

2019 - Bills to Acts

Bill No.	Act No.	Definition
SB 76	Act 193	Loosens requirements to hold emergency meetings outside geographic boundaries.
SB 108	Act 337	Repeals VoTech reporting requirement on per student course cost.
SB 136	Act 877	Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for FY 2019-2020 - Grants and Aid to local schools.
SB 137	Act 145	Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for FY 2019-2020 - Academic Facilities and Transportation Division.
SB 138	Act 727	Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for FY 2019-2020 - General operations.
SB 140	Act 369	Makes technical corrections to Apprenticeship Programs.
SB 153	Act 83	Requires school-level improvement, professional development, curriculum, and graduate studies plans to be in accordance with the Science of Reading. Also requires annual school-level improvement plans to include a literacy plan.
SB 158	Act 552	Ensures county clerks and county election commissions utilize the same election procedures in both even and odd year elections. A uniform process for all counties when a district's boundaries fall within multiple counties.
SB 181	Act 237	Repeals the Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program.
SB 197	Act 472	Clarifies the scope in which a certified law enforcement officer may carry an open or concealed handgun both while on duty and off duty, which would include anywhere on school campuses.
SB 199	Act190	Repeals the Student Services Act and replaces it with the School Counseling Improvement Act. Requires a school counselor shall spend at least ninety percent (90%) of their time during student contact days providing direct and indirect services to students and shall not exceed more than ten percent (10%) of their time working on administrative activities during student contact days.
SB 205	Act 240	Amends the law concerning ethics and campaign finance. Requires that unopposed candidates, including board members, file financial disclosure statements.
SB 233	Act 473	Transfers election notification requirements from the school district to the county.
SB 235	Act 553	Amended the law concerning the qualifications of poll workers in school elections to remove the section which prevented a paid employee of a school district holding the election from being a poll worker. Allows school employees to act as election officials.
SB 249	Act 341	Raises the maximum amount of fines that may be levied by the Arkansas Ethics Commission from \$2,000 to \$3,500.
SB 250	Act 554	Modifies educational neglect to include custodians.
SB 307	Act 475	Amends code concerning ethical violations by Arkansas educators to ensure ethics applies if license expires during investigation.

SB 316	Act 466	Allows a student in grade nine (9) to earn credit in a course that includes personal and family finance standards. Previously, only students in grades ten (10) through twelve (12) could earn credit in a course that included personal and family finance standards.
SB 336	Act 416	The Governor's Highway Bill; will provide an estimated \$300,000,000 for highway funding to provide for the maintenance and repair of highways, streets, and bridges in the state. Funding sources: additional three (3%) percent gas tax and additional six percent (6%) diesel tax = \$58,000,000 (estimated); additional fee on electric / hybrid vehicles = \$2,000,000 (estimated); one time transfer from general revenue = \$35,000,000 (estimated); and \$200,000,000 (approximate) raised by extending the half-cent sales tax through the passage of House Joint Resolution 1018, which provides for the issue to be considered by Arkansas voters on the 2020 General Election Ballot.
SB 343	Act 456	Creates the Concurrent Credit Lottery Scholarship. A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship for academic semester or academic year during which the student is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program if the student is an Arkansas resident or, if the student is less than twenty-one (21) years of age, either the student or one parent of the student is an Arkansas resident; and submits a student success plan. Funding for the program shall be with any funds remaining after the Department of Higher Education allocates sufficient funding to award Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships at a level equivalent to the awards made in the previous academic year.
SB 358	Act 692	Makes Title 6 technical corrections.
SB 381	Act 557	Prohibits the use of corporal punishment on students who are intellectually disabled, non-ambulatory, non-verbal, or autistic.
SB 382	Act 628	Allows the State Board of Education to adopt rules providing for the reinstatement of a revoked teaching license under certain conditions.
SB 383	Act 629	Allows school district superintendents to designate and appoint employees as district specific law enforcement officers, with jurisdictional restrictions.
SB 384	Act 523	Provides for consistency in the reimbursement of educational costs for students who are placed in a residential or inpatient facility that is located in a bordering state. The reimbursement would come from the State Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.
SB 392	Act 728	Requires statutes to apply to teachers, even if represented by a union.
SB 409	Act 1075	Allows for the electronic notification of an invitation for bids on construction projects and electronic submission of bids. Previously, the notification for bids was required to be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which the proposed improvements were to be made; and the sealed bid was required in written format
SB 445	Act 545	Amends three things related to school board elections being held on the date of the preferential primary. First, it moves the date of the preferential primary election on the years when presidential elections are held to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. Second, it moves the timeline for the submission of candidate petitions for the elections that would now be in March to begin on the first Monday in November prior to the preferential primary election. Third, it changes the date for school board elections in odd years to be the third Tuesday in May.

