

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H2/14/23

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 in order to 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



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

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

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

7 (i) Implemented in public elementary schools
8 statewide; or

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

11 (C) Determine the method by which an elementary
12 agricultural education program shall be implemented in the public school
13 district.

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

18 (c) The pilot program shall be based on the nationally recognized
19 three-component model of school-based agricultural education, which includes
20 without limitation:

21 (1) Instruction in an organized classroom or laboratory
22 environment;

23 (2) Hands-on, real-world learning opportunities; and

24 (3) Leadership and learning opportunities through participation
25 in the Arkansas Division of the Future Farmers of America and an Arkansas 4-H
26 Foundation, Incorporated program.

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

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

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

34 (A) Instruction and inquiry;

35 (B) Experimental learning activities; and

36 (C) Personal and leadership development opportunities; and

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

4 (e) The division, in consultation with the Arkansas Farm Bureau
5 Federation and department, shall:

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

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

11 (A) House Committee on Education;

12 (B) Senate Committee on Education; and

13 (C) State Board of Education.

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15 /s/Cozart
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