

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.

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/21/07 H2/23/07 S2/28/07*

86th General Assembly

# A Bill

Regular Session, 2007

HOUSE BILL 1632

By: Representatives Kenney, Abernathy, Blount, T. Bradford, Cheatham, Cook, Dickinson, Everett, Harris, J. Johnson, Lamoureux, M. Martin, Norton, Petrus, Pickett, Rainey, Rosenbaum, Saunders, Walters, Wood, Wagner, *Adcock, Allen, Anderson, T. Baker, Berry, Bond, Breedlove, E. Brown, J. Brown, Burkes, Burris, Cash, Chesterfield, Cooper, Cornwell, L. Cowling, D. Creekmore, Davenport, Davis, S. Dobbins, Dunn, Edwards, D. Evans, L. Evans, Flowers, Garner, Gaskill, George, Glidewell, R. Green, Greenberg, Hall, Hardwick, Hardy, Harrelson, Hawkins, House, Hoyt, D. Hutchinson, Hyde, Jeffrey, D. Johnson, Key, Kidd, King, W. Lewellen, Lovell, Lowery, Maloch, Maxwell, Medley, Moore, Overbey, Pace, Pate, Patterson, Pennartz, Pierce, Powers, S. Prater, Pyle, Ragland, Reep, Reynolds, J. Roebuck, Rogers, Sample, Schulte, Shelby, L. Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Sumpter, Thyer, Webb, Wells, Wills, Woods, Wyatt*

By: Senators Broadway, Critcher, Baker, Bookout, B. Johnson, Wilkins, Womack, Argue, Bisbee

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT IN CONCORDANCE WITH THE 2006 ACT 57  
ADEQUACY STUDY; TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
FUNDING ACT OF 2003 TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF PER  
STUDENT FOUNDATION FUNDING AND CATEGORICAL  
FUNDING; TO ENSURE THAT EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
DISTRICT IN THE STATE RECEIVES THE FULL AMOUNT OF  
FOUNDATION FUNDING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
FUNDING ACT OF 2003 AND TO ENSURE THAT  
EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE  
STATE RECEIVES THE FULL AMOUNT OF  
FOUNDATION FUNDING.

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



1       SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. ACT 57 COMPLIANCE.

2       The General Assembly declares this act to be in concordance with the  
 3 study of the state's system of public education conducted in 2006 by the  
 4 Adequacy Study Oversight Subcommittee, the House Interim Committee on  
 5 Education, and the Senate Interim Committee on Education in compliance with  
 6 Act 57 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003.

7  
 8       SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2303(11) through (22), concerning the  
 9 definitions relating to public school funding, are amended to read as  
 10 follows:

11               (11) "Miscellaneous funds" means the average of those funds  
 12 collected either in the average of the previous five (5) school years or in  
 13 the previous school year, whichever is less, and reported to the Department  
 14 of Education by April 15 of each school year, consisting of:

15                       (A) ~~from funds~~ Funds received by a school district  
 16 from federal forest reserves, federal grazing rights, federal mineral rights,  
 17 federal impact aid, federal flood control, wildlife refuge funds, severance  
 18 taxes, ~~;~~ and

19                       (B) ~~funds~~ Funds received by the school district in  
 20 lieu of taxes, and local sales and use taxes dedicated to education pursuant  
 21 to §§ 26-74-201 et seq., § 26-74-301 et seq., § 26-75-301 et seq., and the  
 22 Local Government Bond Act of 1985, § 14-164-301 et seq.;

23  
 24               (12)(A) "National school lunch students" means those students or  
 25 the percentage of enrolled students from low socioeconomic backgrounds as  
 26 indicated by eligibility for free or reduced-price meals under the National  
 27 School Lunch Act as determined on October 1 of each previous school year and  
 28 submitted to the department, unless the school district is identified by the  
 29 ~~department~~ department as participating in the special assistance certification  
 30 and reimbursement alternative implemented under 42 U.S.C. § 1759a, as  
 31 interpreted in 7 C.F.R. § 245.9.

