

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1627

By: Representative Sturch

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDANCE; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT
ATTENDANCE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 6-18-210 and 6-18-211 are repealed.

~~6-18-210. Definitions.~~

~~As used in this section and § 6-18-211:~~

~~(1) "Financial hardships" means harm or suffering caused by a student's inability to obtain or provide basic life necessities of food, clothing, and shelter for the student or the student's family; and~~

~~(2) "Planned instructional time" means regularly scheduled class periods offering organized teaching of a Department of Education-sanctioned class curriculum.~~

~~6-18-211. Mandatory attendance for students in grades nine through twelve.~~

~~(a) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall be required to schedule and attend a full school day.~~

~~(b)(1) No later than January 30, 2004, the State Board of Education~~



~~shall promulgate regulations that require students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) to enroll in no less than three hundred fifty (350) minutes of planned instructional time each day as a requirement for graduation.~~

~~(2)(A) The regulations shall allow local school district boards of directors to develop policies to allow:~~

~~(i) Students to be assigned to no more than one (1) class period each day for a study hall period that the student shall be required to attend and participate in for a full class period of self-study or organized tutoring in the school building; and~~

~~(ii)(a) No more than one (1) class period each day for organized and scheduled student extracurricular classes to be included as planned instructional time.~~

~~(b) If the extracurricular class is related to a seasonal activity, the class must continue to meet after the season ends to be counted toward the requirement of planned instructional time.~~

~~(B) The regulations shall allow local school district boards of directors to develop policies for granting waivers to students who would experience proven financial hardships if required to attend a full school day.~~

~~(c) Enrollment and attendance in vocational-educational training courses, college courses, school work programs, and other Department of Education sanctioned educational programs may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section even if the programs are not located at the public schools.~~

~~(d) Nothing in this section and § 6-18-210:~~

~~(1) Precludes a student who has met all graduation requirements from graduating early; or~~

~~(2) Requires a student who has graduated early from high school to continue to attend school.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-213(a)(2), concerning the basic record of student attendance, is amended to read as follows:

(2) This basic record, showing the daily attendance and absence of each student for the school year, shall be kept by a teacher or other officially designated person who ~~visually~~ notes the ~~physical presence~~ attendance or absence of each student on a daily basis.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-47-406(a)(2)(A) and (B), concerning distance learning programs, is amended to read as follows:

(2) The student agrees to physically attend the public school or open-enrollment public charter school for the purposes of taking+

~~(A) A distance learning course taught through the public school or open-enrollment public charter school; and~~

~~(B) State state tests and assessments required for the particular course or courses taken by the student; and~~

APPROVED: 04/04/2017