

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
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As Engrossed: H3/8/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1648

By: Representative C. Douglas

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-202(e), concerning on-site standards for accreditation reviews, is amended to read as follows:

(e)(1) The department shall conduct ~~an on-campus~~ a Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts review for each public school or public school district in the state no less than one (1) time every four (4) years:

(A) Identified as being at a high risk of failing to meet the standards; or

(B) Whenever the department or state board deems necessary.

(2) ~~The department may visit any school campus for an on-campus Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts review at other additional times as determined necessary by the Commissioner of Education or the state board~~ The review under subdivision (e)(1) of this section may be conducted onsite at the public school or public school district.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-206(d), concerning onsite standards for accreditation reviews, is amended to read as follows:

(d)(1) ~~An onsite~~ The department shall conduct a review of each school's compliance ~~shall be made at least every two (2) years or more frequently~~ if the department has reason to believe that the school district or any school ~~therein~~ within the public school district has fallen below standards for accreditation.

(2) The review under subdivision (d)(1) of this section may be conducted onsite at the public school or public school district.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2006(b) and (c), concerning publication of annual school district progress reports, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) A school district board of directors shall publish annually ~~in the local newspaper~~ on its website the school performance report required by § 6-15-1402 ~~and report in writing to the State Board of Education~~ by October 15 of each year the following information on the prior school year or the latest information available:

~~(1)(A)~~ (A) By grade level, economic status, and ethnicity, the number and percentage of all students in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) performing at each category level on the state-mandated examinations, the percentile rankings by school and grade level on any other assessments as required by the state board, the number of students taking advanced placement courses or courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, the number taking the advanced placement exams, and the percent of students making a 3, 4, or 5 on advanced placement exams;

~~(2)(B)~~ (B) By grade level, the number and percentage of all students retained in grades one through eight (1-8);

~~(3)(C)~~ (C) The graduation rate, grade inflation rate, drop-out rate for grades nine through twelve (9-12), and college remediation rate;

~~(4)(D)~~ (D) The number of students transferring pursuant to the unsafe school provision of § 6-15-432; and

~~(5)(E)~~ (E) The number of students transferring pursuant to the Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act of 2004, § 6-18-227.

(2) The school performance report shall be easily identifiable on the website.

(3) The public school district may also publish the school performance report in the local newspaper.

(c) A printed copy of the school performance report required by § 6-15-1402 shall be made available upon request.

(d) This section shall apply to the extent that it is not in violation of applicable state or federal law.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2107(c)(1)(C), concerning performance-based funding, is repealed.

~~(C) Needs improvement focus schools and needs improvement priority schools as defined in rules of the state board are ineligible to receive rewards under this section.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2107(c)(3) and (4), concerning the Arkansas School Recognition Program, are repealed.

~~(3) Each school that receives performance-based funding shall submit to the department a proposal for its spending of the performance-based funding.~~

~~(4) The department shall:~~

~~(A) Review each proposal received under this section; and~~

~~(B) Approve spending of performance-based funding for academic expenses only as provided under subsection (e) of this section.~~

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2107(f), concerning the Arkansas School Recognition Program, is amended to read as follows:

(f) School recognition awards are exempt from §§ 6-17-119 and 6-20-412.

(g) The General Assembly shall appropriate and fund sufficient funds to implement this section.

/s/C. Douglas

APPROVED: 04/04/2017