

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: H3/17/15

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1860

By: Representative Murdock

For An Act To Be Entitled

*AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING ADEQUACY AND EQUITY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
SYSTEM; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

*TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING ADEQUACY AND EQUITY IN THE
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND TO DECLARE AN
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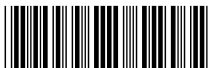
BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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 two hundred sixty-three dollars (\$6,263) 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 three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$6,325) 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. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 20, Subchapter 23, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-20-2309. Public School Student Transportation Funding Act of 2015.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Public School Student Transportation Funding Act of 2015."

(b) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Public school student transportation is currently funded on a per-student basis as part of the foundation funding formula, under which each Arkansas school district receives the same amount of per-student funding for student transportation;

(2) The actual costs of providing student transportation vary widely among Arkansas school districts, and consequently the state student transportation funding for some districts is well below actual transportation costs while for other school districts it is well above actual transportation costs;

(3) There is no persuasive reason to provide each Arkansas school district the same amount of per-student funding for student transportation without regard to a district's actual student transportation costs;

(4) As discussed in the Odden and Picus 2006 report, "Recalibrating the Arkansas School Funding Structure", student transportation costs were included in the foundation funding formula until a separate standards-based funding formula could be developed;

(5) A standards-based student transportation funding formula based on route miles that would accurately and fairly fund the student transportation costs of Arkansas school districts has been developed;

(6) The Bureau of Legislative Research presented a standards-based student transportation funding formula to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education for the 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014 adequacy studies; and

(7) The student transportation funding formula presented by the bureau would be ninety-eight percent (98%) accurate in funding school districts' actual student transportation costs.

(c) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the Department of Education shall provide to a school district annual state funding for student transportation based on the school district's student transportation costs as determined by a standards-based formula in which student transportation cost is a function of a school district's historical route miles.

(d) Except as provided under subsection (e) of this section, all

student transportation funding provided under this subchapter shall be distributed as provided under this section.

(e) To provide a smooth transition to accurate student transportation funding, the department shall distribute student transportation funding to a school district under this section in an amount that is:

(1) For the 2015-2016 school year, not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the amount of funding within the per-student foundation funding amount for the 2014-2015 school year that represents the calculation for student transportation;

(2) For the 2016-2017 school year, not less than fifty percent (50%) of the amount of funding within the per-student foundation funding amount for the 2014-2015 school year that represents the calculation for student transportation; and

(3) For the 2017-2018 school year, not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of funding within the per-student foundation funding amount for the 2014-2015 school year that represents the calculation for student transportation.

(f) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

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/Murdock