

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 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

As Engrossed: H3/2/07 H3/16/07

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1517

5 By: Representatives Cook, Blount, T. Bradford, J. Johnson, Rainey, Saunders, Walters  
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7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT IN CONCORDANCE WITH THE 2006 ACT 57 STUDY;  
10 TO EXPAND MONITORING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
11 EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF  
12 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

### Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO EXPAND MONITORING BY THE  
15 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL  
16 DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL  
17 IMPROVEMENT PLANS.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. ACT 57 COMPLIANCE.

24 The General Assembly declares this act to be in concordance with the  
25 study of the state's system of public education conducted in 2006 by the  
26 Adequacy Study Oversight Subcommittee, the Senate Interim Committee on  
27 Education, and the House Interim Committee on Education in compliance with  
28 Act 57 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003.  
29

30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-426(e)-(f), concerning school  
31 improvement, is amended to read as follows:

32 (e) ~~Any~~ Each public school or school district ~~classified as in school~~  
33 ~~improvement~~ shall develop and file with the department a ~~revised~~  
34 comprehensive school improvement plan which shall be reviewed by the  
35 department and shall be designed to ensure that all students have an  
36 opportunity to obtain an adequate education and demonstrate proficiency on



1 all portions of the state-mandated ~~critierion-referenced tests~~ assessments.

2 (f) The comprehensive school improvement plan shall ~~strategies~~  
3 ~~to address the achievement gap existing for any identifiable group or~~  
4 ~~subgroup as identified in the program and the gap of that subgroup from the~~  
5 ~~academic standard.;~~

6 (1) Be based on an analysis of student performance data and  
7 other relevant data that provides a plan of action to address deficiencies in  
8 student performance and any academic achievement gap evidenced in the  
9 Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program; and

10 (2) Include the public school or school district's use of  
11 categorical funding for:

12 (A) Alternative learning environments;

13 (B) Professional development;

14 (C) English-language learners; and

15 (D) National school lunch students, as defined by § 6-20-  
16 2303(12)(A).

17 (g) Any public school or school district classified as in school  
18 improvement under § 6-15-425 shall develop and file with the department a  
19 revised comprehensive school improvement plan meeting the requirements of  
20 this section and containing any additional requirements determined necessary  
21 by the department to ensure that all students in the public school or school  
22 district have an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency on all portions of  
23 the state-mandated assessments.

24 (h)(1) At the end of each school year, the school district shall  
25 assess the effectiveness of an intervention or other action included in the  
26 comprehensive school improvement plan in improving student performance and  
27 include the assessment in the comprehensive school improvement plan for the  
28 following school year.

29 (i)(1) The department shall monitor each public school's and school  
30 district's compliance regarding its comprehensive school improvement plan,  
31 including without limitation:

32 (A) The use of public school funding under the Public  
33 School Funding Act of 2003, § 6-20-2301 et seq. for the following:

34 (i) Instructional facilitators, as that term is  
35 defined by the State Board of Education;

36 (ii) Alternative learning environments,

1 professional development, English-language learners, and national school  
2 lunch students identifying specific:

3 (a) Educational strategies;

4 (b) Resources used, including tutors,  
5 teachers' aides, counselors, social workers, and nurses; and

6 (c) Expenditures made from categorical funds  
7 provided under § 6-20-2305(b); and

8 (B) The implementation of programs for students whose  
9 academic achievement is below proficient; and

10 (2) As part of the monitoring process under this subsection (i),  
11 the department shall evaluate the research cited by the public school or  
12 school district in its comprehensive school improvement plan in support of  
13 the proposed interventions and actions to assess its independence and  
14 empirical support for the effectiveness of the program.

15 (3) The department shall use the information obtained through  
16 monitoring comprehensive school improvement plans under this section to:

17 (A) Determine the compliance of the public school or  
18 school district with the provisions of this subchapter; and

19 (B) Evaluate whether the assessment conducted by the  
20 public school or school district under subsection (h) of this section was  
21 conducted properly, and assess the areas in which the public school or school  
22 district needs to revise its plan.

23 ~~(f) Professional development activities of a public school or public~~  
24 ~~school district in school improvement shall be related to the comprehensive~~  
25 ~~school improvement plan and designed to increase student learning and~~  
26 ~~achievement.~~

27  
28 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
29 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that in order to ensure an adequate  
30 education for all Arkansas public school students, public schools or school  
31 districts should be required to file detailed school improvement plans with  
32 the Department of Education, and the Department of Education should monitor  
33 compliance with those plans; and that this act is immediately necessary  
34 because the determination of educational strategies and the use of public  
35 funds to develop and implement school improvement plans depends on early  
36 planning by public school districts; that if these plans are not developed by

1 July 1, 2007, public school students in those schools and school districts  
2 will not benefit from the proper implementation of the plans. Therefore, an  
3 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for  
4 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become  
5 effective on:

6 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

7 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
8 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
9 bill; or

10 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
11 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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13 */s/ Cook, et al*  
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