32                       (B) ~~(i)~~ If the school district is participating under 42  
 33 U.S.C. § 1759a, then for purposes of funding under § 6-20-2305(b), such a  
 34 school district's annual percentage of national school lunch students shall  
 35 be equal to the percentage submitted in the base year, which means the last  
 36 school year for which eligibility determinations were made and meal counts

were taken by type ~~except for the 2005-2006 school year as explicated in subdivision (12)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) If a school district received funding for national school lunch students in the 2004-2005 school year as though one hundred percent (100%) of its students were eligible for free meals because of the school district's participation under 42 U.S.C. § 1759a, then that school district shall be funded for the 2005-2006 school year based upon the October 1, 2005, submission by a school district to the department if the school district has completed a new student eligibility determination and submitted that new eligibility determination to the department by October 1, 2005;~~

(13) "Net revenues" means actual revenues received from ad valorem taxes collected on behalf of a school district, multiplied by the uniform rate of tax over the total millage rate of the school district.

~~(13)(14)~~ "Previous year" or "previous school year" means the school year immediately preceding the school year or fiscal year in which funds are allocated;

~~(14)(A)(15)(A)~~ "Professional development" means a coordinated set of planned learning activities for teachers and administrators that are standards-based.

(B) Professional development shall result in individual, schoolwide, and systemwide improvement designed to ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency in the state academic standards;

(16) "Quarterly average daily membership" means the average daily membership for one (1) quarter of a school year used for calculating student growth funding and as determined by rule established by the Department of Education;

(17) (A) "Revenues" means:

(i) The following items collected or received on behalf of a school district:

(a) Current year ad valorem taxes; plus

(b) Delinquent ad valorem taxes; plus

(c) Homestead tax credit; plus

(d) Interest earned on any tax funds held in trust; less

(ii) All costs and net commissions relating to the

1 collection of ad valorem taxes authorized by law that are collected or  
 2 withheld for later distribution by the county offices.

3 (B) On or before March 31 of each year, the Assessment  
 4 Coordination Department shall compile the revenues for each school district  
 5 for the calendar year preceding the end of the school fiscal year.

6 (C) The calculation of revenues shall be made in  
 7 accordance with rules established by the Assessment Coordination Department.

8 ~~(15)~~(18) "School district" means a geographic area with an  
 9 elected board of directors that qualifies as a taxing unit for purposes of ad  
 10 valorem property taxes under title 26 of the Arkansas Code, which board  
 11 conducts the daily affairs of public schools pursuant to the supervisory  
 12 authority vested in it by the General Assembly and title 6 of the Arkansas  
 13 Code;

14 ~~(16)~~(19) "Secondary vocational area center" means a public  
 15 secondary vocational institution organized for the specific purpose of  
 16 educating high school students in specific occupational or vocational areas  
 17 and serving students from more than one (1) participating school district;

18 ~~(17)~~(20) "Special education catastrophic occurrences" means  
 19 individual cases in which special education and related services required by  
 20 the individualized education program of a particular student with  
 21 disabilities are unduly expensive, extraordinary, or beyond the routine and  
 22 normal costs associated with special education and related services provided  
 23 by a school district and funding is pursuant to rules promulgated by the  
 24 state board;

25 ~~(18)~~(21) "State foundation funding aid" means the amount of  
 26 state financial aid provided to each school district and computed as the  
 27 difference between the foundation funding amount established by the General  
 28 Assembly and the sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the uniform rate of tax  
 29 multiplied by the property assessment of the school district plus ~~seventy-~~  
 30 ~~five percent (75%) of the~~ miscellaneous funds of the school district;

31 ~~(19)~~(A)(22) "Student growth funding" means the amount of state  
 32 financial aid provided to each school district from funds made available for  
 33 ~~that purpose~~ the growth in the average daily membership for the school  
 34 district.

35 ~~(B) For school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, student~~  
 36 ~~growth funding is calculated as five thousand four hundred dollars (\$5,400)~~

~~multiplied by the increase, if any, in the school district's two-quarter average of the average daily membership of the current school year over the local school district's two-quarter average of the average daily membership for the previous school year, excluding any increase resulting solely from consolidation or annexation with another school district;~~

~~(20)~~(23) "Teachers of the gifted and talented" means individuals certified by the state board to teach students identified as gifted and talented;

~~(21)~~(24) "Technology" means any equipment for instructional purposes that is electronic in nature, including, but not limited to, computer hardware, computer software, Internet connectivity, and distance learning; and

