

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

SENATE BILL 132

4
5 By: Senator Whitaker
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO FORM COUNTYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS
10 FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 AN ACT TO FORM COUNTYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE
14 UNITS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
18

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, is amended to add an
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:

21 6-13-1701. Purpose.

22 The purpose of this subchapter is to create countywide administrative
23 units for public school districts.
24

25 6-13-1702. Definitions.

26 For purposes of this subchapter:

27 (1) "Administrative functions" means business support services,
28 central support services, general administration support services, operation
29 and maintenance support services, and student transportation support
30 services;

31 (2) "Business support services" means activities that are
32 related to goods and services for the district, including business services,
33 fiscal operations, budget planning, payroll, financial accounting, internal
34 auditing, purchasing services, printing, and administrative technology
35 services;

36 (3) "Central support services" means support of each of the



1 other instructional and support services programs, including information
 2 services to disseminate educational and administrative information for
 3 students, staff, or the public, staff services, recruitment and placement,
 4 in-service training for classified staff, and technology services;

5 (4) "Countywide administration" means one (1) superintendent and
 6 a central office performing the administrative functions for all schools
 7 within a county;

8 (5) "General administration support services" means activities
 9 that are related to establishing and administering district policy, including
 10 the activities of the district board of education, elections, reappraisal of
 11 property, the overall general administration of the district, and the office
 12 of the superintendent;

13 (6) "Operation and maintenance support services" means
 14 activities related to the operating and maintaining of the plant, grounds,
 15 buildings and equipment, maintaining general purpose vehicles including, but
 16 not limited to, trucks, tractors, graders, and staff vehicles, and
 17 maintaining order and safety in school buildings and on school grounds;

18 (7) "State funds" means:

19 (A) All money derived from state revenues and distributed
 20 through the Department of Education Public School Fund; and

21 (B) Ad valorem property tax, up to the uniform rate of tax
 22 established under Amendment 74 to the Arkansas Constitution and distributed
 23 to the districts; and

24 (8) "Student transportation support services" means activities
 25 related to the transporting of students to and from school and other
 26 activities, including supervision, and vehicle operation and maintenance.

27
 28 6-13-1703. Countywide administrative units.

29 (a)(1) The administrative functions of public school districts shall
 30 be administratively reorganized so that all schools in a county become one
 31 (1) countywide school district and share one (1) countywide administration.

32 (2) The administrative reorganization required under this
 33 subchapter is intended to require reorganization of only the administration
 34 and administrative functions of a school district and shall not be construed
 35 to require the consolidation of schools, the relocation of schools, the
 36 closing of any facilities, or the transportation of students.

1 (b) For purposes of this subchapter, a school shall be considered
2 within a county if the school district's principal administrative office is
3 located in the county on January 1, 2005.

4
5 6-13-1704. Organization of countywide administrative units.

6 (a)(1) The boards of directors of each school district within a county
7 shall collectively meet to develop a plan to create a countywide
8 administration and countywide interim board as allowed by under § 6-13-1406
9 and in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter.

10 (2) The plans shall be submitted for approval to the State Board
11 of Education by April 30, 2006.

12 (3) Each plan shall be drafted in a manner that:

13 (A) Complies with all state laws, federal laws, state
14 rules and regulations, and applicable court orders;

15 (B) Is fair to all districts involved; and

16 (C) Serves the best interest of the students served by
17 each district.

18 (4) The state board shall require the modification of any plan
19 that is not in compliance with subdivision (a)(3)(C) of this section.

20 (b) The state board may receive and hear petitions or move on its own
21 motion to create countywide administrations of school districts in a
22 timeframe to comply with the provisions of this subchapter.

23 (c)(1) The state board shall cause the creation of countywide
24 administrations in accordance with this subchapter effective July 1, 2006.

25 (2) The state board may take action prior to July 1, 2006, as
26 necessary for an orderly and efficient transition of administration and
27 administrative functions on July 1, 2006.

28 (d) No existing school administration shall be reorganized if the
29 reorganization is prohibited by an existing court order.

30 (e)(1) Countywide school boards established under this subchapter
31 shall be created in compliance with existing laws for school district board
32 of directors.

33 (2) Additionally, each local school's parent advisory council as
34 established in § 6-13-1801 may have a member serve as an ex officio nonvoting
35 member on the countywide school board.

36

1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 6 is amended
2 to add the following section:

3 6-13-635. Countywide school district boards of directors – Election
4 zones.

5 (a) Each countywide school district shall elect its board of directors
6 from single-member electoral zones with the exception that those school
7 districts with seven (7) or nine (9) board members may have two (2) of its
8 members elected at-large.

9 (b) On or before August 1, 2005, each school district shall produce
10 and file with the county board of election commissioners a map or a legal
11 description of its electoral zones to be used at the next school election.

12 (c)(1) At the 2005 annual school election, any school district whose
13 boundaries will be changed under § 6-13-1701 through §6-13-1704 or who
14 previously had a board consisting solely of at-large members shall conduct an
15 election at which all board members are elected.

