

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1722

By: Representative L. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM; TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO AMEND THE CURRENT PUBLIC SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM; TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO CREATE A PARTICIPATING SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM ACCOUNT PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO AMEND THE CURRENT SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM; AND TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO CREATE A PRIVATE SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2108 is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

6-15-2108. School rating system.

(a) The school rating system shall be a multiple-measures approach that shall include without limitation:

(1) Academic achievement on the annual statewide student assessment;

(2) Student growth on the annual statewide student assessment;



- (3) School-level graduation rate or rates; and
- (4) English-learner progress or growth in acquiring English.

(b) The school rating system shall consider without limitation at least one (1) or more of the following indicators:

- (1) Closing the achievement gap;
- (2) Academic growth of student subgroups, including without limitation economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial and ethnic groups, English learners, and students with disabilities;
- (3) The percentage of the grade nine (9) cohort with on-time completion of credit attainment at the end of grade nine (9);
- (4) Equity in resource allocation;
- (5) The percentage of students who earn:
 - (A) Advanced placement credit;
 - (B) Concurrent credit;
 - (C) International Baccalaureate credit; or
 - (D) Industry-recognized certification that leads to articulated or concurrent credit at a postsecondary institution;
- (6) Student access to multiple flexible learning continua, including but not limited to personalized, competency, or mastery learning;
- (7) Student access to preschool offered by the public school district;
- (8) The proportional percentage of qualified educators who hold a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification or have an advanced degree beyond their bachelor's degree; and
- (9) Public school district and community partnerships.

(c) Indicators included or considered as part of the school rating system shall:

(1) Allow for meaningful differentiation in school performance; and

(2) Be valid, reliable, comparable, and applicable statewide.

(d) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

(e) By January 1, 2024, the division shall:

(1)(A) Create a participating private school rating system for purposes of rating a participating school under the Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program, § 6-18-2501 et seq.

(B) The division shall use the measures and indicators considered by the school rating system, if possible, when establishing a participating private school rating system as required by subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section; and

(2)(A) Utilize all measures and indicators provided under subsections (a) and (b) of this section to ensure the existing school rating system considers all appropriate factors.

(B) In addition to measures and indicators provided under subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the division shall consider the percent of students enrolled in the previous school year in a public school district who are national school lunch students as defined in § 6-20-2303 when evaluating the existing school rating system as required under subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section.