

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: S2/17/09

A Bill

SENATE BILL 304

5 By: Senator Crumbly
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS MAKE SATISFACTORY
10 ACADEMIC PROGRESS IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND
11 *SECONDARY SCHOOLS; TO PROVIDE AN ACCELERATED*
12 *LEARNING PROGRAM TO STUDENTS WHO DO NOT ACHIEVE*
13 *GRADE LEVEL PROFICIENCY AT KINDERGARTEN OR BY THE*
14 *END OF GRADE THREE, GRADE FIVE, OR GRADE SEVEN;*
15 *AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*
16
17

Subtitle

19 TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS MAKE
20 SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS IN PUBLIC
21 SCHOOLS.
22
23

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

26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 20, is
27 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

28 6-15-2011. Pilot program for satisfactory student academic progress.

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

36 (2) Public schools and public school districts participating in



1 the pilot program shall use continuous monitoring and assessment, an
2 accelerated learning program, and student longitudinal data to evaluate and
3 address the needs of students, public schools, and public school districts
4 participating in the program.

5 (3) At the end of six (6) years, the department will provide the
6 General Assembly with evidence-based information that will assist the General
7 Assembly in determining how to implement the program statewide.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (f) Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a participating school
30 shall closely monitor the academic progress of students entering kindergarten
31 using:

32 (1) Classroom assessments at the beginning of a school year;

33 (2) Classroom assessments during a school year; and

34 (3) Student longitudinal data available through the department.

35 (g) A participating school shall provide a student who is identified
36 under subsections (i)-(1) of this section with the following:

1 (1)(A) An accelerated learning program that uses evidence-based
2 intervention strategies and services needed for the students to make
3 satisfactory academic progress toward proficiency by the end of grade three
4 (3), by the end of grade five (5), and by the end of grade seven (7), as
5 determined by the monitoring of student progress under subsection (f) of this
6 section.

7 (B) A participating school district may fund the
8 accelerated learning program with:

9 (i) National school lunch student categorical
10 funding under § 6-20-2305;

11 (ii) Department of Education grants;

12 (iii) Other federal and state funds available to the
13 participating school district for improving student academic achievement and
14 closing the achievement gap; and

15 (iv) Private donations.

16 (C) An accelerated learning program shall include without
17 limitation:

18 (i) Reading Recovery or other evidence-based reading
19 and literacy intervention programs approved by the department that are
20 designed to accelerate reading and literacy skills of young children;

21 (ii) Accelerated math instruction;

22 (iii) After-school tutoring for not less than four
23 (4) days per week for a minimum of twenty-four (24) weeks during the school
24 year;

25 (iv) A six-week summer program designed to help
26 students focus on areas of need and maintain learning between school years;
27 and

28 (v) Any other evidence-based intervention strategy
29 approved by the department.

30 (D)(i) A student identified under subsections (i)-(l) of
31 this section shall attend and remain in the accelerated learning program
32 until the public school determines by the monitoring and assessment conducted
33 under this section that the student is grade-level proficient.

34 (ii) At the end of a school year in which a student
35 repeats grade three (3), grade five (5), or grade seven (7) under subsections
36 (i)-(l) of this section, the department shall determine the criteria for the

1 student's advancement to the next grade, including without limitation that
2 the student shall remain in the accelerated learning program; and

3 (2) An intensive parental involvement program that includes
4 without limitation:

5 (A) Additional parent conferences, which may include home
6 visitation by the school; and

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

9 (h) The department shall develop and make available to a participating
10 school district training for the licensed teachers and nonlicensed employees
11 needed to implement the evidence-based intervention strategies used in an
12 accelerated learning program.

13 (i) Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, if a participating
14 school district determines from the school readiness screening administered
15 to a student entering kindergarten under § 6-15-404 that the student is not
16 at grade level for kindergarten, the participating school district shall
17 place the kindergarten student in an accelerated learning program.

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

22 (k) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, a participating school
23 shall not promote a student to grade six (6) if the student does not score
24 proficient on the state benchmark assessments as of the end of the student's
25 grade five (5) school year.

26 (l) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, a participating school
27 shall not promote a student to grade eight (8) if the student does not score
28 proficient on the state benchmark assessments as of the end of the student's
29 grade seven (7) school year.

30 (m)(1) The department shall use the state's student longitudinal data
31 tracking system to monitor and evaluate the attendance, academic progress,
32 and persistence of students in the pilot program.

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

36 (n) The department shall survey the parents of students in the pilot

1 program and evaluate the comments provided by the parents.

2 (o)(1) By September 1, 2017, the department shall evaluate the pilot
3 program and report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee
4 on Education and the House Committee on Education.

5 (2) By September 1, 2018, the Senate Committee on Education and
6 the House Committee on Education, or any joint subcommittee appointed by them
7 to evaluate educational adequacy under § 10-3-2101 et seq., shall review the
8 department's report and forward *recommendations for the pilot program* to the
9 General Assembly.

10
11 */s/ Crumbly*
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36