

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: S3/21/05

A Bill

SENATE BILL 132

5 By: Senators Whitaker, Argue, Salmon, B. Johnson
6 By: Representatives Ledbetter, Borhauer, Rosenbaum
7
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO FORM COUNTYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS
11 FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO FORM COUNTYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE
15 UNITS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
16
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

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

22 6-13-1701. Purpose.

23 The purpose of this subchapter is to create countywide administrative
24 units for public school districts.
25

26 6-13-1702. Definitions.

27 For purposes of this subchapter:

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

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



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

6 (4) "Countywide administration" means one (1) county chancellor
7 of education, (1) board of directors, and a central office performing the
8 administrative functions for all schools within a county;

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

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

19 (7) "State funds" means:

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

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

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

28
29 6-13-1703. Countywide administrative units.

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

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

1 closing of any facilities, or the transportation of students.

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

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

7 (a)(1)(A) The House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate
8 Interim Committee on Education shall jointly develop a plan to gradually
9 create countywide administrative units as provided under this act and making
10 recommendations to the General Assembly prior to beginning of the next
11 regular session of the General Assembly.

12 (B) The plan shall:

13 (i) Be in compliance with all state laws, federal
14 laws, state rules and regulations, and applicable court orders;

15 (ii) Be fair to all districts involved;

16 (iii) Serve the best interest of the students served
17 by each district; and

18 (iv) Provide the creation of countywide
19 administrative units in no less than fifteen (15) counties each biennium over
20 the next ten (10) years;

21 (v) The fifteen (15) counties selected for each
22 biennium shall include counties in each of the four (4) congressional
23 districts of the state.

24 (2)(A) The House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate
25 Interim Committee on Education may make exceptions, accommodations, or other
26 appropriate recommendations for school districts that are geographically
27 isolated, that are very small, or that are very large.

28 (B) Any exceptions, accommodations, or other appropriate
29 recommendations for school districts that are geographically isolated, that
30 are very small, or that are very large shall be based on the best educational
31 interests of the students in the districts as determined by the House Interim
32 Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education.

33 (b) The State Board of Education shall cause the creation of
34 countywide administrations in any county approved by the General Assembly
35 under subsection (a).

36 (c) After January 1, 2016, the State Board of Education shall create a

1 countywide administration for any school districts not selected by the
2 General Assembly for countywide administration prior to December 1, 2015,
3 unless the General Assembly has approved an exception, accommodation, or
4 other appropriate recommendation for a school district because the school
5 district is geographically isolated, very small, or very large.

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

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

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

14
15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-13-109 is amended to read as follows:

16 6-13-109. School superintendent or chancellors. [Effective July 1,
17 2000.]

18 (a)(1) ~~The~~ Except as provided under subdivision (2) of this section,
19 public school districts in the state shall each employ a superintendent of
20 schools, whose qualifications and duties shall be prescribed by the General
21 Assembly and the State Board of Education.

22 (2) Upon the creation of countywide administrative units under
23 this § 6-17-1701 through 6-17-1704, neither the countywide school district
24 nor any school in the countywide administrative unit may employ a
25 superintendent of schools, but shall employ in lieu of superintendents only
26 one (1) county chancellor of education to perform duties previously performed
27 by the separate superintendents and duties which shall be prescribed by the
28 General Assembly and the State Board of Education.

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

33 (2) "County chancellor of education" means the executive officer
34 of countywide administration board of directors directing the administrative
35 affairs of the countywide school district.

36

1 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, is amended to add the
2 following new subchapter:

3 6-13-1801. Parent advisory council – Establishment.

4 Upon creation of a countywide administrative unit, each school shall
5 establish a parent advisory council based on the following tenets:

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

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

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

13 (4) The engagement of parents is essential to improve student
14 achievement; and

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

17
18 6-13-1802. Parent advisory council – Membership.

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

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

25 (c) Each school shall establish policies regarding individual members’
26 length of service on the council and filling vacancies.

27 (d) Membership on the council shall be by nomination from the school
28 principal and that school’s organized parent group.

29 (e) The countywide school district board of directors shall confirm
30 nominations.

31
32 6-13-1803. Parent advisory council – Meetings.

33 The parent advisory council shall be convened at least quarterly during
34 the school year.

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36 6-13-1804. Parent advisory council – Roles and responsibilities.

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

3 (b) The council also shall:

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

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

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

13 (4) Make recommendations regarding the school's parental
14 involvement program, including activities such as sponsoring seminars to
15 inform parents and legal guardians of high school students about how to be
16 involved in the decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and
17 preparation for postsecondary opportunities, as well as other activities to
18 promote parent participation;

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

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

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

26 (7) Make recommendations regarding the school's collaboration
27 with community organizations for the purpose of enhancing student
28 achievement.

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

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33 /s/ Whitaker
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