

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: H3/17/15

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1860

5 By: Representative Murdock
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 *AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE*
9 *CONCERNING ADEQUACY AND EQUITY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL*
10 *SYSTEM; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER*
11 *PURPOSES.*
12
13

Subtitle

14 *TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE*
15 *CONCERNING ADEQUACY AND EQUITY IN THE*
16 *PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND TO DECLARE AN*
17 *EMERGENCY.*
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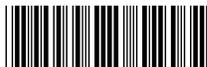
21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(a)(2), concerning per-student*
24 *foundation funding amounts, is amended to read as follows:*

25 *(2)(A) For the ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 school year, the foundation*
26 *funding amount is equal to ~~six thousand three hundred ninety-three dollars~~*
27 *~~(\$6,393)~~ six thousand two hundred sixty-three dollars (\$6,263) multiplied by*
28 *the school district's average daily membership for the previous school year.*

29 *(B) For the ~~2014-2015~~ 2016-2017 school year and each school*
30 *year thereafter, the foundation funding amount is equal to ~~six thousand five~~*
31 *~~hundred twenty-one dollars (\$6,521)~~ six thousand three hundred twenty-five*
32 *dollars (\$6,325) multiplied by the school district's average daily membership*
33 *for the previous school year.*
34

35 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(2)(A)(i) and (ii), concerning*
36 *per-student state categorical funding amounts for alternative learning*



1 environments, are amended to read as follows:

2 (2)(A)(i) For the ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 school year, alternative
3 learning environment funding shall be ~~four thousand three hundred five~~
4 ~~dollars (\$4,305)~~ four thousand four hundred seventy-one dollars (\$4,471)
5 multiplied by the number of identified alternative learning environment
6 students enrolled during the previous school year.

7 (ii) For the ~~2014-2015~~ 2016-2017 school year and each
8 school year thereafter, alternative learning environment funding shall be
9 ~~four thousand three hundred eighty-three dollars (\$4,383)~~ four thousand five
10 hundred sixty dollars (\$4,560) multiplied by the number of identified
11 alternative learning environment students enrolled during the previous school
12 year.

13
14 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(3)(A) and (B), concerning per-
15 student state categorical funding amounts for English-language learners, are
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (3)(A) For the ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 school year, funding for students
18 who are identified as English-language learners shall be ~~three hundred eleven~~
19 ~~dollars (\$311)~~ three hundred twenty-four dollars (\$324) for each identified
20 English-language learner.

21 (B) For the ~~2014-2015~~ 2016-2017 school year and each school
22 year thereafter, funding for students who are identified as English-language
23 learners shall be ~~three hundred seventeen dollars (\$317)~~ three hundred
24 thirty-one dollars (\$331) for each identified English-language learner.

25
26 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(A)(i)-(iii), concerning
27 per-student state categorical funding amounts for national school lunch
28 students, are amended to read as follows:

29 (4)(A) National school lunch state categorical funding for each
30 identified national school lunch student shall be as follows:

31 (i) For a school district in which ninety percent
32 (90%) or greater of the previous school year's enrolled students are national
33 school lunch students, the amount of per-student national school lunch state
34 categorical funding is ~~one thousand five hundred forty nine dollars (\$1,549);~~

35 (a) For the 2015-2016 school year, one
36 thousand five hundred sixty-two dollars (\$1,562); and

1 (b) For the 2016-2017 school year, one
 2 thousand five hundred seventy-six dollars (\$1,576);

3 (ii) For school districts in which at least seventy
 4 percent (70%) but less than ninety percent (90%) of the previous school
 5 year's enrolled students are national school lunch students, the amount of
 6 per-student national school lunch state categorical funding is ~~one thousand~~
 7 ~~thirty-three dollars (\$1,033);~~

8 (a) For the 2015-2016 school year, one
 9 thousand forty-two dollars (\$1,042); and

10 (b) For the 2016-2017 school year, one
 11 thousand fifty-one dollars (\$1,051); and

12 (iii) For school districts in which less than seventy
 13 percent (70%) of the previous school year's enrolled students are national
 14 school lunch students, the amount of per-student national school lunch state
 15 categorical funding is ~~five hundred seventeen dollars (\$517);~~

16 (a) For the 2015-2016 school year, five
 17 hundred twenty-two dollars (\$522); and

18 (b) For the 2016-2017 school year, five
 19 hundred twenty-six dollars (\$526).

