

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1598

5 By: Representative Brooks
6 By: Senator J. English
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM; TO
10 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A
11 NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO
12 REMOVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM SCHOOL RATINGS FOR CERTAIN
13 SCHOOL YEARS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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17 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
18 TO ESTABLISH A NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM
19 FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND TO REMOVE PUBLIC
20 SCHOOLS FROM SCHOOL RATINGS FOR CERTAIN
21 SCHOOL YEARS.
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE.

26 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

27 (1) A change in the assessment system for public schools and
28 public school districts in Arkansas was necessary to align with the
29 educational priorities established by Acts 2023, No. 237, also known as the
30 "LEARNS Act";

31 (2) The development of a revised accountability system that
32 includes the new assessment system and better meets the needs of Arkansas
33 students is currently in progress; and

34 (3) A pause in new letter grade designations for the 2023-2024
35 and 2024-2025 school years under the existing school rating system will allow
36 the collection of necessary data to provide accurate and reliable



1 accountability information, which is essential for Arkansans to make informed
2 decisions regarding their children's education.

3 (b) The Department of Education shall not assign to public schools new
4 school ratings calculated under the current school rating system under § 6-
5 15-2105 for the 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 school years.

6 (c) The department shall:

7 (1) Establish a new accountability system; and

8 (2)(A) Remove public schools from school ratings for the 2023-
9 2024 and 2024-2025 school years based on the results of the new
10 accountability system established under subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

11 (B) Each public school may:

12 (i) Retain its 2023 designated school rating until
13 new ratings are assigned under the new accountability system established
14 under subdivision (c)(1) of this section; or

15 (ii) Adopt its school rating under the new
16 accountability system established under subdivision (c)(1) of this section if
17 the new school rating is higher than its 2023 designated school rating.

18 (d) The department may calculate public school ratings under the
19 revised accountability system using new assessment data.

20 (e) This section shall expire on June 30, 2026.

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