

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: S4/9/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1812

By: Representative Gramlich

By: Senator J. Boyd

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDENT WHO TAKES AND PASSES A GED TEST; TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT; TO CREATE AN EXCEPTION TO THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR A STUDENT WHO TAKES A GED TEST AND RECEIVES A GED; TO AMEND THE SCORE REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSAGE OF THE GED TEST; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT; TO CREATE AN EXCEPTION TO ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR A STUDENT WHO TAKES A GED TEST; AND TO AMEND THE SCORE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GED TEST.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2913(a)(2)(D), concerning criteria considered by the State Board of Education for determining the level of support to be provided to a public school district, is amended to read as follows:

(D) Other criteria the state board determines appropriate, including without limitation:

(i) Feeder pattern performance;

(ii) (a) Graduation rates.

(b) However, for purposes of this section, a



student who passes a GED test shall not be counted as a dropout when calculating a public school district's five-year graduation rate;

(iii) Growth calculations; and

(iv) Other indicators of school success.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-201(a)(2), concerning exceptions to the requirement that each child of a certain age shall enroll in and attend a school, is amended to read as follows:

(2) A child who has received a GED or a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education is not subject to the attendance requirement under this section;

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-201(a)(4), concerning exceptions to the requirement that each child of a certain age shall enroll in and attend a school, is amended to read as follows:

(4) A child sixteen (16) years of age or older who is enrolled in an adult education program under subsection (b) of this section ~~or in the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program is not subject to the attendance requirement under this section.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-18-201(c)(1), concerning a student enrolled in a private, parochial, or home school who wishes to enroll in an adult education program or take the GED test, are amended to read as follows:

(c) Students sixteen (16) years of age or seventeen (17) years of age enrolled in a private, parochial, or home school who desire to enroll in an adult education program shall meet the following requirements:

(1)(A) Students shall apply for enrollment to the adult education program.

(B) A student enrolled in a private or parochial school shall provide:

(i) Provide a letter from the principal or administrator of the private or parochial school to verify enrollment; and ~~shall~~

(ii) Achieve a score 8.5 grade level or above as determined by the Adult Education Section on either the Test for Adult Basic Education or a minimum score of four hundred fifty (450) on each section and

~~a minimum composite score of four hundred ninety (490) on the GED practice test.~~

(C) A student that is home schooled shall provide a notarized copy of the notice of intent to home school provided to the superintendent of the local school district as required by § 6-15-503;

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-18-201(d), concerning a student enrolled in a private, parochial, or home school who wishes to take the GED test, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Students age sixteen (16) or above enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school who desire to take the GED test shall meet the following requirements:

(1) A public school student shall ~~not be required to~~ obtain permission or approval from ~~any official in a~~ the public school district in which he or she is enrolled before being allowed to take the test;

(2) A student enrolled in a private or parochial school shall provide a letter from the principal or administrator of the private or parochial school to verify enrollment;

(3) A student enrolled in a home school shall provide a notarized copy of the notice of intent to home school provided to the superintendent of the local school district as required by § 6-15-503; and

(4) A student enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school must achieve at least the minimum official GED *practice* test scores.

/s/Gramlich