

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

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S3/15/17 S3/23/17*

2 91st General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

SENATE BILL 587

4

5 By: Senator A. Clark

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

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AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF TITLE 6 OF THE ARKANSAS

9

CODE CONCERNING READING PROFICIENCY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL

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STUDENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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13

## Subtitle

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TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF TITLE 6 OF THE

15

ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING READING

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PROFICIENCY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

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

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21 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, is amended to add an*

22 *additional subchapter to read as follows:*

23 *Subchapter 29 – Reading Proficiency*

24

25 *6-15-2901. Intent.*

26 *It is the intent of the General Assembly that:*

27 *(1) Each student's progression from one grade to another be*

28 *determined, in part, upon proficiency in reading;*

29 *(2) Policies of a board of directors of a public school district*

30 *facilitate reading instruction and intervention services to address student*

31 *reading needs;*

32 *(3) Each student and his or her parent be informed of that*

33 *student's reading progress; and*

34 *(4) Each student should read at or above grade level by grade*

35 *three (3).*

36



1 6-15-2902. Reading intervention program.

2 (a) A public school district shall offer a reading intervention  
3 program to each student in kindergarten through grade three (K-3) who  
4 exhibits a reading deficiency to ensure the student can read at or above  
5 grade level by the end of grade three (3).

6 (b) The reading intervention program shall be provided in addition to  
7 core reading instruction that is given to all students in the general  
8 education classroom.

9 (c) The reading intervention program shall:

10 (1) Be provided to all students in kindergarten through grade  
11 three (K-3) identified as having a reading deficiency as determined by local  
12 or statewide screening assessments administered within the first thirty (30)  
13 days of school;

14 (2) Provide explicit and systematic instruction in phonological  
15 awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, as applicable;

16 (3) Monitor the reading progress of each student's reading  
17 skills throughout the school year and adjust instruction according to student  
18 needs; and

19 (4) Be implemented during regular school hours.

20  
21 6-15-2903. Reading improvement plan.

22 (a) A student in kindergarten through grade three (K-3) who exhibits a  
23 reading deficiency, based upon local or statewide screening assessments,  
24 shall receive an individual reading improvement plan no later than thirty  
25 (30) days after the identification of the reading deficiency.

26 (b) The reading improvement plan shall:

27 (1) Be created by the student's teacher, principal, parent, and  
28 any other pertinent school personnel; and

29 (2) Describe the research-based reading intervention services  
30 the student will receive to remedy the student's reading deficiency.

31 (c) A student under subsection (a) of this section shall receive  
32 intensive reading intervention under the reading improvement plan until the  
33 student no longer has a reading deficiency.

34  
35 6-15-2904. Parent notification.

36 (a) A public school district shall notify in writing the parent of a

1 student in kindergarten through grade three (K-3) who exhibits at any time  
2 during the school year a reading deficiency no later than fifteen (15) days  
3 after the identification of the reading deficiency.

4 (b) The written notification under subsection (a) of this section  
5 shall include:

6 (1) A statement that the student has been identified as having a  
7 reading deficiency and that a reading improvement plan will be developed by  
8 the student's teacher, principal, parent, and any other pertinent school  
9 personnel;

10 (2) A description of the current services that are provided to  
11 the student;

12 (3) A description of the proposed research-based reading  
13 interventions and supplemental instructional services and supports that will  
14 be provided to the student that are designed to remedy the identified areas  
15 of reading deficiency;

16 (4) Notification that the parent will be informed in writing of  
17 the student's progress in reading at grade level on at least a quarterly  
18 basis;

19 (5) Strategies for parents to use at home to help the student  
20 succeed in reading;

21 (6) A statement that if the student's reading deficiency is not  
22 corrected by the end of grade three (3), the child may not be promoted to  
23 grade four (4);

24 (7) A statement that while the statewide reading assessment is  
25 the initial determinate for promotion, it is not the sole determiner at the  
26 end of grade three (3); and

27 (8) A statement that students are provided with a test-based  
28 student portfolio option and an alternative reading assessment option to  
29 demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to grade four (4).

30  
31 6-15-2905. Summer reading camp.

32 (a) A public school district shall provide summer reading camps to all  
33 students in grade three (3) who scored at the lowest achievement level on the  
34 grade three (3) statewide reading assessment.

35 (b) A summer reading camp shall:

36 (1) Be staffed with highly effective teachers of reading as

1 demonstrated by student reading performance data and teacher performance  
2 evaluations; and

3 (2) Include, at a minimum, seventy (70) hours of instructional  
4 time in reading.

5 (c) The highly effective teacher of reading shall provide explicit and  
6 systematic reading intervention services and supports to correct the  
7 identified areas of reading deficiency of the students in the summer reading  
8 camp.

9 (d) If funding is available, a school district shall extend summer  
10 reading camp to students in grade one (1) and grade two (2) who are  
11 identified as having a reading deficiency.

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13 6-15-2906. Department of Education responsibilities.

14 (a)(1) The Department of Education shall develop a uniform format for  
15 public school districts to report the information required under this  
16 subchapter.

17 (2) The uniform format shall be:

18 (A) Developed with input from public school districts; and

19 (B) Provided to each public school district no later than  
20 June 1 of each year.

21 (b) The department shall annually compile the information required  
22 along with state-level summary information and report the information by  
23 October 1 of each year to the:

24 (1) State Board of Education;

25 (2) Governor;

26 (3) President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

27 (4) Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

28 (5) Public by publishing the information on the website of the  
29 department.

30 (c) The department shall provide technical assistance to aid public  
31 school districts in implementing this subchapter.

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33 6-15-2907. Rules.

34 The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to implement and  
35 enforce this subchapter.

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*/s/A. Clark*