

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 H3/19/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1517

5 By: Representatives Cook, Blount, T. Bradford, J. Johnson, Rainey, Saunders, Walters
6
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:
22

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.

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 (j) The State Board of Education shall incorporate the provisions of
24 subsections (f) through (i) of this section into its rules for comprehensive
25 school improvement plans and may amend those rules in the same manner as
26 provided by law for other rules established by the state board.

27 ~~(f) Professional development activities of a public school or public~~
28 ~~professional development, English-language learners, and national school~~
29 ~~lunch students identifying specific:~~

30 (a) Educational strategies;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 ~~(f) Professional development activities of a public school or public~~
15 ~~school district in school improvement shall be related to the comprehensive~~
16 ~~school improvement plan and designed to increase student learning and~~
17 ~~achievement.~~

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19 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
20 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that in order to ensure an adequate
21 education for all Arkansas public school students, public schools or school
22 districts should be required to file detailed school improvement plans with
23 the Department of Education, and the Department of Education should monitor
24 compliance with those plans; and that this act is immediately necessary
25 because the determination of educational strategies and the use of public
26 funds to develop and implement school improvement plans depends on early
27 planning by public school districts; that if these plans are not developed by
28 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
29 bill; or

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

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33 /s/ Cook, et al
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