

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H2/24/17 H3/17/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1608

By: Representative Della Rosa

By: Senator U. Lindsey

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM DEVELOPED
BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS UNDER THE EVERY STUDENT
SUCCEEDS ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM
DEVELOPED BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS UNDER
THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The Department of Education is working to draft a state plan that includes an accountability system for Arkansas public schools and public school districts that complies with the Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.;

(2) The state plan will be submitted to the United States Department of Education in the fall of 2017, to become effective for the 2018-2019 school year;

(3) Arkansas has an economically and culturally diverse student population, and its public school districts work tirelessly to serve the needs of all students;

(4) Children in poverty, children with limited English language proficiency, migratory children, children with disabilities, neglected or delinquent children, and young children in need of assistance often struggle



with their performance on state-mandated assessments;

(5) The accountability system should reward public schools and public school districts for all students' successes; and

(6) The state must ensure the promotion of learning and equity for all students in its accountability system.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2101(c) and (d), concerning annual reports on the school rating system, is amended to read as follows:

~~(c) The annual report shall designate one (1) school performance category level for each school based on:~~

~~(1) Student academic performance on state-mandated assessments as required by law or by rule of the state board;~~

~~(2) Student growth based on state-mandated assessments as required by law or by rule of the state board; and~~

~~(3) For a secondary school, the school's graduation rate.~~

~~(d) In addition to the designation of one (1) overall school performance category for each school required by subsection (c) of this section, the The annual report shall separately list the following measures by school:~~

(1) Student performance on state-mandated assessments as required by law or rule of the state board;

(2) Student academic growth based on state-mandated assessments as required by law or rule of the state board;

(3) For a secondary school, the school's graduation rate; and

(4) Any other criteria required by law or by rule of the state board.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2106(b)(3), concerning rules for the school rating system, is amended to read as follows:

(3) Rules adopted under the requirements of a law enacted by Congress for general education, including without limitation the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 89-10, as reauthorized by the ~~No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.~~ Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, or any supplementary federal regulations, directives, or decisions of the United States Department of Education pertaining to that legislation.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 21, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-15-2108. School rating system.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Closing the achievement gap;

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

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

(4) Equity in resource allocation;

(5) The percentage of students who earn:

(A) Advanced placement credit;

(B) Concurrent credit;

(C) International Baccalaureate credit; or

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

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

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

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

(9) Public school district and community partnerships.

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

- (1) Allow for meaningful differentiation in school performance;
and
(2) Be valid, reliable, comparable, and applicable state-wide.
(d) The Department of Education shall promulgate rules to implement
this section.

/s/Della Rosa

APPROVED: 03/29/2017