~~(22)~~(25) "Uniform rate of tax" means a uniform rate of ad valorem property tax of twenty-five (25) mills to be levied on the assessed value of all taxable real, personal, utility, and regulated carrier property in the state to be used solely for the maintenance and operation of the public schools as required by Arkansas Constitution, Article 14, § 3, as amended by Arkansas Constitution, Amendments 11, 40, and 74.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(a) through (b)(4)(A), concerning foundation funding and categorical funding, are amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) For each school year, each school district shall receive state foundation funding aid computed as the difference between the foundation funding amount pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section and the sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the uniform rate of tax multiplied by the property assessment of the school district plus ~~seventy-five percent (75%) of the~~ miscellaneous funds of the school district.

(B) The Department of Education shall distribute state foundation funding aid to each school district in eleven (11) equal monthly payments.

~~(2)(A) For the 2005-2006 school year, the foundation funding amount is equal to five thousand four hundred eighty-six dollars (\$5,486) multiplied by the district's average daily membership for the previous school year.~~

~~(B)~~(2)(A) For the ~~2006-2007~~ 2007-2008 school year, the foundation funding amount is equal to ~~five thousand six hundred twenty~~

1 ~~dollars (\$5,620)~~ five thousand seven hundred nineteen dollars (\$5,719)  
2 multiplied by the school district's average daily membership for the previous  
3 school year.

4 (B) For the 2008-2009 school year, the foundation funding  
5 amount is equal to five thousand seven hundred eighty-nine dollars (\$5,789)  
6 multiplied by the school district's average daily membership for the previous  
7 school year.

8 ~~(C) For the 2005-2006 school year and the 2006-2007 school~~  
9 ~~year, the foundation funding amount provided under subdivisions (a)(2)(A) and~~  
10 ~~(B) of this section shall be increased by forty two dollars (\$42.00)~~  
11 ~~multiplied by the district's average daily membership for the previous school~~  
12 ~~year to pay for increased school district costs resulting from the 2005-2006~~  
13 ~~and 2006-2007 increases in the employer's rate of contribution to the~~  
14 ~~Arkansas Teacher Retirement System from thirteen percent (13%) to fourteen~~  
15 ~~percent (14%).~~

16 (3)(A) ~~During the 2006-2007, school year, a A school district~~  
17 ~~with an~~ that has experienced a decline in average daily membership over the  
18 two (2) immediately preceding school years that is less than the school  
19 district's previous year's average daily membership shall receive:

20 (i) Declining enrollment funding equal to the  
21 difference between the average of the two (2) immediately preceding years'  
22 average daily memberships and the average daily membership for the previous  
23 school year multiplied by ~~five thousand six hundred twenty dollars (\$5,620)~~  
24 the amount of foundation funding set forth in subdivision (a)(2) of this  
25 section; or

26 (ii) Special needs isolated funding under § 6-20-  
27 604.

28 (B) Any funding appropriated and available for declining  
29 enrollment funding under subdivision (a)(3)(A)(i) of this section or special  
30 needs isolated funding under § 6-20-604 that is not distributed under  
31 subdivision (a)(3)(A) of this section shall be prorated and distributed  
32 equally per average lost student to school districts that meet the  
33 qualifications for both declining enrollment funding under subsection  
34 (a)(3)(A)(i) of this section and special needs isolated funding under § 6-20-  
35 604.

36 (C) No school district shall receive both declining

enrollment funding under subdivision (a)(3)(A)(i) of this section and student growth funding under § 6-20-2305(c).

(4)(A) By the end of each school fiscal year, for a school district whose net revenues are less than the sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the uniform rate of tax multiplied by the property assessment of the school district, the department shall distribute to the school district the difference between:

(i) The net revenues of the school district; and

(ii) The sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the uniform rate of tax multiplied by the property assessment of the school district.

(B) For a school district whose net revenues are more than the sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the uniform rate of tax multiplied by the property assessment of the school district, the department, under the authority of § 6-20-2306, shall recoup from the school district an amount equal to the difference between:

(i) The net revenues of the school district; and

(ii) The sum of ninety-eight percent (98%) of the uniform rate of tax multiplied by the property assessment of the school district.

(b)(1) In addition to state foundation funding aid, each school district shall receive funding for additional education categories as provided in subdivisions (b)(2)-(6) of this section subsection (b).

