

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

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: S3/30/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1663

By: Representative Cozart
By: Senator J. English

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 ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 school year, the foundation funding amount is equal to ~~six thousand three hundred ninety-three dollars (\$6,393)~~ six thousand five hundred eighty-four dollars (\$6,584) multiplied by the school district's average daily membership for the previous school year.

(B) For the ~~2014-2015~~ 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, the foundation funding amount is equal to ~~six thousand five hundred twenty-one dollars (\$6,521)~~ six thousand six hundred forty-six dollars (\$6,646) multiplied by the school district's average daily membership for the previous school year.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(2)(A)(i) and (ii), concerning per-student state categorical funding amounts for alternative learning



environments, are amended to read as follows:

(2)(A)(i) For the ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 school year, alternative learning environment funding shall be ~~four thousand three hundred five dollars (\$4,305)~~ four thousand four hundred seventy-one dollars (\$4,471) multiplied by the number of identified alternative learning environment students enrolled during the previous school year.

(ii) For the ~~2014-2015~~ 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, alternative learning environment funding shall be ~~four thousand three hundred eighty three dollars (\$4,383)~~ four thousand five hundred sixty dollars (\$4,560) multiplied by the number of identified alternative learning environment students enrolled during the previous school year.

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

(3)(A) For the ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 school year, funding for students who are identified as English-language learners shall be ~~three hundred eleven dollars (\$311)~~ three hundred twenty-four dollars (\$324) for each identified English-language learner.

(B) For the ~~2014-2015~~ 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, funding for students who are identified as English-language learners shall be ~~three hundred seventeen dollars (\$317)~~ three hundred thirty-one dollars (\$331) for each identified English-language learner.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(A)(i)-(iii), concerning per-student state categorical funding amounts for national school lunch students, are amended to read as follows:

(4)(A) National school lunch state categorical funding for each identified national school lunch student shall be as follows:

(i) For a school district in which ninety percent (90%) or greater of the previous school year's enrolled students are national school lunch students, the amount of per-student national school lunch state categorical funding is ~~one thousand five hundred forty nine dollars (\$1,549)~~:

(a) For the 2015-2016 school year, one thousand five hundred sixty-two dollars (\$1,562) and

(b) For the 2016-2017 school year, one thousand five hundred seventy-six dollars (\$1,576);

(ii) For school districts 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 national school lunch state categorical funding is ~~one thousand thirty three dollars (\$1,033);~~

(a) For the 2015-2016 school year, one thousand forty-two dollars (\$1,042); and

(b) For the 2016-2017 school year, one thousand fifty-one dollars (\$1,051); and

(iii) For school districts 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 national school lunch state categorical funding is ~~five hundred seventeen dollars (\$517);~~

(a) For the 2015-2016 school year, five hundred twenty-two dollars (\$522); and

(b) For the 2016-2017 school year, five hundred twenty-six dollars (\$526).

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

~~(5)(A)(5)~~ For the ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school year ~~years~~, professional development funding shall be equal to an amount of up to ~~fifty three dollars (\$53.00)~~ thirty-two dollars and forty cents (\$32.40) multiplied by the school district's previous school year average daily membership.

~~(B) For the 2014-2015 school year and each school year thereafter, professional development funding shall be equal to an amount of up to fifty four dollars (\$54.00) multiplied by the school district's previous school year average daily membership.~~

SECTION 6. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) It is the duty of the state to provide a general, suitable,

and efficient system of free public schools to the children of the state under Arkansas Constitution Article 14, § 1;

(2) The General Assembly is obligated to ensure that an adequate and equitable system of education is provided;

(3) Student transportation may be a necessary component for providing a student with an equitable opportunity for an adequate education to the extent that a student would not otherwise be able to realize this opportunity but for transportation being provided by the state;

(4) Analyzing the portion of student transportation funding is required for adequacy purposes and is a highly complex, fact-intensive study that requires the analysis of many factors such as student characteristics, bus routes, route miles, and a variety of other factors;

(5)(A) In "A Report on Legislative Hearings for the 2014 Interim Study on Education Adequacy", the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education found that transportation funding should continue to be funded at the same levels for the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years.

(B) The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education also recommended the creation of a separate supplemental transportation funding program for school districts with high transportation costs to be distributed using a transportation funding model developed by the Bureau of Legislative Research;

(6) The transportation funding model developed by the Bureau of Legislative Research would result in one hundred (100) of two hundred thirty-six (236) school districts not receiving any supplemental transportation funds;

(7) The Bureau of Legislative Research dedicated extensive time and effort toward the development of the transportation funding model and the General Assembly is extremely grateful for those efforts;

(8) The transportation funding model developed by the Bureau of Legislative Research may be the best evidence-based method for the distribution of supplemental transportation funding; and

(9) The General Assembly requires additional time to study the transportation funding model developed by the Bureau of Legislative Research before implementing the findings and recommendations of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education.

(b) The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on

Education, in conjunction with the Bureau of Legislative Research, shall conduct a review of the transportation funding model developed by the Bureau of Legislative Research and make recommendations to the Ninetieth General Assembly for consideration during the 2016 fiscal session.

SECTION 7. 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 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 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 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.

/s/Cozart