20
 21 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(5)(A) and (B), concerning per-
 22 student state categorical funding amounts for professional development, are
 23 amended to read as follows:

24 ~~(5)(A)(5) For the 2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school year
 25 years, professional development funding shall be equal to an amount of up to
 26 fifty-three dollars (\$53.00) thirty-two dollars and forty cents (\$32.40)
 27 multiplied by the school district's previous school year average daily
 28 membership.

29 ~~(B) For the 2014-2015 school year and each school year~~
 30 ~~thereafter, professional development funding shall be equal to an amount of~~
 31 ~~up to fifty-four dollars (\$54.00) multiplied by the school district's~~
 32 ~~previous school year average daily membership.~~

33
 34 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 20, Subchapter 23, is
 35 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

36 6-20-2309. Public School Student Transportation Funding Act of 2015.

1 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Public School
2 Student Transportation Funding Act of 2015."

3 (b) The General Assembly finds that:

4 (1) Public school student transportation is currently funded on
5 a per-student basis as part of the foundation funding formula, under which
6 each Arkansas school district receives the same amount of per-student funding
7 for student transportation;

8 (2) The actual costs of providing student transportation vary
9 widely among Arkansas school districts, and consequently the state student
10 transportation funding for some districts is well below actual transportation
11 costs while for other school districts it is well above actual transportation
12 costs;

13 (3) There is no persuasive reason to provide each Arkansas
14 school district the same amount of per-student funding for student
15 transportation without regard to a district's actual student transportation
16 costs;

17 (4) As discussed in the Odden and Picus 2006 report,
18 "Recalibrating the Arkansas School Funding Structure", student transportation
19 costs were included in the foundation funding formula until a separate
20 standards-based funding formula could be developed;

21 (5) A standards-based student transportation funding formula
22 based on route miles that would accurately and fairly fund the student
23 transportation costs of Arkansas school districts has been developed;

24 (6) The Bureau of Legislative Research presented a standards-
25 based student transportation funding formula to the House Committee on
26 Education and the Senate Committee on Education for the 2008, 2010, 2012, and
27 2014 adequacy studies; and

28 (7) The student transportation funding formula presented by the
29 bureau would be ninety-eight percent (98%) accurate in funding school
30 districts' actual student transportation costs.

31 (c) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the Department of
32 Education shall provide to a school district annual state funding for student
33 transportation based on the school district's student transportation costs as
34 determined by a standards-based formula in which student transportation cost
35 is a function of a school district's historical route miles.

36 (d) Except as provided under subsection (e) of this section, all

1 student transportation funding provided under this subchapter shall be
2 distributed as provided under this section.

3 (e) To provide a smooth transition to accurate student transportation
4 funding, the department shall distribute student transportation funding to a
5 school district under this section in an amount that is:

6 (1) For the 2015-2016 school year, not less than seventy-five
7 percent (75%) of the amount of funding within the per-student foundation
8 funding amount for the 2014-2015 school year that represents the calculation
9 for student transportation;

10 (2) For the 2016-2017 school year, not less than fifty percent
11 (50%) of the amount of funding within the per-student foundation funding
12 amount for the 2014-2015 school year that represents the calculation for
13 student transportation; and

14 (3) For the 2017-2018 school year, not less than twenty-five
15 percent (25%) of the amount of funding within the per-student foundation
16 funding amount for the 2014-2015 school year that represents the calculation
17 for student transportation.

18 (f) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to implement
19 this section.

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21 SECTION 7. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
22 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that funding for public schools is
23 the obligation of the state; that ensuring adequate funding is provided is
24 the duty of the General Assembly; and that this act is immediately necessary
25 to ensure that funding is provided for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school
26 years so that school districts can budget accordingly. Therefore, an
27 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for
28 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
29 effective on:

30 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

31 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
32 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
33 bill; or

34 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
35 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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/s/Murdock

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