

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1608

5 By: Representative Della Rosa  
6 By: Senator U. Lindsey  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM DEVELOPED  
10 BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS UNDER THE EVERY STUDENT  
11 SUCCEEDS ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 CONCERNING THE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM  
16 DEVELOPED BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS UNDER  
17 THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Findings.

23 The General Assembly finds that:

24 (1) The Department of Education is working to draft a state plan  
25 that includes an accountability system for Arkansas public schools and public  
26 school districts that complies with the Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C.  
27 6301 et seq.;

28 (2) The state plan will be submitted to the United States  
29 Department of Education in the fall of 2017, to become effective for the  
30 2018-2019 school year;

31 (3) Arkansas has an economically and culturally diverse student  
32 population, and its public school districts work tirelessly to serve the  
33 needs of all students;

34 (4) Children in poverty and children who do not speak English as  
35 a native language often struggle with their performance on state-mandated  
36 assessments;



1           (5) The accountability system should reward public schools and  
 2 public school districts for all students' successes; and

3           (6) The state must ensure equity for all students in its  
 4 accountability system.

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 6           SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY.

7           (a) Any state accountability system for kindergarten through grade 12  
 8 (K-12) public schools shall be a multiple measures approach that uses a  
 9 combined index and reporting mechanism as defined by the Department of  
 10 Education, and shall include, but not be limited to, quality points or credit  
 11 for the following:

12                   (1) Improved academic achievement;

13                   (2) Student growth during the academic year;

14                   (3) School-level closing the achievement gap;

15                   (4) School-level graduation rates;

16                   (5) English Language Learner student progress or growth in  
 17 acquiring English; and

18                   (6) An additional indicator that may include, but is not limited  
 19 to, one (1) or more of the following that may vary as needed by grade span:

20                           (A) Poverty student growth that meets or exceeds the  
 21 student's non-English-language-learner counterparts;

22                           (B) English language learner student growth that meets or  
 23 exceeds the student's counterparts who are not English language learner  
 24 students;

25                           (C) Special education student growth that meets or exceeds  
 26 the student's general education counterparts;

27                           (D) The percentage of the grade nine (9) cohort with on-  
 28 time completion of credit attainment at the end of grade nine (9);

29                           (E) School-level effort to teach English as a second  
 30 language;

31                           (F) Resources necessary to support students;

32                           (G) The percentage of students who earn advanced placement  
 33 credit, concurrent credit, International Baccalaureate credit, and career and  
 34 industry certification;

35                           (H) Student access to multiple flexible learning  
 36 continuums, including but not limited to personalized, competency, or master

1 learning;

2 (I) Student access to preschool offered by the public  
 3 school district;

4 (J) The proportional percentage of qualified educators who  
 5 hold a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification or  
 6 have an advance degree beyond their bachelor's degree; and

7 (K) Public school district and community partnerships.

8 (b)(1) The department shall promulgate rules to implement this  
 9 section.

10 (2) The rules shall include, but not be limited to:

11 (A) State-designed long-term achievement goals;

12 (B) A multiple measures reporting matrix; and

13 (C) A mechanism for reporting interim progress for  
 14 stakeholder transparency against realistic measurements in the following  
 15 areas:

16 (i) Academic achievement;

17 (ii) Multi-year adjusted cohort graduation rate;

18 (iii) Increases in the percentage of students making  
 19 progress in achieving English language proficiency; and

20 (iv) Other areas defined by the department.

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