(2)(A)(i) For school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, alternative learning environment funding and secondary vocational area center funding shall be three thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$3,250) four thousand sixty-three dollars (\$4,063) multiplied by:

(i) The number of identified alternative learning environment students enrolled during the previous school year; and

(ii) The number of students enrolled in a secondary vocational area center during the previous school year.

(B)(ii) Funding for students in alternative learning environments shall be distributed based on rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.

(C)(B)(i) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year,

1 secondary vocational area center funding shall be three thousand two hundred  
2 fifty dollars (\$3,250) multiplied by the number of students enrolled in a  
3 secondary vocational area center during the previous school year.

4 (ii) Funding for students in secondary vocational  
5 area centers shall be distributed based on rules promulgated by the State  
6 Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities.

7 (3)(A) ~~For school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, the English-~~  
8 ~~language learners funding~~ Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, funding  
9 for students who are identified as English-language learners shall be one  
10 hundred ninety five dollars (\$195) two hundred ninety-three dollars (\$293)  
11 for each identified English-language learner.

12 (B) Funding for ~~English-language learner students~~ English-  
13 language learners shall be distributed to school districts for students who  
14 have been identified as not proficient in the English language based upon a  
15 state-approved English proficiency assessment instrument.

16 (C) Funds allocated for English-language learners to  
17 school districts under this subchapter shall be expended only for eligible  
18 activities as identified in current rules promulgated by the State Board of  
19 Education and are a supplement to funding for national school lunch students  
20 provided in subdivision (b)(4) of this section.

21 (4)(A) ~~For school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007~~ Beginning with  
22 the 2007-2008 school year, national school lunch student funding for each  
23 identified national school lunch student shall be as follows:

24 (i) For a school ~~districts~~ district in which ninety  
25 percent (90%) or greater of the previous school year's enrolled students are  
26 national school lunch students, funding shall be ~~one thousand four hundred~~  
27 ~~forty dollars (\$1,440)~~ one thousand four hundred eighty-eight dollars  
28 (\$1,488);

29 (ii) For school districts in which at least seventy  
30 percent (70%) but less than ninety percent (90%) of the previous school  
31 year's enrolled students are national school lunch students, funding shall be  
32 ~~nine hundred sixty dollars (\$960)~~ nine hundred ninety-two dollars (\$992);  
33 and

34 (iii) For school districts in which less than  
35 seventy percent (70%) of the previous school year's enrolled students are  
36 national school lunch students, funding shall be ~~four hundred eighty dollars~~

1 ~~(\$480)~~ four hundred ninety-six dollars (\$496).

2  
3 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(5), concerning categorical  
4 funding for professional development, is amended to read as follows:

5 (5)(A) Beginning with school year 2007-2008, Professional  
6 professional development funding ~~for school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007~~  
7 shall be equal to an amount of up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) multiplied by the  
8 school district's previous school year average daily membership.

9 (B) Funding for professional development for teachers in  
10 Arkansas public schools shall be used for professional development ~~training~~  
11 ~~conferences, materials, and other professional development~~ activities and  
12 materials that improve the knowledge of teachers, administrators, and  
13 paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional strategies, methods, and  
14 skills for improving teaching practices and student academic achievement and  
15 training for school bus drivers as outlined in rules promulgated by the State  
16 Board of Education.

17  
18 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 20, Subchapter 23 is amended  
19 to add an additional section to read as follows:

20 6-20-2307. Property tax report.

21 In order to provide relevant information to the General Assembly  
22 impacting the funding of public education, upon approval of the Legislative  
23 Joint Auditing Committee, the Division of Legislative Audit shall prepare a  
24 report regarding the assessment and collection of property taxes.

