

State of Arkansas
86th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1562

By: Representative Chesterfield

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE COLLEGE REMEDIATION RATE
AND ENSURE A GENERAL, SUITABLE, AND EFFICIENT
SYSTEM OF COLLEGE AND WORKFORCE READINESS FOR ALL
STUDENTS; TO SUPPORT VOLUNTARY STATEWIDE ACT
ASSESSMENT FOR ALL 11TH GRADE STUDENTS; TO
ENCOURAGE GREATER PARTICPATION IN THE SMART CORE
CURRICULUM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE COLLEGE
REMEDICATION RATE AND ENSURE A GENERAL,
SUITABLE, AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF
COLLEGE AND WORKFORCE READINESS FOR ALL
STUDENTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18 is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER 16 – VOLUNTARY UNIVERSAL ACT ASSESMENT PROGRAM ACT

6-18-1601. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Voluntary Universal ACT Assessment Program Act".

6-18-1602. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:



1 (1) "ACT Assessment" means a test of student educational
 2 development that measures student readiness for future learning and that may
 3 be used by institutions of higher education as part of their admissions,
 4 placement, and scholarship processes and high schools to improve college and
 5 workforce readiness; and

6 (2) "Smart Core" means the required curriculum that is part of
 7 Next Step, a state initiative focused on improving Arkansas public schools
 8 for all students so they are prepared for life beyond graduation.

9
 10 6-18-1603. Creation.

11 There is created in the Department of Education the Voluntary Universal
 12 ACT Assessment Program to be developed, implemented, and administered by the
 13 Department of Education as provided in this subchapter.

14
 15 6-18-1604. Purpose.

16 The purpose of the Voluntary Universal ACT Assessment Program is to:

17 (1) Improve the college readiness of all students in grade
 18 eleven (11);

19 (2) To prevent or minimize the continued remediation of nearly
 20 fifty percent (50%) of all students entering Arkansas institutions of higher
 21 education in one (1) or more subjects because they do not meet the college
 22 readiness score of nineteen (19) or higher on the ACT Assessment;

23 (3) Advance the number of students including students of low-
 24 income, English language learners, and minority students taking the ACT
 25 Assessment while in grade eleven (11) to increase the number of first
 26 generation college students;

27 (4) Increase the college participation rates among all racial
 28 and ethnic groups;

29 (5) Improve preparation for college and the workforce;

30 (6) Improve the course selection patterns of high school
 31 students;

32 (7) Increase the early identification of college ready students;

33 (8) Support students participating in the Smart Core by
 34 providing a baseline for their college and workforce readiness and an
 35 opportunity to benefit from earlier remediation such as the College
 36 Preparatory Enrichment Program or course selection review; and

1 (9) Provide a link between what students have learned, what they
2 need to learn, and what is necessary in order to be college or workforce
3 ready or both by providing expectations and measuring their progress.

4
5 6-18-1605. Smart Core and ACT Assessment.

6 (a) The General Assembly finds that students who take the recommended
7 Smart Core courses or students who take additional courses after completing
8 the Smart Core continue to perform better on the ACT Assessment than students
9 who take less than the recommended core.

10 (b) The recommended core courses according to ACT Assessment officials
11 include:

12 (1) Four (4) years or more of English;

13 (2) Three (3) years or more of mathematics;

14 (3) Three (3) years or more of social studies; and

15 (4) Three (3) years or more of natural sciences.

16
17 6-18-1606. Implementation.

18 (a) Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, the Voluntary Universal
19 ACT Assessment Program shall provide each student in grade eleven (11) with
20 the opportunity to choose whether to take the ACT Assessment while in grade
21 eleven (11) without any charge.

22 (b) Under the Voluntary Universal ACT Assessment Program, the state
23 shall pay the fee for each student in grade eleven (11) who chooses to take
24 the ACT Assessment while in grade eleven (11).

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26 6-18-1607. Rules.

27 The Arkansas Department of Higher Education and the Arkansas Department
28 of Education shall develop rules for the administration of this subchapter.

29
30 6-18-1608. Reporting.

31 The Arkansas Department of Higher Education and the Arkansas Department
32 of Education shall submit a combined annual report to Legislative Council by
33 December 1 of each year that establishes compliance with this subchapter,
34 provides data on the number of participants in the Voluntary Universal ACT
35 Assessment Program, and outlines the impact of this program on the college-
36 readiness of high school seniors and the remediation rates at institutions of

higher education.

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