

State of Arkansas  
87th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2009

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2172

By: Representative Rainey

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

## Subtitle

TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR  
ACHIEVEMENT GAPS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND  
TO PROVIDE INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT TO  
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADDRESS THE  
SEVERITY OF ACHIEVEMENT GAPS.

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

Section 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 27. Closing the Achievement Gap Program

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

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

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



1 students in the chronically underperforming school.

2 (2) The evaluation shall:

3 (A) Identify the categories of programs and intervention  
4 strategies used with national school lunch student state categorical funding;  
5 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 student  
17 state categorical funding for strategies to close gaps in academic  
18 achievement, 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:

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

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