

Hall of the House of Representatives
95th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2025
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill 1864

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY IN
STUDENT INSTRUCTION; AND TO CREATE A STANDARDIZED FLEXIBLE SCHOOL
CALENDAR SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 1864

Amend House Bill 1864 as originally introduced:

Page 2, delete lines 2 through 6, and substitute the following:
"enrollment public charter schools shall be on or after July 1."

AND

Page 2, delete line 11, and substitute the following:
"~~the public~~ school districts ~~of the state~~ and open-enrollment public charter
schools, and school shall not be held on that date."

AND

Page 2, line 15, delete "school" and substitute "public school"

AND

Page 2, line 16, delete "school" and substitute "public school"

AND

Page 2, line 18, delete "district" and substitute "district or open-
enrollment public charter school"



AND

Page 2, line 19, delete "school" and substitute "public school"

AND

Page 2, delete line 20, and substitute the following:

"district or open-enrollment public charter school."

AND

Page 2, line 36, delete "division's" and substitute "~~division's~~ Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's"

AND

Page 3, line 3, delete "division" and substitute "~~division~~ State Board of Education"

AND

Page 4, delete lines 25 through 27, and substitute the following:

"(1) On-site, in-person instruction for a minimum of the following:

(A) One hundred sixty (160) school days or the hourly equivalent of one hundred sixty (160) school days for a public school with an "A" school rating according to the most recent results of the school rating system under § 6-15-2101 et seq. or any other division-approved accountability system;

(B) One hundred sixty-four (164) school days or the hourly equivalent of one hundred sixty-four (164) school days for a public school with a "B" school rating according to the most recent results of the school rating system under § 6-15-2101 et seq. or any other division-approved accountability system;

(C) One hundred sixty-eight (168) school days or the

hourly equivalent of one hundred sixty-eight (168) school days for a public school with a "C" school rating according to the most recent results of the school rating system under § 6-15-2101 et seq. or any other division-approved accountability system;

(D) One hundred seventy-two (172) school days or the hourly equivalent of one hundred seventy-two (172) school days for a public school with a "D" school rating according to the most recent results of the school rating system under § 6-15-2101 et seq. or any other division-approved accountability system; and

(E) One hundred seventy-eight (178) school days or the hourly equivalent of one hundred seventy-eight (178) for a public school with an "F" school rating according to the most recent results of the school rating system under § 6-15-2101 et seq. or any other division-approved accountability system;"

AND

Page 4, line 32, delete "subdivision (f)(1)(B)" and substitute "subdivision (f)(1)"

AND

Page 5, delete lines 6 through 8, and substitute the following:

"school shall remain open for on-site, in-person instruction for the minimum number of days required for the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school as provided under subdivision (f)(1) of this section, unless the"

AND

Page 5, delete lines 11 through 16, and substitute the following:

"(2) The requirement that a public school district or an open-"

AND

Page 6, delete lines 18 and 19, and substitute the following:

"or outdoors.

(3) A public elementary school principal may adjust recess time required under this subsection (i) due to special circumstances or programs that interrupt a regular school day.

(4) A public elementary school may seek approval from the"

AND

Page 7, delete lines 10 and 11, and substitute the following:

"SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-10-108 is amended to read as follows:
6-10-108. Twelve-month school year ~~—Definition.~~"

AND

Page 7, delete lines 32 through 36, and substitute the following:

~~"(d)(1)(a)~~ The State Board of Education is authorized to may establish appropriate standards, guidelines, and rules for the determination of average daily membership of public school districts and for the distribution of state foundation funding and other forms of state aid and financial assistance to each local school district that elects to operate the public schools of the"

AND

Page 8, delete lines 1 through 9, and substitute the following:

"public school district on a twelve-month basis, in order to provide the school district with an equitable share of the state foundation funds designated to equate a twelve-month school operation by the public school district to the educational opportunities provided by a public school district offering nine (9) months of public school instruction.

~~(2)(b) However, the~~ A public school district shall not receive any more state foundation funding for offering twelve (12) months of public school instruction than it would have received for offering nine (9) months of public school instruction."

AND

Page 12, delete line 18, and substitute the following:

~~"under § 6-10-106(g)."~~

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2403(c), concerning the requirements a public school district and an open-enrollment public charter school must meet to be eligible for funds to implement salary increases under the Teacher Compensation Program of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

(c) To be eligible for funds to implement the salary increases under subsections (a) and (b) of this section, each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school shall be open for on-site, in-person instruction for at least:

(1) ~~One hundred seventy-eight (178) days; or~~ One hundred sixty (160) school days or the hourly equivalent of one hundred sixty (160) school days for a public school with an "A" school rating according to the most recent results of the school rating system under § 6-15-2101 et seq. or any other accountability system approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;

(2) ~~One thousand sixty-eight (1,068) hours~~ One hundred sixty-four (164) school days or the hourly equivalent of one hundred sixty-four (164) school days for a public school with a "B" school rating according to the most recent results of the school rating system under § 6-15-2101 et seq. or any other accountability system approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;

(3) One hundred sixty-eight (168) school days or the hourly equivalent of one hundred sixty-eight (168) school days for a public school with a "C" school rating according to the most recent results of the school rating system under § 6-15-2101 et seq. or any other accountability system approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;

(4) One hundred seventy-two (172) school days or the hourly equivalent of one hundred seventy-two (172) school days for a public school with a "D" school rating according to the most recent results of the school rating system under § 6-15-2101 et seq. or any other accountability system approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

(5) One hundred seventy-eight (178) school days or the hourly equivalent of one hundred seventy-eight (178) for a public school with an "F" school rating according to the most recent results of the school rating

system under § 6-15-2101 et seq. or any other accountability system approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-18-237. Mandatory attendance – Definitions.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Financial hardship" means harm or suffering caused by a student's inability to obtain or provide basic life necessities of food, clothing, and shelter for the student or the student's family;

(2) "Planned instructional time" means regularly scheduled class periods offering courses or local credits approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

(3) "School day" means a day in which classes are in session and students are receiving instruction.

(b)(1) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, a student in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall be required to be scheduled for and attend planned instructional time for a full school day in the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school in which the student is enrolled.

(2) A student may be assigned to no more than one (1) class period each school day for a study hall or other time of self-study or organized tutoring in which the student is required to participate and attend in his or her public school district or open-enrollment public charter school building.

(3) Enrollment and attendance in a vocational-educational training course, college course, work program, internship, or another division-approved course for credit may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section even if the vocational-educational training course, college course, work program, internship, or other division-approved course for credit is not located on the student's public school district or open-enrollment public charter school campus.

(c) A public school district board of directors or the governing body of an open-enrollment public charter school may develop policies to allow for granting an exemption to a student who would experience a proven financial hardship if he or she is required to attend a full school day.

(d) This section does not:

(1) Preclude a student who has met all graduation requirements from graduating early; or

(2) Require a student who has graduated early from high school to continue to attend school.

(e) The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to implement this section.

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-18-2503(6), concerning the definition of a "full academic year" under the Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program, is amended to read as follows:

(6) "Full academic year" means ~~at least one hundred seventy-eight (178)~~ the number of days of instruction or the equivalent number of hours ~~to what is offered in traditional public schools~~ required for a public school as specified by § 6-10-106;"

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Andrews
TNL/TNL - 04-01-2025 12:49:26
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Chief Clerk