SB 449	Act 809	Increased the Safe Schools Committee membership. Reduced from two (2) to one (1), the number of teachers appointed to the committee by the Arkansas Education Association. And added one (1) classroom teacher to be appointed by the Arkansas State Teachers Association along with eight (8) other designations of people to be added to the committee.
SB 451	Act 990	Amends the laws regarding criminal background checks for professions and occupations to obtain consistency regarding criminal background checks and disqualifying offenses for licensure.
Sb 457	Act 884	Regulates the administration of real property of the state and political subdivisions of the state.
SB 477	Act 631	Amends provisions of Code concerning Public School Accountability by updating language to transition from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
SB 478	Act 632	Updates the process for Weighted Credit approval by the ADE. The ADE may approve a course for weighted credit if the course: exceeds the curriculum standards for a nonweighted credit class; or meets or exceeds the standards of a comparable advanced placement course. Additionally, the ADE in collaboration with the Department of Career Education may approve a career and technical course for weighted credit if the course: exceeds the curriculum standards for a nonweighted class; and leads to an approved industry recognized certification.
SB 483	Act 929	Requires ADE to establish a system which shall review the financial management practices of public school districts, identifying best financial management practices. The program shall identify, assess, and address districts in any phase of fiscal distress and identify districts that experience early indicators of fiscal distress.
SB 490	Act 1078	Expands eligibility requirements for students participating in the Succeed Scholarship Program in a couple of ways. First, it expands from a student in foster care being eligible to a student in foster care or has been in the foster care system and achieved permanency through adoption, reunification, or permanent guardianship. Second, it adds students who have been medically diagnosed by a licensed physician as a child with a disability to be eligible for the scholarship.
SB 535	Act 1080	Revises the method by which the Academic Facilities Wealth Index is calculated. First, by amending the ADM determination to be the highest over the last ten (10) years rather than the last three (3) years; and includes the medium household income in the district's geographic boundaries as a portion of the formula.
SB 538	Act 815	Allows school districts to apply for the same waivers any charter school receives, regardless of whether the district has students living in the district attending a charter school.
Sb 549	Act 933	Updates the State Board of Education's authority over districts classified in facilities distress to match the State Board's authority from Act 930 of 2017, with the exceptions of the inability to waive the Teacher Fair Dismissal Act and the Public State Employees Fair Hearing Act.
SB 561	Act 819	Creates the Arkansas Tax Reform Act of 2019 and reforms the sales tax, income tax, property tax and franchise tax laws of the state. Transferred certain duties with taxes to Department of Finance and Administration from the Secretary of State (ex: franchise tax).
SB 581	Act 634	Provides a sales and use tax exemption for sales of tangible personal property at a concession stand operated by a nonprofit youth athletic organization.
SB 593	Act 937	Requires ADE and DHS to provide awareness and training materials to local school districts on human trafficking and that include strategies for the prevention of the trafficking of children.

