

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2011

5 By: Representative Hubbard
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ONE-HALF OF PER-STUDENT FUNDING TO
9 A RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR A STUDENT WHO IS A
10 HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENT OR IS ENROLLED IN A PRIVATE
11 ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL AND ONE-HALF TO THE
12 STUDENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO PROVIDE ONE-HALF OF PER-STUDENT
16 FUNDING TO A RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR
17 A STUDENT WHO IS A HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENT
18 OR IS ENROLLED IN A PRIVATE ELEMENTARY OR
19 SECONDARY SCHOOL AND ONE-HALF TO THE
20 STUDENT.
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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 20 is amended to add an
27 additional subchapter to read as follows:

28 Subchapter 27 -- State Funding for Home-schooled and Private School
29 Elementary and Secondary Students

30 6-20-2701. Definitions.

31 As used in this subchapter:

32 (1) "Eligible student" means a child who:

33 (A) Is within the legal age requirements for enrollment in
34 a public school in this state;

35 (B) Has been an Arkansas resident or whose parent has been
36 an Arkansas resident for at least the twelve (12) months before the date of



1 an application for a scholarship under this subchapter;

2 (C) Successfully completed an entire school year as a
3 home-schooled or private school student; and

4 (D) Meets other requirements for eligibility under this
5 subchapter;

6 (2) "Parent" means the parent, legal guardian, or person having
7 custody or care of a student; and

8 (3) "State-mandated benchmark exam" means a statewide assessment
9 of elementary and secondary student achievement required by state law and
10 administered through the Department of Education.

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12 6-20-2702. Application.

13 (a)(1) Beginning July 1, 2012, the parent of an eligible student may
14 apply for a scholarship under this subchapter.

15 (2) The application form and process shall be prescribed by
16 rules of the State Board of Education.

17 (b) The parent shall submit with the application evidence satisfactory
18 to the Department of Education of the eligible student's successful
19 completion of the school year immediately preceding the date of the
20 application, including without limitation that:

21 (1) With respect to a home-schooled student:

22 (A)(i) The student was home-schooled for the entire school
23 year.

24 (ii) The department may request evidence of
25 educational expenditures the parent incurred in the immediately preceding
26 school year for home-schooling the student;

27 (B) The parent met all requirements for home-schooling
28 under § 6-15-501 et seq.; and

29 (C) If the student was required to take a state-mandated
30 benchmark exam, the student scored proficient or above on the state-mandated
31 benchmark exam; or

32 (2) With respect to a private school student, the student
33 completed the school year at the private school at grade level.

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35 6-20-2703. Scholarship.

36 (a) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the Department of

1 Education shall pay to the parent of an eligible student an amount equal to
 2 one-half (1/2) of the foundation funding amount set by the General Assembly
 3 in § 6-20-2305 for the school year upon which the parent's application is
 4 based.

5 (b) A parent shall only use scholarship funds awarded under this
 6 subchapter for:

- 7 (1) Academic expenditures for home-schooling of the student; or
- 8 (2) Private school tuition and books.

9 (c)(1) The department shall pay a scholarship under this section from
 10 the Department of Education Public School Fund under § 19-5-305 subject to
 11 the:

- 12 (1) Appropriation of funds from general revenues of the state to
 13 the department for this purpose; and
- 14 (2) Availability of funding.

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 16 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2303(3)(C), concerning the definition
 17 of average daily membership as used in the Public School Funding Act of 2003,
 18 is amended add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

19 (C) As applied to this subchapter, students who may be
 20 counted for average daily membership are:

21 (i) Students who:

- 22 (a) Reside within the boundaries of the school
- 23 district;
- 24 (b) Are enrolled in a public school operated
- 25 by the school district; and
- 26 (c) Are enrolled in a curriculum that fulfills
- 27 the requirements established by the state board under the Standards for
- 28 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts;

29 (ii) Legally transferred students living outside the
 30 school district but are:

- 31 (a) Attending a public school in the school
- 32 district under a provision of the Arkansas Code; and
- 33 (b) ~~Are enrolled~~ Enrolled in a curriculum that
- 34 fulfills the requirements established by the state board under the Standards
- 35 for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts;

36 (iii) Open-enrollment public charter school students

1 who are enrolled in a curriculum that fulfills the requirements established
2 by the state board under the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public
3 Schools and School Districts; ~~or~~

4 (iv) Students who are eligible to attend and who
5 reside within the boundaries of a school district and are enrolled in the
6 Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program, so long as the students are
7 participants in the program; or

8 (v)(a) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year,
9 students who receive scholarships under § 6-5-901 et seq.

10 (b) A student under this subdivision (1)(C)(v)
11 is counted as one-half (1/2) of a student.

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