

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 304

4  
5 By: Senator Crumbly  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS MAKE SATISFACTORY  
10 ACADEMIC PROGRESS IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND  
11 SECONDARY SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12

### Subtitle

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14 TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS MAKE  
15 SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS IN PUBLIC  
16 SCHOOLS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 20, is  
22 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 6-15-2011. Pilot program for satisfactory student academic progress.

24 (a)(1) A six-year pilot program is established under the direction of  
25 the Department of Education to provide intensive monitoring of public school  
26 students who enter kindergarten in the 2010-2011 school year to assure the  
27 students make sufficient academic progress through the end of grade seven (7)  
28 and score at the proficient level on state benchmark assessments at the end  
29 of grade three (3), at the end of grade five (5), and at the end of grade  
30 seven (7).

31 (2) Public schools and public and school districts participating  
32 in the pilot program shall use additional student services and student  
33 longitudinal data tracking to evaluate and address the needs of students,  
34 public schools, and public school districts participating in the program.

35 (3) At the end of six (6) years, the department will provide the  
36 General Assembly with evidence-based information that will assist the General



1 Assembly in determining how to implement the program statewide.

2 (b) As used in this section, "participating school" or "participating  
3 school district" means a public school or public school district that  
4 participates in the pilot program created under this section.

5 (c) Each public school district meeting the following criteria shall  
6 participate in the six-year pilot program created under this section:

7 (1) The public school district serves students in any  
8 combination of kindergarten through grade eight (K-8);

9 (2) At least seventy percent (70%) of the public school  
10 district's previous school year's enrolled students are national school lunch  
11 students; and

12 (3) Fifty percent (50%) or more of the school district's  
13 previous school year's enrolled students scored basic or below basic on final  
14 state benchmark assessments for the previous school year.

15 (d)(1) A participating public school district or participating public  
16 school that participates in the first year of the pilot program shall  
17 continue participation for the full six (6) years of the pilot program.

18 (2) Additional schools shall not be added to the pilot program  
19 after the first year of the pilot program.

20 (e) A participating school district shall provide all student  
21 management data requested by the department that the department deems  
22 necessary for the evaluation of the pilot program.

23 (f) Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a participating school  
24 shall closely monitor the academic progress of students entering kindergarten  
25 using the department's student longitudinal data tracking system.

26 (g) A participating school shall use its national school lunch state  
27 categorical funding under § 6-20-2305 to provide the following for its  
28 students in kindergarten through grade seven (K-7):

29 (1) The academic support services needed for the students to  
30 make satisfactory academic progress toward proficiency by the end of grade  
31 three (3), by the end of grade five (5), and by the end of grade seven (7),  
32 as determined by the monitoring of student progress under subsection (f) of  
33 this section; and

34 (2) An intensive parental involvement program that includes  
35 without limitation:

36 (A) Additional parent conferences, which may include home

1 visitation by the school; and

2 (B) Instruction to parents for utilizing the resources of  
3 the school and the department for working with students at home.

4 (h) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a participating school  
5 shall not promote a student to grade four (4) if the student does not score  
6 proficient on the state benchmark assessments as of the end of the student's  
7 grade three (3) school year.

8 (i) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, a participating school  
9 shall not promote a student to grade six (6) if the student does not score  
10 proficient on the state benchmark assessments as of the end of the student's  
11 grade five (5) school year.

12 (j) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, a participating school  
13 shall not promote a student to grade eight (8) if the student does not score  
14 proficient on the state benchmark assessments as of the end of the student's  
15 grade seven (7) school year.

16 (k)(1) The department shall use the state's student longitudinal data  
17 tracking system to monitor and evaluate the attendance, academic progress,  
18 and persistence of students in the pilot program.

19 (2) The department shall provide a participating school district  
20 with the necessary equipment and training for the use of the student  
21 longitudinal data tracking system.

22 (l) The department shall survey the parents of students in the pilot  
23 program and evaluate the comments provided by the parents.

24 (m)(1) By September 1, 2017, the department shall evaluate the pilot  
25 program and report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee  
26 on Education and the House Committee on Education.

27 (2) By September 1, 2018, the Senate Committee on Education and  
28 the House Committee on Education, or any joint subcommittee appointed by them  
29 to evaluate educational adequacy under § 10-3-2101 et seq., shall review the  
30 department's report and forward recommendations to the General Assembly.

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