SB 603	Act 1082	Requires the ADE to provide levels of support to certain school districts based on reading scores and amends the purposes on which NSLA State Categorical Funds may be spent.
SB 605	Act 1083	Amends the National School Lunch State Categorical Funding name to Enhanced Student Achievement Funding.
SB 638	Act 939	Ensures that all children of the uniformed services members, including active and activated reserve components of the uniformed services, receive the benefits of the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Children of Military Families
SB 654	Act 1002	Authorizes a civil penalty for misrepresenting an animal as a service animal not to exceed \$250 for each violation.
SB 656	Act 943	Creates the data-sharing and data driven decision-making task force.
HB 1006	Act 375	Increases penalty for the unlawful passing of a school bus from not less than \$250 nor more than \$1,000 to not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,500.
HB 1014	Act 245	Requires each public school, in the 2019-2020 school year, to provide bleeding control training as a component of a health course to each student in grades nine through twelve (9-12) before the student graduates from high school.
HB 1018	Act 824	Allows a school district to have a board of directors with nine (9) members if the school district has an ADM of twenty thousand (20,000) or more.
HB 1021	Act 168	Requires newly elected school board members to receive training or instruction on how to read and interpret an audit report within the first nine hours of training required by December 31 of the calendar year following the year in which the member is elected.
HB 1022	Act 186	Ensures that a mandated reporter who in good faith notifies the Child Abuse Hotline is immune from civil and criminal liability.
HB 1023	Act 187	Reduces, from 4 to 2, the degrees of consanguinity (kinship) from which a Level 3 sex offender must be related to a student on order to attend a school sponsored event that requires tickets to be sold for admission.
HB 1145	Act 170	Amends the state minimum teacher starting salary to \$36,000 by the 2022-2023 school year. Increasing by \$1,400 in 2019-2020, by \$1,000 in 2020-2021, and \$1,100 in 2022-2023.
HB 1167	Act 247	Allows sunscreen, an over-the-counter drug, to be used in schools without a physician authorization.
HB 1175	Act 171	Exempts a student who has a parent or guardian who resides on a military base from the application deadlines for Public School Choice Act and the Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act.
HB 1180	Act 421	Places the Director of the Office of State Procurement over all state level cooperative purchasing agreements. As amended, it does not change cooperative purchases for local entities.
HB 1182	Act 288	Makes the use of a handheld wireless telephone in a school zone a primary offense. (An offense for which you can be pulled over.)

HB 1223	Act 563	Allows a full-time bus driver who drives a regular route during the annual school year to participate in the Public School Life and Health Insurance program.
HB 1308	Act 209	Allows a disability retiree to be employed by a covered employer and also receive a monthly disability retirement if the disability retiree provides the covered employer with less than eighty (80) days of actual service during a fiscal year.
HB 1319	Act 251	Amends the Arkansas Teacher of the Year Act to include guidance counselors and librarians for consideration for the award.
HB 1356	Act 428	Creates the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights, which requires a school to provide a meal or snack even if the student is unable to pay or does not have enough existing funds in their account and allows a school to collect money owed.
HB 1374	Act 661	Prohibits former members of the General Assembly from registering as a lobbyists or enter into employment as a Director of an Educational Co-op until two (2) years after the expiration of their term of office.
HB 1396	Act 323	Allows a school board to implement a drug screening requirement for an applicant or current employee of a district.
HB 1398	Act 640	Requires annual review of district's student discipline policies and the utilization of state and district discipline data for districts committee on personnel policies to base recommendations. Also requires schools to include programs, measures, or alternative means and methods to continue student engagement and access to education during periods of suspension or expulsion.
HB 1400	Act 827	Requires the House and Senate Education Committees to conduct a biennial study and file a biennial report regarding certain information concerning the Succeed Scholarship Program. The first report is due on March 1, 2020.
HB 1404	Act 828	Amends the newspapers a district may use to publish the district's budget to include a newspaper that is either published in or has a bona fide circulation in the county or counties in which the school district lies.
HB 1409	Act 641	Mandates at least forty (40) minutes of instructional time per school day be used for recess, consisting of supervised, unstructured social time including free play and vigorous physical activity.
HB 1413	Act 429	Prohibits a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school from charging a private school or a home school student for the cost of an endorsed concurrent enrollment course unless the district charges the district's students to take a concurrent credit course.
HB 1416	Act 528	Provides for districts with an ADM of over 5,000 to go through the detachment process regardless of the districts overall size by removing the prohibition on detachment by districts with more than 20,000 ADM.
HB 1419	Act 430	Requires districts and open-enrollment charter schools to adopt a policy allowing the enrollment in an academic course of a private school or home-schooled student.
HB 1420	Act 597	Requires school districts to adopt a policy selecting the election timeline the district will use; extends the timeline for petition circulation to ninety (90) days, and amends the dates of the candidate filing period to be specific dates rather than so many days prior to the election.

