

State of Arkansas
86th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2379

By: Representative Rainey

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ALLOW THE USE OF STATE CATEGORICAL
FUNDING FOR NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH STUDENTS BY
HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR CLASSROOM
TEACHER SALARIES AND TEACHER RETENTION AND
RECRUITMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO ALLOW THE USE OF STATE
CATEGORICAL FUNDING FOR NATIONAL SCHOOL
LUNCH STUDENTS BY HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOL
DISTRICTS FOR TEACHER SALARIES,
RETENTION, AND RECRUITMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 8 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-17-812. Use of certain categorical funds for teacher recruitment and retention.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "National school lunch funding" means a school district's funding for national school lunch students under § 6-20-2305(b)(4);

(2)(A) "National school lunch students" means those students or the percentage of enrolled students from low socioeconomic backgrounds as indicated by eligibility for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq., in effect on the effective date of this section, as determined on October 1 of each previous school year and



1 submitted to the Department of Education, unless the school district is
2 identified by the Department of Education as participating in the special
3 assistance certification and reimbursement alternative implemented under 42
4 U.S.C. § 1759a, as interpreted in 7 C.F.R. § 245.9;

5 (B) If the school district is participating under 42 U.S.C.
6 § 1759a, then for purposes of funding under § 6-20-2305(b), such a school
7 district's annual percentage of national school lunch students shall be equal
8 to the percentage submitted in the base year, which means the last school
9 year for which eligibility determinations were made and meal counts were
10 taken by type.

11 (3) "Revenue per student" means in each school year the amount
12 of revenue available, whether or not collected, in a school district solely
13 from the levy of the uniform rate of tax plus the average miscellaneous funds
14 collected in the previous five (5) years divided by the average daily
15 membership of the school district; and

16 (4) "State wealth index" means the result of one (1) minus the
17 ratio of revenue per student divided by the difference between foundation
18 funding and revenue per student.

19 (b) The Department of Education shall approve the use by a school
20 district of a portion of national school lunch funding for classroom teacher
21 salaries and for teacher recruitment and retention if the school district
22 meets the following conditions:

23 (1) The school district has a state wealth index that is in the
24 lowest twentieth percentile in the state; and

25 (2) At least ninety percent (90%) of the previous school year's
26 enrolled students in the school district are national school lunch students.

27 (c) The amount of national school lunch funding that a school district
28 approved under subsection (b) of this section may use for classroom teacher
29 salaries and for teacher recruitment and retention is the amount of its
30 national school lunch funding provided less the amount of national school
31 lunch funding provided under § 6-20-2305(b)(4) for school districts in which
32 less than seventy percent (70%) of the previous year's enrolled students are
33 national school lunch students.