

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

SENATE BILL 812

By: Senator B. Johnson
By: Representative Murdock

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS
PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND
CAREER READINESS PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-441(a) and (b), concerning the Arkansas College and Career Readiness Planning Program, are amended to read as follows:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "College and career readiness" means the acquisition of the knowledge and skills a student needs to be successful in future endeavors, including:

(A) Successfully completing credit-bearing, first-year courses at a postsecondary institution; and

(B) Embarking on a chosen career; and

(2) "College and career readiness assessment" means a test that measures student readiness for postsecondary learning and is:

(A) Administered under this section; or

(B) Used by an institution of higher education as part of its admissions, placement, and scholarship processes;



~~(3) "EXPLORE" means the pre-ACT assessment designed by ACT, Inc. to help students in grade eight (8) explore a broad range of options for their future and focus not only on high school coursework but also on post-high school choices;~~

~~(4) "PLAN" means the pre-ACT assessment for students in grade ten (10) used to help a student focus attention on improved academic achievement, career preparation, and planning for post-high school years; and~~

~~(5) "PSAT" means the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test that provides practice for the SAT Reasoning Test and gives students feedback on individual strengths and weaknesses on college readiness skills.~~

(b)(1)(A) A public school that serves students in grade eight (8) shall administer EXPLORE a college and career readiness assessment approved by the State Board of Education to each student enrolled in grade eight (8) at the public school.

(B) A public school that serves students in ~~grade~~ grades ten (10) through twelve (10-12) shall administer ~~PLAN or the PSAT~~ a college and career readiness assessment approved by the state board to each student enrolled in ~~grade ten (10) at the public school~~ before the student graduates from high school.

(2) Funding for the college and career readiness assessments listed in subdivision (b)(1) of this section may be paid by using Department of Education at-risk funding.

~~(3)(A) The department may designate alternative assessments other than EXPLORE, PLAN, or PSAT to satisfy the purposes of this section.~~

~~(B) The alternative assessments may include without limitation next-generation assessments as approved by the State Board of Education.~~

APPROVED: 04/07/2015