

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1677

By: Representative Cozart

By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS
CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING AMOUNTS; TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL
FUNDING AMOUNTS; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(a)(2), concerning per-student foundation funding amounts, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) For the ~~2019-2020~~ 2021-2022 school year, the foundation funding amount is equal to ~~six thousand eight hundred ninety-nine dollars (\$6,899)~~ seven thousand one hundred eighty-two dollars (\$7,182) multiplied by the school district's average daily membership for the previous school year.

(B) For the ~~2020-2021~~ 2022-2023 school year and each school year thereafter, the foundation funding amount is equal to ~~seven thousand eighteen dollars (\$7,018)~~ seven thousand three hundred forty-nine dollars (\$7,349) multiplied by the school district's average daily membership for the previous school year.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(2)(A), concerning per-student categorical funding amounts for alternative learning environments, is amended



to read as follows:

(2)(A)(i) For ~~each~~ the 2021-2022 school year, alternative learning environment funding shall be ~~four thousand seven hundred dollars (\$4,700)~~ four thousand seven hundred ninety-four dollars (\$4,794) multiplied by the number of identified alternative learning environment students enrolled during the previous school year.

(ii) For the 2022-2023 school year, alternative learning environment funding shall be four thousand eight hundred ninety dollars (\$4,890) multiplied by the number of identified alternative learning environment students enrolled during the previous school year.

~~(ii)~~(iii) Funding for students in alternative learning environments shall be distributed based on rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(3), concerning per-student state categorical funding amounts for English-language learners, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) For the ~~2019-2020~~ 2021-2022 school year, funding for students who are identified as English-language learners shall be ~~three hundred forty-five dollars (\$345)~~ three hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$359) for each identified English-language learner.

(B) Funding for English-language learners shall be distributed to public school districts for students who have been identified as not proficient in the English language based upon a state-approved English proficiency assessment instrument.

(C) Funds allocated for English-language learners to public school districts under this subchapter shall be expended only for eligible activities as identified in current rules promulgated by the State Board of Education and are a supplement to funding for national school lunch students provided in subdivision (b)(4) of this section.

(D) For the ~~2020-2021~~ 2022-2023 school year and each school year thereafter, funding for students who are identified as English-language learners shall be ~~three hundred fifty-two dollars (\$352)~~ three hundred sixty-six dollars (\$366) for each identified English-language learner.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(A), concerning per-student Enhanced Student Achievement Funding, is amended to read as follows:

(4)(A) Enhanced Student Achievement Funding for each identified national school lunch student shall be as follows:

(i) For a public school district in which ninety percent (90%) or more of the previous school year's enrolled students are national school lunch students, the amount of per-student Enhanced Student Achievement Funding ~~is for each the 2021-2022 school year, one thousand five hundred seventy-six dollars (\$1,576)~~ is one thousand five hundred ninety-four dollars (\$1,594) and for the 2022-2023 school year is one thousand six hundred thirteen dollars (\$1,613);

(ii) For a public school district in which at least seventy percent (70%) but less than ninety percent (90%) of the previous school year's enrolled students are national school lunch students, the amount of per-student Enhanced Student Achievement Funding ~~is for each the 2021-2022 school year, one thousand fifty-one dollars (\$1,051)~~ is one thousand sixty-three dollars (\$1,063) and for the 2022-2023 school year is one thousand seventy-six dollars (\$1,076); and

(iii) For a public school district in which less than seventy percent (70%) of the previous school year's enrolled students are national school lunch students, the amount of per-student Enhanced Student Achievement Funding ~~is for each the 2021-2022 school year, five hundred twenty-six dollars (\$526)~~ is five hundred thirty-two dollars (\$532) and for the 2022-2023 school year is five hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$538).

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(5), concerning per-student state categorical funding amounts for professional development, is amended to read as follows:

(5)(A) For ~~the 2019-2020~~ each school year, professional development funding shall be equal to an amount of up to ~~thirty-two dollars and forty cents (\$32.40)~~ forty dollars and eighty cents (\$40.80) multiplied by the school district's previous school year average daily membership.

~~(B) For the 2020-2021 school year, professional development funding shall be equal to an amount of up to forty dollars and eighty cents (\$40.80) multiplied by the school district's previous school~~

~~year average daily membership.~~

~~(C)(B)~~ Funding for professional development for teachers in Arkansas public schools required under the Teacher Excellence and Support System, § 6-17-2801 et seq., other law or rule, or by the school district shall be used for professional development activities and materials that:

(i) Improve the knowledge, skills, and effectiveness of teachers;

(ii) Address the knowledge and skills of administrators and paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional strategies, methods, and skills;

(iii) Lead to improved student academic achievement; and

(iv) Provide training for school bus drivers as outlined in rules promulgated by the Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation.

~~(D)(i)(C)(i)~~ For the ~~2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years~~ 2021-2022 school year, additional funding up to ~~twelve million five hundred thousand dollars (\$12,500,000)~~ fourteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$14,500,000) and for the 2022-2023 school year, additional funding up to sixteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$16,500,000), provided for professional development above the amount in ~~subdivisions (b)(5)(A) and (B)~~ subdivision (b)(5)(A) of this section shall be used by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for the development and administration of professional learning communities for the benefit of public school districts.

(ii)(a) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate rules to administer the additional professional development funding under subdivision ~~(b)(5)(D)(i)~~ (b)(5)(C)(i) of this section.

(b) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may partner with or choose a person, firm, corporation, or education service cooperative to provide the knowledge, skills, experience, and expertise for the development of a research-based process for the implementation of professional learning communities.

SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that funding for public schools is

the obligation of the state; that ensuring that adequate funding is provided is the duty of the General Assembly; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that funding is provided for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years so that school districts can budget accordingly. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 4/8/21