25  
26 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(c), concerning isolated funding,  
27 student growth funding, and special education-catastrophic occurrences  
28 funding, is amended to read as follows:

29 (c) Isolated funding under § 6-20-601, student growth funding, and  
30 special education-catastrophic occurrences funding shall be funded as  
31 follows:

32 (1) Isolated funding and special education-catastrophic  
33 occurrences funding shall be allocated and funded to school districts in a  
34 line item appropriation within the Public School Fund pursuant to law or  
35 rules promulgated by the State Board of Education; and

36 (2)(A) Student growth funding is calculated as the sum of the

1 following amounts:

2 (i) One quarter (1/4) of the per student foundation  
3 funding for the school district under § 6-20-2305(a)(2) multiplied by the  
4 increase, if any, of each of the following:

5 (a) The school district's quarterly average  
6 daily membership for the first quarter of the current school year over  
7 average daily membership of the previous school year;

8 (b) The school district's quarterly average  
9 daily membership for the second quarter of the current year over the average  
10 daily membership of the previous school year;

11 (c) The school district's quarterly average  
12 daily membership for the third quarter of the current school year over the  
13 average daily membership of the previous school year; and

14 (d) The school district's quarterly average  
15 daily membership for the fourth quarter of the current school year over the  
16 average daily membership of the previous school year; and

17 (ii) ~~excluding~~ Excluding any increase resulting  
18 solely from consolidation or annexation with another school district.

19 (B)(i) The State Board of Education shall establish by  
20 rule the timing of distributions of student growth funding and the mechanism  
21 for determining the quarterly average daily membership to be used in  
22 calculating student growth funding under this subsection (c).

23 (ii)(a) As the fourth quarter average daily membership  
24 count will not be available until the following school fiscal year, the final  
25 distribution for each school year shall include one half (1/2) of the per  
26 student foundation funding for the school district under § 6-20-2305(a)(2)  
27 multiplied by the increase, if any, of the school district's quarterly  
28 average daily membership for the third quarter of the current school year  
29 over the average daily membership of the previous school year.

30 (b) As a result of calculating the  
31 distribution in subdivision (c)(B)(ii)(a) of this section, either an  
32 adjustment shall be made in the initial distribution of growth funding for  
33 the district in the following school year to be based on the actual fourth  
34 quarter growth determined in subdivision (c)(2)(A)(i)(d) or the school  
35 district shall refund the overpayment in growth funding.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2403(b) and (c), concerning the minimum teacher compensation schedule, is amended to read as follows:

~~(b)(1) In school year 2004-2005, each school district in the state shall have in place a salary schedule with at least the following minimum levels of compensation for a basic contract:~~

<del>Years of Experience</del>	<del>BA Degree Salary</del>	<del>MA Degree Salary</del>
<del>0</del>	<del>\$27,500</del>	<del>\$31,625</del>
<del>1</del>	<del>27,950</del>	<del>32,125</del>
<del>2</del>	<del>28,400</del>	<del>32,625</del>
<del>3</del>	<del>28,850</del>	<del>33,125</del>
<del>4</del>	<del>29,300</del>	<del>33,625</del>
<del>5</del>	<del>29,750</del>	<del>34,125</del>
<del>6</del>	<del>30,200</del>	<del>34,625</del>
<del>7</del>	<del>30,650</del>	<del>35,125</del>
<del>8</del>	<del>31,100</del>	<del>35,625</del>
<del>9</del>	<del>31,550</del>	<del>36,125</del>
<del>10</del>	<del>32,000</del>	<del>36,625</del>
<del>11</del>	<del>32,450</del>	<del>37,125</del>
<del>12</del>	<del>32,900</del>	<del>37,625</del>
<del>13</del>	<del>33,350</del>	<del>38,125</del>
<del>14</del>	<del>33,800</del>	<del>38,625</del>
<del>15</del>	<del>34,250</del>	<del>39,125</del>

~~(2) In school year 2005-2006, each school district in the state shall have in place a salary schedule with at least the following minimum levels of compensation for a basic contract:~~

<del>Years of Experience</del>	<del>BA Degree Salary</del>	<del>MA Degree Salary</del>
<del>0</del>	<del>\$27,940</del>	<del>\$32,131</del>
<del>1</del>	<del>28,390</del>	<del>32,631</del>
<del>2</del>	<del>28,840</del>	<del>33,131</del>
<del>3</del>	<del>29,290</del>	<del>33,631</del>
<del>4</del>	<del>29,740</del>	<del>34,131</del>
<del>5</del>	<del>30,190</del>	<del>34,631</del>

1	6	30,640	35,131
2	7	31,090	35,631
3	8	31,540	36,131
4	9	31,990	36,631
5	10	32,440	37,131
6	11	32,890	37,631
7	12	33,340	38,131
8	13	33,790	38,631
9	14	34,240	39,131
10	15	34,690	39,631

