

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 918 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S4/9/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1812

By: Representative Gramlich

By: Senator J. Boyd

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDENT WHO TAKES AND PASSES A GED TEST; TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT; TO CREATE AN EXCEPTION TO THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR A STUDENT WHO TAKES A GED TEST AND RECEIVES A GED; TO AMEND THE SCORE REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSAGE OF THE GED TEST; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT; TO CREATE AN EXCEPTION TO ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR A STUDENT WHO TAKES A GED TEST; AND TO AMEND THE SCORE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GED TEST.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2913(a)(2)(D), concerning criteria considered by the State Board of Education for determining the level of support to be provided to a public school district, is amended to read as follows:

(D) Other criteria the state board determines appropriate, including without limitation:

(i) Feeder pattern performance;

(ii) (a) Graduation rates.

(b) However, for purposes of this section, a



student who passes a GED test shall not be counted as a dropout when calculating a public school district's five-year graduation rate;

(iii) Growth calculations; and

(iv) Other indicators of school success.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-201(a)(2), concerning exceptions to the requirement that each child of a certain age shall enroll in and attend a school, is amended to read as follows:

(2) A child who has received a GED or a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education is not subject to the attendance requirement under this section;

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-201(a)(4), concerning exceptions to the requirement that each child of a certain age shall enroll in and attend a school, is amended to read as follows:

(4) A child sixteen (16) years of age or older who is enrolled in an adult education program under subsection (b) of this section ~~or in the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program is not subject to the attendance requirement under this section.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-18-201(c)(1), concerning a student enrolled in a private, parochial, or home school who wishes to enroll in an adult education program or take the GED test, are amended to read as follows:

(c) Students sixteen (16) years of age or seventeen (17) years of age enrolled in a private, parochial, or home school who desire to enroll in an adult education program shall meet the following requirements:

(1)(A) Students shall apply for enrollment to the adult education program.

(B) A student enrolled in a private or parochial school shall provide:

(i) Provide a letter from the principal or administrator of the private or parochial school to verify enrollment; and ~~shall~~

(ii) Achieve a score 8.5 grade level or above as determined by the Adult Education Section on either the Test for Adult Basic Education or a minimum score of four hundred fifty (450) on each section and

~~a minimum composite score of four hundred ninety (490) on the GED practice test.~~

(C) A student that is home schooled shall provide a notarized copy of the notice of intent to home school provided to the superintendent of the local school district as required by § 6-15-503;

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-18-201(d), concerning a student enrolled in a private, parochial, or home school who wishes to take the GED test, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Students age sixteen (16) or above enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school who desire to take the GED test shall meet the following requirements:

(1) A public school student shall ~~not be required to~~ obtain permission or approval from ~~any official in a~~ the public school district in which he or she is enrolled before being allowed to take the test;

(2) A student enrolled in a private or parochial school shall provide a letter from the principal or administrator of the private or parochial school to verify enrollment;

(3) A student enrolled in a home school shall provide a notarized copy of the notice of intent to home school provided to the superintendent of the local school district as required by § 6-15-503; and

(4) A student enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school must achieve at least the minimum official GED *practice* test scores.

/s/Gramlich

APPROVED: 4/21/25