

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 918

4
5 By: Senator Salmon
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO INCREASE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT
10 PARTICIPATION IN THE ARKANSAS SMART CORE
11 CURRICULUM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13
14 TO INCREASE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT
15 PARTICIPATION IN THE SMART CORE
16 CURRICULUM.
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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 2, is amended
22 to add a new section to read as follows:

23 6-15-215. The Arkansas Smart Core Incentive Funding Program.

24 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

25 (1) The skills and knowledge gained through Arkansas's Smart
26 Core curriculum provide the academic foundation required for high school
27 graduates to succeed in their first year of college or in a job that promises
28 a well-paying career track; and

29 (2) School districts should encourage all students who are
30 capable of completing the Smart Core curriculum to do so.

31 (b) As used in this section:

32 (1) "Eligible high school" means each public high school in a
33 school district that meets the criteria to receive incentive funding under
34 subsection (f) of this section and the program rules adopted under this
35 section by the State Board of Education;

36 (2) "Smart Core" means the curriculum established by the



1 Department of Education under the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas
2 Public Schools and School Districts that is part of Smart Future, a state
3 initiative focused on improving Arkansas public high schools for all
4 students; and

5 (3) "Smart Core graduate" means a student who graduated from an
6 Arkansas public high school after having successfully completed the Smart
7 Core curriculum.

8 (c) The Arkansas Smart Core Incentive Funding Program is established
9 to provide a financial incentive to:

10 (1) Assist with a public high school's efforts to encourage
11 public high school students to complete the Smart Core curriculum; and

12 (2) Promote programs that contribute to student success,
13 including without limitation:

14 (A) Tutoring;

15 (B) Quality after-school and summer programs that may
16 include the College Preparatory Enrichment Program (CPEP), literacy, math,
17 and science specialists in elementary school; and

18 (C) Professional development for mathematics, science,
19 literacy, foreign language, and Advanced Placement instruction; and

20 (3) Provide support to school counselors to improve student
21 services.

22 (d)(1)(A) A school district that receives incentive funding under this
23 section shall provide the incentive funding to each eligible high school in
24 the school district.

25 (B) The eligible high school shall spend the incentive
26 funding only for the purposes identified in subsection (c) of this section.

27 (2) A school district that receives incentive funding under this
28 program shall not use the incentive funding to provide increases to the
29 salary schedule of the school district.

30 (e)(1) Subject to an appropriation and available funding for the
31 program, the department shall pay incentive funding to a school district
32 under this section based on an annual percentage of Smart Core graduates from
33 a public high school in the school district.

34 (2)(A) The department shall make the calculation based on a
35 student record analysis conducted annually by the department beginning with
36 the graduating class of 2010.

1 (B) The department shall exclude from the student record
 2 analysis a student with an individualized education program that does not
 3 require a student to complete the Smart Core curriculum.

4 (f)(1) By June 30 of each year, the department shall pay to a school
 5 district incentive funding under the program as follows:

6 (A) If one hundred percent (100%) of a public high
 7 school's graduates in the immediately preceding school year completed the
 8 Smart Core curriculum, the school district where the public high school is
 9 located shall receive one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) per Smart Core
 10 graduate;

11 (B) If at least ninety-five percent (95%) but less than
 12 one hundred percent (100%) of a public high school's graduates in the
 13 immediately preceding school year completed the Smart Core curriculum, the
 14 school district where the public high school is located shall receive one
 15 hundred dollars (\$100) per Smart Core graduate; and

16 (C) If at least ninety percent (90%) but less than ninety-
 17 five percent (95%) of a public high school's graduates in the immediately
 18 preceding school year completed the Smart Core curriculum, the school
 19 district where the public high school is located shall receive fifty dollars
 20 (\$50.00) per Smart Core graduate.

21 (2) The department shall not pay incentive funding to a school
 22 district for a public high school in which less than ninety percent (90%) of
 23 its graduates complete the Smart Core curriculum.

24 (3) If a public high school's graduation rate falls below the
 25 average graduation rate for the public high school for the previous three (3)
 26 school years, the school district is not eligible to receive the full
 27 incentive award under the program for the public high school;

28 (g) Participation in the Arkansas Smart Core Incentive Funding Program
 29 is voluntary.

30 (h) This section is effective from July 1, 2009, through June 30,
 31 2020.

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 33 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 34 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is vital to the state's
 35 economy to graduate high school students who are college and workforce ready;
 36 that the Smart Core curriculum provides the rigorous course content and

1 instruction needed to prepare high school students for college and the
2 workforce; that schools and students will benefit from the incentive funding
3 provided under this act for the programs necessary to assist students in
4 completing the Smart Core curriculum; that the Department of Education needs
5 to prepare rules to implement the program and school districts need to plan
6 for using the incentive funding in the 2009-2010 school year and that this
7 act is immediately necessary because a delay in the implementation of this
8 act by the Department of Education or by school districts will result in
9 fewer public high school students being prepared for college and the
10 workforce. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being
11 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
12 become effective on July 1, 2009.

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