HB 1430	Act 315	Eliminates unnecessary references to “Regulations” and provides for consistent references to “Rules” throughout the Arkansas Code.
HB 1432	Act 912	Amends the Arkansas Student Publications Act by changing the name of student publications to student media.
HB 1437	Act 530	Requires mandated reporters to report imminent threats against schools to law enforcement. Failure to notify law enforcement within 24 hours is a misdemeanor.
HB 1467	Act 548	Increases eligibility for the Succeed Scholarship program by adding students with an Individualized Service Plan.
HB 1468	Act 754	Amended Opportunity School Choice to allow a student to be eligible if attending a school classified with a letter grade of “F”; and amended the Public School Choice application process to require the parent to submit an application to both the resident and non-resident districts rather than only the non-resident district.
HB 1480	Act 230	ADE Reappropriation for its various divisions.
HB 1485	Act 532	Increases the statutory number of allowable expenditures for NSL funds, to include student transportation to and from before and after school academic programs, dyslexia programs and interventions, and recruiting and retaining effective teachers.
HB 1498	Act 832	Amended the law concerning the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN) to add attendance, discipline, mark reporting, medical and scheduling to the financial management systems applications.
HB 1508	Act 656	Allows a home schooled student approved to participate in an interscholastic activity at a private school to begin participating in an interscholastic activity immediately upon being approved.
HB 1537	Act 756	Expands “parent” for laws regarding compulsory attendance to include: every parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or person standing in loco parentis.
HB 1544	Act 536	Amended the background check statutes for both licensed and classified employees by removing the ten year wait before sealed or expunged convictions no longer prohibit employment; modernized the list of criminal acts that would make an individual ineligible for employment or licensure; and provides clarifying language on when the State Board may deny or revoke a license due to “just cause”.
HB 1551	Act 647	Updated the list of crimes that result in a superintendent being notified of a juveniles arrest or adjudication and the district personnel who may be informed of the juveniles arrest or adjudication.
HB 1558	Act 960	Ensures that more than one adult education public charter school may operate in the state.
HB 1562	Act 657	Amends law concerning payment of real and personal property taxes pending assessment appeal, requiring payment to be made for real and personal property tax while the appeal is pending.
HB 1569	Act 602	Allows public schools to adopt a policy permitting the distribution of “excess food” that remains after a school has served breakfast and lunch to students during the school day.

HB 1573	Act 757	Makes ADE technical corrections.
HB 1607	Act 604	Amends Arkansas Code concerning the display of the national motto of the United States, "In God We Trust", to include local public school building administrators or chief administrators, or institutions of higher education to those responsible to prominently display in a conspicuous place a durable poster or framed copy containing the National Motto, "In God We Trust" if funds are available.
HB 1615	Act 506	Establishes statewide Farm to School Program for the furtherance of activities in three (3) core elements: school gardens; food, nutrition, and agriculture education; and procurement of local farm or food products for school meals and snacks.
HB 1621	Act 841	Allows a district to purchase a training program focused on establishing risk prevention behaviors, in lieu of immediate disciplinary action, in the student population. The intent is for school employees to receive training on how to train students to eliminate risky behavior before the behaviors could result in harm or injury to themselves or others, or the need for the to receive discipline.
HB 1626	Act 1016	Requires the ADE, by the 2019-2020 school year to identify, develop, and approve a Bible course for high school credit.
HB 1638	Act 540	Amends the required assessment a person must pass in order to obtain a teaching license by removing the requirement of passing a pedagogy assessment and adding a requirement to demonstrate pedagogical competence.
HB 1641	Act 843	Transfers Rule making for scoliosis training from the State Board of Health to the Department of Education, in coordination with the State Board of Health.
HB 1648	Act 1018	Requires Arkansas civil rights leaders and heroes be included in the teaching materials regarding African-American history in a public school.
HB 1657	Act 666	Amends Professional Development into Professional Learning Credit.
HB 1683	Act 577	Allows a person operating a school bus to use a two-way radio communications device or any device used in a similar manner as two-way radio communications device as a means of communicating with Central dispatch or the school transportation office or its equivalent.
HB 1684	Act 844	Requires students who are legal residents of Arkansas or who are graduates of an Arkansas school who have resided in Arkansas for a certain time receive in-state tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education.
HB 1685	Act 667	Increases Adequacy Funding for the next biennium in Foundation Funding, ALE Funding, ELL Funding, and Professional Development Funding. Also adds an additional \$12,000,000 each year in funding for Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) in addition to statutory PD funding. Enhanced transportation funding will also be distributed to eligible districts in both years.
HB 1700	Act 1040	Requires the ADE to inform an educational entity to which an individual is applying whether the individual is eligible for employment based on the results of the individual's background checks.
HB 1701	Act 847	Prohibits the requirement that a student participating in an extracurricular activity, interscholastic activity, or organized physical activity pay for individual or group instruction.

