

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

As Engrossed: H2/24/17

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. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 4, is amended*
7 *to add an additional section to read as follows:*

8 6-15-442. State accountability system.

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

14 (1) Improved academic achievement;

15 (2) Student growth during the academic year;

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

17 (4) School-level graduation rate or rates;

18 (5) English language learner student progress or growth in
19 acquiring English; and

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

22 (A) Poverty student growth that meets or exceeds the
23 student's non-poverty counterparts;

24 (B) English language learner student growth that meets or
25 exceeds the student's non-English-language-learner counterparts;

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

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

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

32 (F) Resources necessary to support students;

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

36 (H) Student access to multiple flexible learning

1 continuums, including but not limited to personalized, competency, or mastery
2 learning;

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

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

8 (K) Public school district and community partnerships.

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

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

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

13 (B) A multiple measures reporting matrix; and

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

17 (i) Academic achievement;

18 (ii) Multi-year adjusted cohort graduation rate or
19 rates;

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

22 (iv) Other areas defined by the department.

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24 */s/Della Rosa*
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