

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 1773

By: Representative L. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING ACT OF 2003; TO AMEND THE LAW TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR PURPOSES OF RECEIVING TEACHER SALARY EQUALIZATION FUNDING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING ACT OF 2003; AND TO AMEND THE LAW TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR PURPOSES OF RECEIVING TEACHER SALARY EQUALIZATION FUNDING.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(6), concerning teacher salary equalization funding under the Public School Funding Act of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

(6)(A)(i) Beginning with the ~~2021-2022~~ 2023-2024 school year, ~~for the following~~ school districts ~~identified by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education as having an average annual teacher salary below the statewide target average annual salary,~~ shall qualify for teacher salary equalization funding ~~shall be~~ in an amount equal to one hundred eighty-five dollars (\$185) multiplied by the average daily membership of the school district for the previous school year;

(a) School districts identified by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education as having an average annual teacher salary below the statewide target average annual salary; and



(b) School districts that utilize an amount of state funds equal to one hundred percent (100%) or more of the amount allocated for teacher salaries, according to the most recent adequacy funding matrix recommended by the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education for the previous school year, for salaries for teachers employed by the school districts.

(ii) For the ~~2021-2022~~ 2023-2024 and ~~2022-2023~~ 2024-2025 school years, the statewide target average annual salary shall be fifty-one thousand eight hundred twenty-two dollars (\$51,822).

(iii) The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education shall set jointly the statewide target average annual salary for the ~~2023-2024~~ 2025-2026 and ~~2024-2025~~ 2026-2027 school years, and each biennium thereafter, as part of the adequacy review process required under § 10-3-2102.

(B)(i) On or before October 31 of each year, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall determine if a school district is eligible to receive teacher salary equalization funds by reviewing certified salary data submitted by the school district for the immediately preceding fiscal year.

(ii) A school district ~~with an average annual teacher salary meeting or exceeding the statewide target average annual teacher salary for the year~~ that qualifies for teacher salary equalization funds under subdivision (b)(6)(A)(i) of this section is ineligible to receive teacher salary equalization funds exceeding the amount received by the school district in the previous year.

(iii) A school district that receives funds from the Educator Compensation Reform Fund is ineligible to receive teacher salary equalization funds for the year in which the school district receives funds from the Educator Compensation Reform Fund.

(iv) A school district shall continue to receive teacher salary equalization funds in the same amount as the preceding fiscal year in addition to the amount eligible for the current fiscal year.

(C) Teacher salary equalization funding provided to a school district under this subchapter shall be expended only for teacher salaries and benefits.