

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1587

By: Representative Wooten

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING HOME SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE HOME SCHOOLS THAT RECEIVE ANY FORM OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO ADMINISTER AN ANNUAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE HOME SCHOOLS THAT RECEIVE ANY FORM OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO ADMINISTER AN ANNUAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-501 is amended to read as follows:
6-15-501. Definition.

As used in this subchapter, except as provided in § 6-15-511, “home school” means a school provided by a parent or legal guardian for his or her own child.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-507, concerning the ineligibility of home schools for local, state, or federal funds, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(c) A home school that is eligible to receive any form of public funds, whether or not those funds are allocated to a public school district, shall not receive those public funds until it has administered a student assessment as required by § 6-15-511 to each homeschooled student enrolled in the home school at the expense of the home school.



SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 5, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-15-511. Conditions under which an assessment is required.

(a)(1) Each student enrolled in a home school program who is seven (7) years of age through seventeen (17) years of age on October 1 of each school year shall be tested annually using a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment approved by the State Board of Education.

(2) The administration of assessments under this section shall:

(A) Be as designated by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

(B)(i) Include purchasing the assessment materials, giving the assessments, scoring and interpreting the assessments, and reporting the assessment results.

(ii) The cost of the administration of assessments under this section shall be the responsibility of the home school.

(3)(A) Alternative assessment procedures may be approved by the division after consultation with the parent or legal guardian of a homeschooled student.

(B) However, any costs associated with an alternative assessment procedure under subdivision (a)(3)(A) of this section shall be the responsibility of the home school.

(b) As used in this section, "home school" means a school that:

(1) Is provided by a parent or legal guardian for his or her own child; and

(2) Receives any form of public funds, whether or not those public funds are allocated to a public school district.