

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

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: H3/25/19  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1390

By: Representatives Lowery, Cozart

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DATES FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR; TO AMEND THE DATE ON WHICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHALL BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR; TO ALLOW A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO TRANSITION FROM A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DAYS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR TO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HOURS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE DATE ON WHICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR; AND TO ALLOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO TRANSITION FROM A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DAYS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR TO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HOURS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(a), concerning the dates for the beginning and end of the school year is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) ~~In each school year~~ Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the first day of the school year for student attendance in the public elementary and secondary schools ~~of the State of Arkansas~~ shall not be+

~~(i) On or after the Monday of the week in which August 19 falls;~~

~~(ii) Not earlier than August 14; and~~ the third Monday of each August



~~(iii) Not later than August 26.~~

(B) The date for beginning the school year shall be determined by the board of directors of ~~the~~ each school district in accordance with subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section.

(C) Labor Day shall be celebrated as a school holiday in all the school districts of the state, and school shall not be held on that date.

~~(D)~~(C) As used in this section, "week" means a seven-day period that begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday.

(2)(A) The Department of Education may grant a school district a waiver to begin school on ~~an earlier or~~ a later date if the department determines that there exists a material and substantial reason for the school district to begin school on ~~an earlier or~~ a later date due to very exceptional or emergency circumstances such as a contagious disease outbreak, *inclement weather, or other acts of God.*

(B) The department shall not grant a public school district a waiver under § 6-15-103 to begin school on an earlier date.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-16-102, concerning the definition of a "school day" is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(d)(1)(A) A public school or open-enrollment public charter school may transition from a certain number of days for student-teacher interaction time required by the Department of Education to a certain number of hours for student-teacher interaction time if the public school or open-enrollment public charter school submits to the department a plan that accommodates and assures the following without limitation:

(i) Professional development requirements;

(ii) Alternative methods of instruction plans;

(iii) The number of minutes of instruction by a public school teacher required per week during the school year;

(iv) A plan to ensure that contracts of the public school's teachers are not affected by the transition requested under this subdivision (d)(1)(A); and

(v) Any other relevant information regarding aspects of public school education and reporting requirements that may be affected by the transition requested under this subdivision (d)(1)(A).

(B) The department shall approve a public school's or open-enrollment public charter school's submitted plan under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section unless the public school's or open-enrollment public charter school's submitted plan does not meet the requirements of the department under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.

(2) A plan submitted by a public school or open-enrollment public charter school under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section shall be submitted to the department by July 1 of the year in which the public school or open-enrollment public charter school is requesting that the transition under subdivision (d)(1)(A) take place.

(3) The department shall submit annually by August 1 to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education a list of public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools that have requested and received approval for a plan to transition from a certain number of days for student-teacher interaction time to a certain number of hours for student-teacher interaction time under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.

/s/Lowery