

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.

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

A Bill

SENATE BILL 663

4
5 By: Senator Crumbly

For An Act To Be Entitled

6
7
8 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE § 6-17-811 CONCERNING
9 THE HIGH-PRIORITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER INCENTIVES;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

11
12
13
14 TO AMEND THE HIGH-PRIORITY SCHOOL
15 DISTRICT TEACHER INCENTIVES LAW.

16
17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

19
20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-811(a), concerning the definitions for
21 high-priority school district teacher incentives, is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 (a) As used in this section:

24 (1) "High-priority district" means a public school district:

25 (A) In which eighty percent (80%) or more of public school
26 students are ~~eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program under the~~
27 ~~National School Lunch Act based on the October 1 student count of the~~
28 ~~previous year submitted to the Department of Education~~ national school lunch
29 students; and

30 (B)(i) Except as provided by subdivision (a)(1)(B)(ii) of
31 this section, that had a three-quarter average daily membership in the
32 previous year of one thousand (1,000) or fewer students.

33 (ii) In order to further the state's policy of
34 encouraging efficiency and the expansion of available course offerings that
35 might be achieved through the voluntary consolidation or annexation of school
36 districts, qualifying teachers in the resulting school district in an



1 approved voluntary consolidation under § 6-13-1404(a)(2) or § 6-13-1603(a) or
 2 in a receiving district in an approved voluntary annexation under § 6-13-
 3 1403(a)(2)-(4) or § 6-13-1603(a) shall continue to receive the funding
 4 provided under this section if all school districts in the voluntary
 5 consolidation or annexation were high-priority districts in the immediately
 6 preceding school year, even if the average daily membership of the resulting
 7 or receiving school district is one thousand (1,000) or above.

8 (iii) By April 15 of each year, the State Board of
 9 Education shall determine the districts that qualify as high-priority
 10 districts of the state;

11 (2)(A) "National school lunch students" means those students or
 12 the percentage of enrolled students from low socioeconomic backgrounds as
 13 indicated by eligibility for free or reduced-price meals under the National
 14 School Lunch Act as determined on October 1 of each previous school year and
 15 submitted to the Department of Education, unless the school district is
 16 identified by the Department of Education as participating in the special
 17 assistance certification and reimbursement alternative implemented under 42
 18 U.S.C. § 1759a, as interpreted in 7 C.F.R. § 245.9.

19 (B) If the school district is participating under 42
 20 U.S.C. § 1759a, then for purposes of this section, the school district's
 21 annual percentage of national school lunch students is equal to the
 22 percentage submitted in the base year, which means the last school year for
 23 which eligibility determinations were made and meal counts were taken by
 24 type;

25 ~~(2)(A)(3)(A)~~ "New teacher bonus" means an incentive bonus
 26 provided under subdivisions (b)(1)-(3) of this section to a teacher who is
 27 within the first three (3) years of employment with a single high-priority
 28 district.

29 (B) A teacher is not entitled to receive a new teacher
 30 bonus from any high-priority district other than the high-priority district
 31 that first employed the teacher and paid the teacher a new teacher bonus;

32 ~~(3)(4)~~ "Previous year" means the school year immediately
 33 preceding the present school year;

34 ~~(4)(5)~~ "Retention bonus" means an incentive bonus provided under
 35 subdivision (b)(4) or subdivision (b)(5) of this section; and

36 ~~(5)(A)(6)(A)~~ "Teacher" means a licensed classroom teacher who

1 spends seventy percent (70%) of his or her time working directly with
2 students in a classroom setting teaching all grade-level or subject-matter
3 appropriate classes.

4 (B) "Teacher" includes a guidance counselor or librarian.
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36