16 (2) Members elected at the 2005 annual school election shall
17 begin their term of office on July 1, 2006, and the members serving on the
18 board immediately prior to the 2005 annual school election shall continue to
19 serve until June 30, 2006.

20 (3) At the first meeting of the board of directors following the
21 2005 school election in those school districts to whom subdivision (c)(1) of
22 this section applies, members shall draw lots for term lengths.

23 (d)(1) Upon completion of the 2010 decennial census and every
24 decennial census thereafter and ninety (90) days before the 2012 school
25 election and every subsequent school election falling two (2) years hence of
26 the decennial census, the school district shall redraw its electoral zones to
27 be in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the
28 Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

29 (2) The election following the adjustment of electoral zone
30 boundaries shall be of the same manner as explicated in subsection (c) of
31 this section.

32
33 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-13-620(a)(4), concerning the powers and
34 duties of the local school board of directors, is amended to read as follows:

35 (4)(A)(i) Employ teachers and other employees necessary for the
36 proper conduct of the public schools of the district and make written

1 contracts with teachers and all other employees in the form prescribed by the
 2 State Board of Education.

3 (ii) If a school district shares a countywide
 4 administration, the board of directors of each school shall not have the
 5 authority to hire a superintendent or other countywide administrative staff.
 6 A superintendent and countywide administrative staff shall be hired by the
 7 countywide school board.

8
 9 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-13-109 is amended to read as follows:
 10 6-13-109. School superintendent. [Effective July 1, 2000.]

11 (a)(1) The public school districts in the state shall each employ a
 12 superintendent of schools, whose qualifications and duties shall be
 13 prescribed by the General Assembly and the State Board of Education.

14 (2) If a school district shares a countywide administration and
 15 administrative function, there shall be only one (1) superintendent for all
 16 of the districts served by the countywide administration who shall be hired
 17 by the countywide school board.

18 (b) "Superintendent of schools" ~~is defined as~~ means the executive
 19 officer of a school district board of directors directing the affairs of the
 20 school district and teaching not more than one-half (1/2) of the time in the
 21 school day.

22
 23 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, is amended to add the
 24 following new subchapter:

25 6-13-1801. Parent advisory council – Establishment.

26 Each school shall establish a parent advisory council based on the
 27 following tenets:

28 (1) A student’s education is a responsibility shared by the
 29 school and family during the entire time that he or she spends in school;

30 (2) Schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners in
 31 order to support the goal of the schools to educate all students effectively;

32 (3) Parents are integral components of a school’s ability to
 33 provide for the educational success of students, although parents and
 34 students are diverse in culture, language, and needs;

35 (4) The engagement of parents is essential to improve student
 36 achievement; and

1 (5) Schools should foster a safe and secure environment that
2 supports active parental involvement.

3
4 6-13-1802. Parent advisory council – Membership.

5 (a) The parent advisory council shall consist of the school principal
6 and no fewer than six (6) parents or legal guardians, representative of the
7 grade levels, race, gender, and socio-economic status of the school's
8 population.

9 (b) No parent or legal guardian representative on the parent advisory
10 council may be an employee of that school.

11 (c) Each school shall establish policies regarding individual members'
12 length of service on the council and filling vacancies.

13 (d) Membership on the council shall be by nomination from the school
14 principal and that school's organized parent group.

15 (e) The countywide school district board of directors shall confirm
16 nominations.

17
18 6-13-1803. Parent advisory council – Meetings.

19 The parent advisory council shall be convened at least quarterly during
20 the school year.

21
22 6-13-1804. Parent advisory council – Roles and responsibilities.

23 (a) The parent advisory council shall recognize the principal as the
24 chief academic and operational officer of the school.

25 (b) The council also shall:

26 (1) Annually review the school improvement plan, including the
27 desegregation of achievement data from each tested grade or course in the
28 school as well as the performance of the various student subgroups;

29 (2) Annually review the school's report card, including the
30 narrative of yearly progress based on current state and federal requirements;

31 (3) Make recommendations encouraging regular, two-way meaningful
32 communication with parents and legal guardians, including, but not limited
33 to, publishing the school's process for resolving parental concerns,
34 including whom to approach first and how to develop solutions;

35 (4) Make recommendations regarding the school's parental
36 involvement program, including activities such as sponsoring seminars to

1 inform parents and legal guardians of high school students about how to be
2 involved in the decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and
3 preparation for postsecondary opportunities, as well as other activities to
4 promote parent participation;

5 (5) Provide input into the development of parental involvement
6 activities as required in the school improvement plan;

7 (6)(A) Make recommendations regarding appropriate professional
8 development activities to be included as part of the required professional
9 development for teachers and administrators.

10 (B) These professional activities shall enhance the
11 understanding of effective parent involvement; and

12 (7) Make recommendations regarding the school's collaboration
13 with community organizations for the purpose of enhancing student
14 achievement.

15 (c) The parent advisory council for each school may choose one (1)
16 member of the council to serve as an ex officio nonvoting member of the
17 countywide school board of directors.

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