

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 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2163

5 By: Representative Rainey  
6 By: Senator Elliott  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACHIEVEMENT  
11 GAPS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO PROVIDE INTERVENTION  
12 AND SUPPORT TO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADDRESS  
13 THE SEVERITY OF ACHIEVEMENT GAPS; AND FOR OTHER  
14 PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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16 TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR  
17 ACHIEVEMENT GAPS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND  
18 TO PROVIDE INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT TO  
19 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADDRESS THE  
20 SEVERITY OF ACHIEVEMENT GAPS.  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 Section 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, is amended to add an  
27 additional subchapter to read as follows:

28 Subchapter 27. Closing the Achievement Gap Program

29 6-15-2701. Closing the achievement gap program.

30 (a) As used in this section, "chronically underperforming school"  
31 means a public school that is rated as level 1 or level 2 for school  
32 improvement or for school performance under § 6-15-2101 et seq., for three  
33 (3) consecutive years.

34 (b)(1) A school district that has a chronically underperforming school  
35 shall use its national school lunch student state categorical funding under §  
36 6-20-2305(b)(4) to evaluate the impact of educational strategies used by the



1 chronically underperforming school to address the achievement gaps among  
 2 students in the chronically underperforming school.

3 (2) The evaluation shall:

4 (A) Identify the categories of programs and intervention  
 5 strategies used with national school lunch student state categorical funding;  
 6 and

7 (B) Report the benchmark assessment scores for the end of  
 8 the immediately preceding school year and for the end of the current school  
 9 year of students involved in the programs and intervention strategies  
 10 identified under this subdivision (b)(2).

11 (c) The Department of Education shall:

12 (1) Promulgate rules necessary to implement this section,  
 13 including without limitation establishing the categories by which a  
 14 chronically underperforming school shall identify programs and intervention  
 15 strategies under subsection (b) of this section;

16 (2) In a chronically underperforming school's comprehensive  
 17 school improvement plan, direct the use of national school lunch student  
 18 state categorical funding for strategies to close gaps in academic  
 19 achievement, including without limitation:

20 (A) Using an Arkansas Scholastic Audit;

21 (B) Using disaggregated school data to set academic  
 22 improvement targets in reading, writing, mathematics, and science;

23 (C) Using improvement targets to define professional  
 24 development needs related to content, instruction, differentiation, and best  
 25 practices in educating special education students, gifted and talented  
 26 students, English language learners, and other student subgroups as needed;

27 (D) Developing interim building-level assessments to  
 28 monitor student progress toward proficiency on the state benchmark  
 29 assessments;

30 (E) Developing a plan to immediately address gaps in  
 31 learning;

32 (F) Examining and realigning, as needed, school  
 33 scheduling, academic support systems, and assignments of personnel; and

34 (G) Designing a plan for increasing parental knowledge and  
 35 skill to support academic objectives; and

36 (3) By August 1 of each year, report to the House Committee on

1 Education and the Senate Committee on Education on:

2 (A) The use of national school lunch student state  
3 categoryal funding by chronically underperforming schools in the state; and

4 (B) The status of the achievement gaps at chronically  
5 underperforming schools in the state.

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