

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 S2/23/09

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 304

5 By: Senator Crumbly  
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## 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 INTENSIVE*  
12 *LEARNING PROGRAM TO STUDENTS WHO DO NOT ACHIEVE*  
13 *GRADE LEVEL PROFICIENCY AT KINDERGARTEN OR BY THE*  
14 *END OF GRADE THREE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*  
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## Subtitle

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

27 6-15-2011. Pilot program for satisfactory student academic progress.

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

34 (2) Public schools and public school districts participating in  
35 the pilot program shall use continuous monitoring and assessment, an  
36 intensive learning program, and student longitudinal data to evaluate and



1 address the needs of students, public schools, and public school districts  
2 participating in the program.

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

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

9 (c) Each public school district meeting the following criteria may  
10 participate in the six-year pilot program created under this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (1) Classroom assessments at the beginning of each school year;

29 (2) Classroom assessments during each school year; and

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

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

33 (1)(A) An intensive learning program that uses research-based  
34 intervention strategies and services needed for the students to make

35 satisfactory academic progress toward proficiency by the end of grade three

36 (3), as determined by the monitoring of student progress under subsection (f)

1 of this section.

2 (B) A participating school district may fund the intensive  
3 learning program with:

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

6 (ii) Department of Education grants;

7 (iii) Other federal and state funds available to the  
8 participating school district for improving student academic achievement and  
9 closing the achievement gap; and

10 (iv) Private donations.

11 (C) An intensive learning program shall include without  
12 limitation:

13 (i) Reading Recovery or other research-based reading  
14 and literacy intervention programs approved by the department that are  
15 designed to accelerate reading and literacy skills of young children;

16 (ii) Intensive math instruction;

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

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

23 (v) Any other research-based intervention strategy  
24 approved by the department.

25 (D) A student identified under subsections (i)-(j) of this  
26 section shall attend and remain in the intensive learning program until the  
27 public school determines by the monitoring and assessment conducted under  
28 this section that the student is grade-level proficient; and

29 (2) An intensive parental involvement program that includes  
30 without limitation:

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

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

35 (h) The department shall develop and make available to a participating  
36 school district training for the licensed teachers and nonlicensed employees

1 needed to implement the research-based intervention strategies used in an  
2 intensive learning program.

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

8 (j)(1) Beginning with the results of the 2013-2014 state benchmark  
9 assessments, a participating school shall not promote a student to grade four  
10 (4) if the student does not score proficient on the state benchmark  
11 assessments as of the end of the student's grade three (3) school year.

12 (2) At the end of a school year in which a student repeated  
13 grade three (3) under this subsection (j), the department shall determine the  
14 criteria for the student's advancement to the next grade, including without  
15 limitation that the student shall remain in the intensive learning program.

16 (3) A student who enters grade three (3) as a new student in a  
17 school district and who scores below proficient on the state benchmark  
18 assessment for grade three (3) is not required to repeat grade three (3) but  
19 shall participate in the intensive learning program.

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

23 (2) The department shall provide a participating school district  
24 with access to the necessary equipment and training for the use of the  
25 student longitudinal data tracking system.

26 (l) The school district assisted by the department shall survey the  
27 parents of students in the pilot program and evaluate the comments provided  
28 by the parents.

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

32 (2) By September 1, 2018, the Senate Committee on Education and  
33 the House Committee on Education, or any joint subcommittee appointed by them  
34 to evaluate educational adequacy under § 10-3-2101 et seq., shall review the  
35 department's report and forward recommendations from the pilot program to the  
36 General Assembly.

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*/s/ Crumbly*