

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1602

By: Representative Richmond

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AUTHORITY OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; TO ALLOW A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT A SCHOOL WEEK THAT IS NOT A FIVE-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; TO ALLOW A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO EXTEND THE SCHOOL DAY OR SCHOOL YEAR TO ACCOMMODATE A SCHOOL WEEK THAT IS NOT A FIVE-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT A SCHOOL WEEK THAT IS NOT A FIVE-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; AND TO ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO EXTEND THE SCHOOL DAY OR SCHOOL YEAR TO ACCOMMODATE A SCHOOL WEEK THAT IS NOT A FIVE-DAY SCHOOL WEEK.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(c)(1), concerning the extension of a school year within the statutory requirements for an established school calendar, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1)(A) If the school year in any school district extends beyond the date observed as Memorial Day, such date shall be a holiday in the school district.

(B) Subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section shall not apply to a public school district that implements a school week that is not a five-day school week in any or all of the public schools in the public school



district if the public school district board of directors votes by majority vote to extend the school year in order to meet the total number of hours required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts in a five-day school week under § 6-10-117(e).

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-10-117 is amended to read as follows:

6-10-117. ~~Four-day school~~ School week – Definition.

(a) It is found and determined by the General Assembly that granting local public school districts greater flexibility in scheduling instructional time can reap educational benefits for the students and financial rewards for the school district. ~~It is the intent of this section to authorize local~~

(b)(1) Each public school districts to district may initiate and maintain public school educational programs on a four-day school-week basis school week that is not a five-day school week as designated by the school district board of directors according to a majority vote of the school district board of directors in any of the public schools in the public school district, so long as which may include without limitation a four-day school week.

(2) However, planned instructional time is for the school year for a public school district that implements a school week that is not a five-day school week under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be in accord with requirements established by the State Board of Education.

~~(b)(c)~~ As used in this section, “four-day school week that is not a five-day school week” means an educational program in which all students attend school for ~~four (4)~~ the number of days a week designated by a school district board of directors as permitted under subdivision (b)(1) of this section, but no fewer than the total number of hours required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts in a five-day school week.

~~(e) The board of directors of any school district is authorized to initiate and maintain a four-day school week in any or all of the public schools in the school district.~~

(d)(1) The State Board of Education state board shall establish appropriate standards, guidelines, and rules for the determination following for each public school district that implements a school week that is not a five-day school week for any of the public schools in its public school

district:

(A) The determination of average daily membership of public school districts; and for the

(B) The distribution of state aid to each local school district that elects to operate any or all of the public schools of its school district on a four-day school week basis, to.

(2) The state board shall provide the a public school district that implements a school week that is not a five-day school week for any of the public schools in its public school district with an equitable share of aid funds designated to equate a four-day school week school week that is not a five-day school week operation by the public school district to the educational opportunities provided by a public school district offering a five-day school week.

~~(2)(3)~~ Provided, however, that ~~However,~~ a public school district shall not receive any more state financial aid for offering a four-day school week that is not a five-day school week of instruction than it would have received for offering a five-day school week of instruction.

(e) In order to meet the total number of hours required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts in a five-day school week and in accordance with school calendar requirements under § 6-10-106, a public school district that implements a school week that is not a five-day school week for any of the public schools in its public school district may, by a majority vote of the school district board of directors, extend the:

(1) School day, as defined by § 6-16-102(a)(1)(A); and

(2) School year.