

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

As Engrossed: S3/27/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 549

5 By: Senators G. Stubblefield, *Elliott*
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO EXTEND THE AMOUNT OF RECESS TIME REQUIRED
9 FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS; TO AMEND THE AMOUNT OF
10 INSTRUCTIONAL TIME REQUIRED FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
11 IN A SCHOOL DAY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

14 TO EXTEND THE AMOUNT OF RECESS TIME
15 REQUIRED FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS; AND TO
16 AMEND THE AMOUNT OF INSTRUCTIONAL TIME
17 REQUIRED FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN A
18 SCHOOL DAY.
19
20
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
23

24 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. (a)(1) For the 2018-
25 2019 school year, the Department of Education shall seek to identify at least
26 two (2) schools within the service area of each education service cooperative
27 and two (2) schools that are not within the service area of an education
28 service cooperative to voluntarily participate in a one-year pilot program
29 that provides students in:

30 (A) Kindergarten through grade four (K-4), three hundred
31 forty (340) minutes of physical activity each calendar week of the school
32 year, which shall include without limitation:

33 (i) Physical education training and instruction; and

34 (ii) Unstructured and undirected play; and

35 (B) Grades five (5) and six (6), two hundred sixty-five
36 (265) minutes of physical activity each calendar week of the school year,



1 which shall include without limitation:

2 (i) Physical education training and instruction; and

3 (ii) Unstructured and undirected play.

4 (2) In fulfilling the requirements under subdivision (a)(1) of
5 this section, students shall participate in unstructured and undirected play
6 for the following amounts of time each day of the school year:

7 (A) For students in kindergarten through grade four (K-4),
8 at least sixty (60) minutes; and

9 (B) For students in grades five and six (5-6), at least
10 forty-five (45) minutes.

11 (b) The department shall seek to identify schools to participate in
12 the pilot program that:

13 (1) Submit academically sound plans; and

14 (2) As a whole are representative of the geographic,
15 socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and academically challenged demographics of
16 Arkansas.

17 (c)(1) A school that participates in the pilot program shall file a
18 report with the department regarding the outcome of the pilot program in the
19 school.

20 (2) The department shall file a report with the Legislative
21 Council regarding the outcome of the pilot program for all schools
22 participating in the pilot program.

23 (d)(1) The department may promulgate rules to implement the pilot
24 program.

25 (2) With the exception of setting deadlines for submissions, the
26 department may allow schools to develop their academically sound plans solely
27 consistent with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and
28 without the rules promulgated by the department under subdivision (d)(1) of
29 this section in order to explore a variety of methodologies and to encourage
30 innovation.

31 (e) The Commissioner of Education may extend the pilot program for an
32 additional year if he or she deems an extension appropriate.

33
34 */s/G. Stubblefield*