

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

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1627

By: Representative Sturch

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDANCE; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT
ATTENDANCE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 6-18-210 and 6-18-211 are repealed.

~~6-18-210. Definitions.~~

~~As used in this section and § 6-18-211:~~

~~(1) "Financial hardships" means harm or suffering caused by a student's inability to obtain or provide basic life necessities of food, clothing, and shelter for the student or the student's family; and~~

~~(2) "Planned instructional time" means regularly scheduled class periods offering organized teaching of a Department of Education-sanctioned class curriculum.~~

~~6-18-211. Mandatory attendance for students in grades nine through twelve.~~

~~(a) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall be required to schedule and attend a full school day.~~

~~(b)(1) No later than January 30, 2004, the State Board of Education~~



~~shall promulgate regulations that require students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) to enroll in no less than three hundred fifty (350) minutes of planned instructional time each day as a requirement for graduation.~~

~~(2)(A) The regulations shall allow local school district boards of directors to develop policies to allow:~~

~~(i) Students to be assigned to no more than one (1) class period each day for a study hall period that the student shall be required to attend and participate in for a full class period of self-study or organized tutoring in the school building; and~~

~~(ii)(a) No more than one (1) class period each day for organized and scheduled student extracurricular classes to be included as planned instructional time.~~

~~(b) If the extracurricular class is related to a seasonal activity, the class must continue to meet after the season ends to be counted toward the requirement of planned instructional time.~~

~~(B) The regulations shall allow local school district boards of directors to develop policies for granting waivers to students who would experience proven financial hardships if required to attend a full school day.~~

~~(c) Enrollment and attendance in vocational-educational training courses, college courses, school work programs, and other Department of Education-sanctioned educational programs may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section even if the programs are not located at the public schools.~~

~~(d) Nothing in this section and § 6-18-210:~~

~~(1) Precludes a student who has met all graduation requirements from graduating early; or~~

~~(2) Requires a student who has graduated early from high school to continue to attend school.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-213(a)(2), concerning the basic record of student attendance, is amended to read as follows:

(2) This basic record, showing the daily attendance and absence of each student for the school year, shall be kept by a teacher or other officially designated person who ~~visually~~ notes the ~~physical presence~~ attendance or absence of each student on a daily basis.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-47-406(a)(2)(A) and (B), concerning distance learning programs, is amended to read as follows:

(2) The student agrees to physically attend the public school or open-enrollment public charter school for the purposes of taking+

~~(A) A distance learning course taught through the public school or open-enrollment public charter school; and~~

~~(B) State state tests and assessments required for the particular course or courses taken by the student; and~~