HB 1702	Act 848	Amends provisions regarding advertisement of a public school district's bond sale to require the advertisement of a bond sale shall be published on at least two (2) separate dates in a newspaper that is published in or has a bona fide circulation in the county in which the school district is administered.
HB 1730	Act 761	Provides for a statutory process to transfer the authorization for a charter from a failing operator to a new operator.
HB 1733	Act 969	Creates a criminal statute providing that it is a felony for a person to knowingly threaten to commit an act of mass violence on school property.
HB 1745	Act 851	Cleaned up language surrounding the administration of Epinephrine resulting from two 2013 Acts and added a process for school nurses to have stock Albuterol and for the emergency administration of Albuterol similar to that of Epinephrine.
HB 1746	Act 970	Provides civil and criminal immunity for individuals who make reports to the child abuse hotline in good faith.
HB 1747	Act 852	Expands the types of historical documents and events that may be discussed, read, or posted on a public school building or classroom to include: Amendments 1-10 of the United States Constitution, known as the "the Bill of Rights"; Thomas Paine's 1776 pamphlet entitled "Common Sense"; Executive orders of the presidents of the United States; The Northwest Ordinance; President George Washington's Farewell Address; The Emancipation Proclamation; The Gettysburg Address; and Any other document of historical significance relating to the founding of the United States or the State of Arkansas.
HB 1751	Act 853	Repeals language in Arkansas Code providing that statutes providing more favorable minimum wage and hour provisions shall govern instead of the state minimum wage.
HB 1763	Act 910	Combines the former Arkansas Department of Education, the Department of Career Education, and the Department of Higher Education into one overarching department. The old departments are converted into divisions under the Department of Education. The chief officer of the new Department of Education will be the Secretary of Education.
HB 1786	Act 676	Requires public and private schools to report on their website the number and percentage of students who have exemptions from or have not provided proof of required vaccinations.
HB 1790	Act 709	Requires a public school district that expels a student to offer to the expelled student digital learning courses or Alternative Educational Services for which the student may receive credit.
HB 1808	Act 764	Repeals uncodified Acts 2015, No. 863 9 concerning participation in interscholastic activities. (Repeals Arkansas Activities Association Private School mandate.)
HB 1847	Act 858	Requires a school district to notify the Department of Transportation of the district's new facility site selection so the Department of Transportation may conduct a traffic impact analysis.
HB 1867	Act 617	Amends requirements for a driver's license or instruction permit by removing the requirement for a student to provide a copy of their course schedule and proof of a minimum 2.00 GPA.

- HB 1890 Act 979 Removes the maximum number of students per day from statute and returns it to only Standards for Accreditation and Rules. The Standards shall include the number of students that a teacher of students in grades five through twelve (5-12) is permitted to teach per day without receiving additional compensation.
- HB 1928 Act 1028 Amends FOIA of 1967 by requiring all open public meetings to be recorded in a manner that allows for the capture of sound including: A) Sound only recording; B) Video recording with sound and picture; or C) Digital or analog broadcast capable of being recorded.
- HB 1933 Act 1029 Requires a bullying and cyberbullying prevention professional development program. Also requires that one time each school year, the superintendent of a public school district shall report to the school board of directors at a public meeting data regarding discipline in the district, including without limitation the number of incidents of bullying reported and the actions taken regarding the reported incidents of bullying.
- HB 1934 Act 867 Amends Code concerning audits of schools. Requires all school use the exact same audit process. For school financial audits, the financial statements shall be presented on a fund basis format with, as a minimum, the general fund and the special revenue fund presented separately and all other funds included in the audit presented in the aggregate. Financial statements shall consist of: a balance sheet; a statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances; a comparison of the final adopted budget to the actual expenditures for the general fund and the special revenue fund; and notes to the financial statements.
- HB 1943 Act 1030 Adds "biometric data" to the personal information that entities are required to protect.