

4 (i) The school is in a district that has been  
 5 designated by the Department of Education as being in academic distress; and

6 (ii) The division determines that the school is  
 7 unable to provide the local-to-state match requirement after the division has  
 8 assisted the school in identifying potential funding sources to provide  
 9 local-to-state match requirements.

10 (B) The local match may consist of cash or appropriate in-  
 11 kind services.

12 (b) In order to be considered, an application must contain all  
 13 information required by the Department of Education's regulatory guidelines.

14 (c)(1)(A)(i) Each county in the state shall receive a distribution  
 15 from the Better Chance for School Success Program.

16 (ii) The total funding for the Better Chance for  
 17 School Success Program shall be divided based upon the total number of  
 18 families in the state with a gross family income not exceeding two hundred  
 19 percent (200%) of the federal poverty guidelines and distributed to each  
 20 county based upon the percentage of families in the county with a gross  
 21 family income not exceeding two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty  
 22 guidelines.

23 (iii) The percentage of families in the state with a  
 24 gross family income not exceeding two hundred percent (200%) of the federal  
 25 poverty guidelines shall be based upon the most recent decennial census data  
 26 available.

27 (B) In allocating funding for the Arkansas Better Chance  
 28 for School Success Program within each county's allotment as provided by  
 29 subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section, priority consideration shall be given  
 30 to:

31 ~~(A)(i)~~ Schools Early childhood education programs  
 32 located in school districts that have seventy-five percent (75%) or more  
 33 students scoring below proficiency on the primary benchmark exams, or other  
 34 exams designated by the Department of Education, in the preceding two (2)  
 35 school years; and

36 ~~(B)(ii)~~ Schools Early childhood education programs

1 located in school districts that have been designated by the Department of  
2 Education as being in school improvement status under § 6-15-425 or are  
3 located in a school district in academic distress.

4 (2) The goal of the state is to make available an Arkansas  
5 Better Chance for School Success Program for an additional one-fifth (1/5) of  
6 the qualifying students each year over a period of five (5) years, at which  
7 time programs shall be available in all schools statewide.

8 (3) The priority considerations for funding under the Arkansas  
9 Better Chance for School Success Program shall not affect the funding of the  
10 Arkansas Better Chance Program and shall not create any priority for funding  
11 the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program over the Arkansas  
12 Better Chance Program.

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