

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: S3/26/13

A Bill

SENATE BILL 834

By: Senator J. Key

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND *THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC EDUCATION ACT, § 6-15-1001 ET SEQ.*; TO SUPPORT THE STATE'S GOAL OF ACHIEVING STUDENT COMPETENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC EDUCATION ACT OF 1997.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 10, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-15-1013. Internet connectivity in public schools.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The Senate Committee on Education and House Committee on Education received testimony during the 2012 adequacy study concerning the need for greater public school access to high speed Internet statewide and that access to the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network was not available to public schools; and

(2) The availability to a public school of the resources of the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network is a vital component of accomplishing the state's goal under § 6-15-1003(b)(3) that students will achieve competence in computer science and other technologies.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district may



apply for associate membership in the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network to obtain education technology services and applications, including without limitation services that provide broadband internet access, promote low latency, and promote school district network security.

(c) The Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network may condition approval for associate membership on the funding available to and staffing levels of the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network.

(d) A school district entering into an agreement for services under this section is responsible for:

(1) Physical connectivity to the point of presence on the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network;

(2) Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network associate membership fees; and

(3) Fees for services provided by the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network.

/s/J. Key