

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 949 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

As Engrossed: H3/20/09

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2163

5 By: Representative Rainey
6 By: Senator Elliott
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9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACHIEVEMENT
11 GAPS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO PROVIDE INTERVENTION
12 AND SUPPORT TO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADDRESS
13 THE SEVERITY OF ACHIEVEMENT GAPS; AND FOR OTHER
14 PURPOSES.
15

16 **Subtitle**

17 TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR
18 ACHIEVEMENT GAPS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
19 TO PROVIDE INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT TO
20 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADDRESS THE
21 SEVERITY OF ACHIEVEMENT GAPS.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 Section 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, is amended to add an
27 additional subchapter to read as follows:

28 Subchapter 27. Closing the Achievement Gap Program

29 6-15-2701. Closing the achievement gap program.

30 (a) As used in this section, "chronically underperforming school"
31 means a public school that does not meet adequate yearly progress under the
32 No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq., as it existed on
33 July 1, 2009, for three (3) or more consecutive years.

34 (b)(1) A school district that has a chronically underperforming school
35 shall use its national school lunch state categorical funding under § 6-20-



1 2305(b)(4) to evaluate the impact of educational strategies used by the
2 chronically underperforming school to address the achievement gaps among
3 students in the chronically underperforming school.

4 (2) The evaluation shall:

5 (A) Identify the categories of programs and intervention
6 strategies used with national school lunch state categorical funding; and

7 (B) Report the benchmark assessment scores for the end of
8 the immediately preceding school year and for the end of the current school
9 year of students involved in the programs and intervention strategies
10 identified under this subdivision (b)(2).

11 (c) The Department of Education shall:

12 (1) Promulgate rules necessary to implement this section,
13 including without limitation establishing the categories by which a
14 chronically underperforming school shall identify programs and intervention
15 strategies under subsection (b) of this section;

16 (2) In a chronically underperforming school's comprehensive
17 school improvement plan, direct the use of national school lunch state
18 categorical funding for strategies to close gaps in academic achievement,
19 including without limitation:

20 (A) Using an Arkansas Scholastic Audit;

21 (B) Using disaggregated school data to set academic
22 improvement targets in reading, writing, mathematics, and science;

23 (C) Using improvement targets to define professional
24 development needs related to content, instruction, differentiation, and best
25 practices in educating special education students, gifted and talented
26 students, English language learners, and other student subgroups as needed;

27 (D) Developing interim building-level assessments to
28 monitor student progress toward proficiency on the state benchmark
29 assessments;

30 (E) Developing a plan to immediately address gaps in
31 learning;

32 (F) Examining and realigning, as needed, school
33 scheduling, academic support systems, and assignments of personnel; and

34 (G) Designing a plan for increasing parental knowledge and
35 skill to support academic objectives; and

36 (3) By August 1 of each year, report to the House Committee on

1 Education and the Senate Committee on Education on:

2 (A) The use of national school lunch state categorical
3 funding by chronically underperforming schools in the state; and

4 (B) The status of the achievement gaps at chronically
5 underperforming schools in the state.

6 (d) The department shall identify the chronically underperforming
7 schools with the largest achievement gaps among students and give to those
8 chronically underperforming schools the department's highest priority for:

9 (i) Monitoring school improvement plans; and

10 (ii) Providing support under this subchapter.

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12 /s/ Rainey

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14 **APPROVED: 4/6/2009**

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