

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/17/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1598

By: Representative Brooks

By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO REMOVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM SCHOOL RATINGS FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL YEARS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND TO REMOVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM SCHOOL RATINGS FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL YEARS.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) A change in the assessment system for public schools and public school districts in Arkansas was necessary to align with the educational priorities established by Acts 2023, No. 237, also known as the "LEARNS Act";

(2) The development of a revised accountability system that includes the new assessment system and better meets the needs of Arkansas students is currently in progress; and

(3) A pause in new letter grade designations for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years under the existing school rating system will allow the collection of necessary data to provide accurate and reliable



accountability information, which is essential for Arkansans to make informed decisions regarding their children's education.

(b) The Department of Education shall not assign to public schools new school ratings calculated under the current school rating system under § 6-15-2105 for the 2023-2024 school year.

(c) The department shall:

(1) Establish a new accountability system; and

(2)(A) Issue all public schools, including open-enrollment public charter schools, a letter grade for the 2024-2025 school year using the new accountability system established under subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

(B)(i) If a public school or an open-enrollment public charter school does not improve or maintain its most recent letter grade under the new accountability system established under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, then the public school or open-enrollment public charter school may request a review by the Division of Public School Accountability.

(ii) The division shall review all applicable data and information upon receipt of a request from a public school or an open-enrollment public charter school under subdivision (c)(2)(B)(i) of this section and make a determination regarding the public school's or open-enrollment public charter school's letter grade.

(e) This section shall expire on June 30, 2026.

/s/Brooks