

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1409

5 By: Representative Della Rosa
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING UNSTRUCTURED SOCIAL TIME IN
9 SCHOOLS; TO ALLOW FOR EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
10 THROUGH UNSTRUCTURED SOCIAL TIME; TO REQUIRE THAT A
11 CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INSTRUCTIONAL TIME BE USED FOR
12 RECESS; TO CONSIDER THE SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS
13 DURING UNSTRUCTURED SOCIAL TIME AS AN ACTIVITY WITH
14 AN INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 TO ALLOW FOR EXTENDED LEARNING
19 OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH UNSTRUCTURED SOCIAL
20 TIME; TO REQUIRE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME
21 FOR RECESS; AND TO CONSIDER SUPERVISION
22 DURING UNSTRUCTURED SOCIAL TIME AS
23 INSTRUCTIONAL.
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

29 The General Assembly finds that:

30 (1) Public school students need the ability to learn and grow
31 from one another in a social setting;

32 (2) Often, exchanges between public school students with respect
33 to learning and social awareness occur during recess;

34 (3) Public school students need more opportunities for physical
35 activity during the school day in order to promote healthy and active
36 lifestyles;



1 (4) Public school students should be given a sufficient daily
 2 break in the form of recess, which would allow them to fully focus while they
 3 are in class;

4 (5) Educational leaders cannot allow for a sufficient amount of
 5 time in the school day for recess within the current construct of the
 6 instructional requirements and time allotted in a school day, which generates
 7 decreased focus in class and fewer opportunities to develop social awareness
 8 among public school students;

9 (6) Due to numerous mandates, there has been a steady decline in
 10 the amount of time dedicated to recess for kindergarten through grade five
 11 (K-5) public school students; and

12 (7) To address the increased need for public school student
 13 social awareness and learning opportunities beyond the classroom, recess
 14 should be included as part of the instructional school day.

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 16 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-16-102(a), concerning a school day, is
 17 amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

18 (5)(A) At least forty (40) minutes of instructional time per
 19 school day shall be used for recess during the school day for students
 20 attending public elementary schools.

21 (B) Recess shall:

22 (i) Consist of supervised, unstructured social time
 23 during which public school students may communicate with each other;

24 (ii) Occur outdoors when weather permits; and

25 (iii) Include without limitation opportunities for
 26 free play and vigorous physical activity.

27 (C) The remaining instructional hours required under this
 28 section shall be distributed across academic content areas as determined by a
 29 public school district board of directors.

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 31 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-117(b), concerning noninstructional
 32 duties of teachers, is amended to read as follows:

33 (b) As used in this section:

34 (1) “Noninstructional duties” means the supervision of students
 35 before or after the instructional day begins or ends for students or for the
 36 supervision of students during breakfasts, lunches, ~~recesses,~~ or scheduled

1 breaks; and

2 (2) "Instructional purposes" means activities initiated by the
3 teacher related to teaching duties, including, ~~but not limited to,~~ without
4 limitation contacting parents, assessing student performance, documenting
5 student performance, organizing the classroom, preparing instructional
6 materials, supervising students during recess, and other teaching
7 responsibilities related to instructional planning and the direct instruction
8 of students.

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