11

12 ~~(c) In school year 2006-2007 and each school year thereafter, each~~  
 13 ~~school district in the state shall have in place a salary schedule with at~~  
 14 ~~least the following minimum levels of compensation for a basic contract:~~

15

16	<del>Years of Experience</del>	<del>BA Degree Salary</del>	<del>MA Degree Salary</del>
17	0	\$28,611	\$32,902
18	1	29,061	33,402
19	2	29,511	33,902
20	3	29,961	34,402
21	4	30,411	34,902
22	5	30,861	35,402
23	6	31,311	35,902
24	7	31,761	36,402
25	8	32,211	36,902
26	9	32,661	37,402
27	10	33,111	37,902
28	11	33,561	38,402
29	12	34,011	38,902
30	13	34,461	39,402
31	14	34,911	39,902
32	15	35,361	40,402

33

34 (b) In school year 2007-2008, each school district in the state shall  
 35 have in place a salary schedule with at least the following minimum levels of  
 36 compensation for a basic contract:

<u>Years of Experience</u>	<u>BA Degree Salary</u>	<u>MA Degree Salary</u>
0	\$28,897	\$33,231
1	29,347	33,731
2	29,797	34,231
3	30,247	34,731
4	30,697	35,231
5	31,147	35,731
6	31,597	36,231
7	32,047	36,731
8	32,497	37,231
9	32,947	37,731
10	33,397	38,231
11	33,847	38,731
12	34,297	39,231
13	34,747	39,731
14	35,197	40,231
15	35,647	40,731

(c) In school year ~~2006-2007~~ 2008-2009 and each school year thereafter, each school district in the state shall have in place a salary schedule with at least the following minimum levels of compensation for a basic contract:

<u>Years of Experience</u>	<u>BA Degree Salary</u>	<u>MA Degree Salary</u>
0	\$29,244	\$33,630
1	29,694	34,130
2	30,144	34,630
3	30,594	35,130
4	31,044	35,630
5	31,494	36,130
6	31,944	36,630
7	32,394	37,130
8	32,844	37,630
9	33,294	38,130
10	33,744	38,630

1	<u>11</u>	<u>34,194</u>	<u>39,130</u>
2	<u>12</u>	<u>34,644</u>	<u>39,630</u>
3	<u>13</u>	<u>35,094</u>	<u>40,130</u>
4	<u>14</u>	<u>35,544</u>	<u>40,630</u>
5	<u>15</u>	<u>35,994</u>	<u>41,130</u>

6

7        SECTION 8. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The amendment to the minimum teacher  
8 compensation schedule contained in Section 5 of this act reflects the overall  
9 increase in foundation funding. This amendment is a significant step in  
10 closing the teacher salary gap. The increased minimum teacher compensation  
11 schedule helps in recruiting and retaining teachers in Arkansas. Most  
12 importantly, it makes Arkansas more competitive for quality teachers when  
13 compared to surrounding states and Southern Regional Education Board member  
14 states.

15

16        SECTION 9. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The document attached hereto titled  
17 "Education Funding Recommendations for the 2007-2009 Biennium", contains the  
18 Education Funding Recommendations of the Adequacy Study Oversight  
19 Subcommittee, the House Interim Committee on Education, and the Senate  
20 Interim Committee on Education. Since January 22, 2007, when those  
21 recommendations were adopted by the House Education Committee and the Senate  
22 Education Committee, some calculation errors were identified and  
23 recalculations were made. The recalculations are also contained in this  
24 document in narrative form. This document and its final recommendations are  
25 specifically adopted by the House Education Committee and the Senate  
26 Education Committee and recommended to the General Assembly. The document,  
27 "Education Funding Recommendations for the 2007-2009 Biennium", shall be  
28 filed in the journals of the House and Senate.

29

30        SECTION 10. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
31 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the 2006 Act 57 study  
32 recommended that foundation funding and categorical funding be increased for  
33 the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years; that the method of calculating the  
34 state foundation funding aid should be changed to ensure that all public  
35 school districts receive the full amount of foundation funding; and that this  
36 act is immediately necessary to ensure that public school districts receive

1 adequate foundation funding for the 2007-2008 school year. Therefore, an  
2 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for  
3 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become  
4 effective on July 1, 2007.

5  
6 /s/ Kenney, et al  
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