

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1722

5 By: Representative L. Johnson
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM; TO REQUIRE
9 THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO
10 AMEND THE CURRENT PUBLIC SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM; TO
11 REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
12 EDUCATION TO CREATE A PARTICIPATING SCHOOL RATING
13 SYSTEM FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE
14 ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM ACCOUNT
15 PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

18 TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND
19 SECONDARY EDUCATION TO AMEND THE CURRENT
20 SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM; AND TO REQUIRE THE
21 DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
22 EDUCATION TO CREATE A PRIVATE SCHOOL
23 RATING SYSTEM.
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2108 is amended to add an additional
30 subsection to read as follows:

31 6-15-2108. School rating system.

32 (a) The school rating system shall be a multiple-measures approach
33 that shall include without limitation:

34 (1) Academic achievement on the annual statewide student
35 assessment;

36 (2) Student growth on the annual statewide student assessment;



1 (3) School-level graduation rate or rates; and

2 (4) English-learner progress or growth in acquiring English.

3 (b) The school rating system shall consider without limitation at
4 least one (1) or more of the following indicators:

5 (1) Closing the achievement gap;

6 (2) Academic growth of student subgroups, including without
7 limitation economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial
8 and ethnic groups, English learners, and students with disabilities;

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

11 (4) Equity in resource allocation;

12 (5) The percentage of students who earn:

13 (A) Advanced placement credit;

14 (B) Concurrent credit;

15 (C) International Baccalaureate credit; or

16 (D) Industry-recognized certification that leads to
17 articulated or concurrent credit at a postsecondary institution;

18 (6) Student access to multiple flexible learning continua,
19 including but not limited to personalized, competency, or mastery learning;

20 (7) Student access to preschool offered by the public school
21 district;

22 (8) The proportional percentage of qualified educators who hold
23 a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification or have an
24 advanced degree beyond their bachelor's degree; and

25 (9) Public school district and community partnerships.

26 (c) Indicators included or considered as part of the school rating
27 system shall:

28 (1) Allow for meaningful differentiation in school performance;
29 and

30 (2) Be valid, reliable, comparable, and applicable statewide.

31 (d) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
32 promulgate rules to implement this section.

33 (e) By January 1, 2024, the division shall:

34 (1)(A) Create a participating private school rating system for
35 purposes of rating a participating school under the Arkansas Children's
36 Educational Freedom Account Program, § 6-18-2501 et seq.

1 (B) The division shall use the measures and indicators
2 considered by the school rating system, if possible, when establishing a
3 participating private school rating system as required by subdivision
4 (e)(1)(A) of this section; and

5 (2)(A) Utilize all measures and indicators provided under
6 subsections (a) and (b) of this section to ensure the existing school rating
7 system considers all appropriate factors.

8 (B) In addition to measures and indicators provided under
9 subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the division shall consider the
10 percent of students enrolled in the previous school year in a public school
11 district who are national school lunch students as defined in § 6-20-2303
12 when evaluating the existing school rating system as required under
13 subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section.

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