

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1336

By: Representative Cozart  
By: Senator K. Hammer

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE AN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PILOT  
PROGRAM IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO CREATE AN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PILOT  
PROGRAM IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended  
to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-16-156. Agricultural education.

(a)(1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, the Division of  
Elementary and Secondary Education shall consult industry stakeholders,  
including without limitation the Department of Agriculture and the Arkansas  
Farm Bureau Federation, and may establish a pilot program to provide for  
agricultural education in elementary schools in the State of Arkansas.

(2) The pilot program required by this section shall determine  
whether and how to implement an elementary agricultural education program  
statewide.

(b)(1) The division, in consultation with the Arkansas Farm Bureau  
Federation and department, shall select via an application process a minimum  
of six (6) elementary schools for participation in the pilot program  
established by this section.

(2) The local school district board of directors for each of the



elementary schools selected under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall agree to:

(A) Implement an elementary agricultural education program in its public school district for a minimum of three (3) years; and

(B) Continue to provide elementary agricultural education until the pilot program is either:

(i) Implemented in public elementary schools statewide; or

(ii) Terminated by the division, in consultation with the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation and the department.

(3) The local school district board of directors for each of the elementary schools selected under subdivision (b)(1) of this section may employ an agricultural education teacher to provide the agricultural education program at its public school district.

(c) The pilot program shall be based on the nationally recognized three-component model of school-based agricultural education, which includes:

(1) Daily instruction in an organized classroom and laboratory environment;

(2) Hands-on, real-world learning opportunities through the supervised agricultural experience program; and

(3) Leadership and learning opportunities through participation in the National FFA Organization.

(d) The curriculum for the elementary agricultural education program shall be fact-based instruction that shall:

(1) Include without limitation equal portions of each of the three (3) components of school-based agricultural education, as specified under subsection (c) of this section;

(2) Provide grade-appropriate, collaborative learning experiences through:

(A) Instruction and inquiry;

(B) Experimental learning activities; and

(C) Personal and leadership development opportunities; and

(3) Be established by the division, in consultation with the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation and department, with input from agricultural and general education teachers.

(e) The division, in consultation with the Arkansas Farm Bureau

1 Federation and department, shall:

2 (1) Provide for a program evaluation regarding the success and  
3 impact of the pilot program established by this section upon completion of  
4 the third year of the pilot program; and

5 (2) Report the results of the evaluation required by subdivision  
6 (e)(1) of this section to the:

7 (A) House Committee on Education;

8 (B) Senate Committee on Education; and

9 (C) State Board of Education.