

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

As Engrossed: H3/20/09

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2163

5 By: Representative Rainey  
6 By: Senator Elliott  
7  
8

## 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

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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23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
25

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 does not meet adequate yearly progress under the  
32 No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq., as it existed on  
33 July 1, 2009, for three (3) or more consecutive years.

34 (b)(1) A school district that has a chronically underperforming school  
35 shall use its national school lunch state categorical funding under § 6-20-  
36 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 state categorical funding; and

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

10 (c) The Department of Education shall:

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

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

19 (A) Using an Arkansas Scholastic Audit;

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (3) By August 1 of each year, report to the House Committee on  
36 Education and the Senate Committee on Education on:

