

West's Arkansas Code Annotated Title 6. Education (Refs & Annos) Subtitle 2. Elementary and Secondary Education Generally (Chapters 10 to 39) Chapter 20. Finances Subchapter 6. Local School District Isolated Funding (Refs & Annos)

A.C.A. § 6-20-601

§ 6-20-601. Qualifications for receiving isolated funding

Effective: July 24, 2019

Currentness

(a) As used in this section, "isolated school district" means a school district that meets any four (4) of the following five (5) criteria:

- (1) There is a distance of twelve (12) miles or more by hard-surfaced highway from the high school of the district to the nearest adjacent high school in an adjoining district;
- (2) The density ratio of transported students is less than three (3) students per square mile of area;
- (3) The total area of the district is ninety-five square miles (95 sq. mi.) or greater;
- (4) Less than fifty percent (50%) of bus route miles is on hard-surfaced roads; and
- (5) There are geographic barriers such as lakes, rivers, and mountain ranges that would impede travel to schools that otherwise would be appropriate for consolidation, cooperative programs, and shared services.

(b) An isolated school district shall be eligible to receive isolated funding under this section if:

- (1) The school district's budget is prepared by the school district with Division of Elementary and Secondary Education approval;
- (2) The school district has a prior-year three-quarter average daily membership of fewer than three hundred fifty (350); and

(3) The school district and each school within the school district meets the minimum standards for accreditation of public schools prescribed by law and rule.

(c) Any school district designated as an isolated school district for the 1996-1997 fiscal year that used geographic barriers as one (1) of the four (4) criteria necessary to receive isolated funding shall be allowed to continue to use geographic barriers as a criterion for future allocations of isolated funding.

(d)(1) State financial aid in the form of isolated funding shall be provided to school districts qualifying under this section.

(2) There are two (2) categories of isolated funding:

(A) Category I isolated funding shall be provided to all school districts that qualify under this section and shall be calculated as:

(i) Three hundred fifty (350) minus the prior-year three-quarter average daily membership; divided by

(ii) Eight hundred fifty (850); multiplied by

(iii) The prior-year three-quarter average daily membership; and multiplied by

(iv) The per-student foundation funding amount under § 6-20-2305(a)(2); and

(B) Category II isolated funding shall be additionally provided to those school districts that qualify under this section and have a prior-year three-quarter average daily membership density ratio of less than one and two-tenths (1.2) students per square mile and shall be calculated at fifty percent (50%) of Category I funding.

(3)(A) An isolated school district whose per-student revenue exceeds the per-student foundation funding amount shall receive isolated funding calculated as follows:

(i) The sum of Category I plus Category II; minus

(ii) The per-student foundation funding amount; minus

(iii) The school district's per-student revenue; and multiplied by

(iv) The prior-year three-quarter average daily membership.

(B) As used in this subdivision (d)(3), "revenue" has the same meaning as defined in § 6-20-2303.

(e)(1) Except as provided under subdivision (e)(2) of this section, a school district that qualifies under § 6-20-603 to receive additional state aid because its prior-year three-quarter average daily membership is less than three hundred fifty (350) is not eligible to receive funding under this section.

(2) A school district may elect to receive funding under this section in lieu of funding under § 6-20-603 if the school district qualifies for funding under § 6-20-603 and for funding under this section.

Credits

Acts of 1997, Act 1318, § 1, eff. April 10, 1997; Acts of 1999, Act 1549, § 21, eff. July 1, 1999; Acts of 2001, Act 1220, § 11, eff. July 1, 2001; Acts of 2011, Act 1131, § 1, eff. July 27, 2011; Acts of 2015, Act 846, § 12, eff. July 22, 2015; Acts of 2019, Act 910, § 1610, eff. July 1, 2019; Acts of 2019, Act 315, § 280, eff. July 24, 2019.

Formerly A.S.A. 1947, § 80-484; Acts of 1983 (Ex. Sess.), Act 42, § 1; Acts of 1983 (Ex. Sess.), Act 64, § 1; Acts of 1995, Act 917, § 15.

A.C.A. § 6-20-601, AR ST § 6-20-601

The constitution and statutes are current through the end of the 2019 Regular Session of the 92nd Arkansas General Assembly.

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A.C.A. § 6-20-602

§ 6-20-602. Isolated schools

Effective: July 1, 2019

Currentness

(a) "Isolated school" means a school within a school district that:

(1) Before administrative consolidation or annexation under this section, the Public Education Reorganization Act, § 6-13-1601 et seq., and § 6-13-1405(a)(5) qualified as an isolated school district under § 6-20-601; and

(2) Is subject to administrative consolidation or annexation under this section, the Public Education Reorganization Act, § 6-13-1601 et seq., and § 6-13-1405(a)(5).

(b) Any isolated school within a resulting or receiving district shall remain open unless the school district board of directors of the resulting or receiving district adopts a motion to close the isolated school or parts thereof by:

(1) Unanimous vote of the full board of directors; or

(2)(A) A majority vote of the full board of directors, but less than a unanimous vote, and the motion is considered by and approved by a majority vote of members of the State Board of Education.

(B)(i) Any school district board of directors seeking the state board's approval to close isolated schools or parts thereof under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section shall no less than thirty (30) days before a regularly scheduled state board meeting, request a hearing on the matter before the state board and file a petition to have the motion reviewed and approved by the state board.

(ii) The petition shall:

(a) Identify the specific isolated schools or part thereof that the local board of directors has moved to close;

(b) State all reasons that the isolated schools or part thereof should be closed;

(c) State how the closure will serve the best interests of the students in the district as a whole;

(d) State if the closure will have any negative impact on desegregation efforts or violate any valid court order from a court of proper jurisdiction; and

(e) Have attached a copy of the final motion approving the closure by the local board of directors.

(C)(i) Upon receiving a petition for approval of a motion to close all or part of an isolated school under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section, the state board shall have the authority to review and approve or disapprove the petition.

(ii) The state board shall only approve a motion to close isolated schools or parts thereof under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section if the closure is in the best interest of the students in the school district as a whole.

(iii) The state board shall not close a school if the state board finds that the closure will have any negative impact on desegregation efforts or will violate any valid court order from a court of proper jurisdiction.

(D)(i) Except under subdivision (b)(2)(D)(ii) of this section, the state board shall not require the closure of all or part of an isolated school without a motion from the local board of directors as required under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section.

(ii) This section shall not be construed to restrict the authority of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state board otherwise granted by law.

(c) Funding for isolated school districts shall be expended by the resulting or receiving district only on the operation, maintenance, and other expenses of the isolated schools within the resulting or receiving district.

Credits

Acts of 2003 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Act 60, § 5, eff. Jan. 29, 2004; Acts of 2005, Act 1397, § 2, eff. Aug. 12, 2005; Acts of 2011, Act 1131, § 2, eff. July 27, 2011; Acts of 2019, Act 910, § 1611, eff. July 1, 2019.

Formerly A.S.A. 1947, §§ 80-485, 80-487; Acts of 1983 (Ex. Sess.), Act 42, §§ 2, 4; Acts of 1983 (Ex. Sess.), Act 64, §§ 2, 4; Acts of 1995, Act 917, § 15(b).

Notes of Decisions (2)

A.C.A. § 6-20-602, AR ST § 6-20-602

The constitution and statutes are current through the end of the 2019 Regular Session of the 92nd Arkansas General Assembly.

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West's Arkansas Code Annotated
Title 6. Education (Refs & Annos)

§ 6-20-603. Isolated school districts--Funding

AR ST § 6-20-603 West's Arkansas Code Annotated Title 6. Education Effective: July 1, 2019 (Approx. 5 pages)

Subchapter 6. Local School District Isolated Funding (Refs & Annos)

Effective: July 1, 2019

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A.C.A. § 6-20-603

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§ 6-20-603. Isolated school districts--Funding

Currentness

(a) Upon the effective date of consolidation, annexation, or reorganization, the following school districts that received isolated funding in the 2003-2004 school year shall become isolated school areas for the sole purpose of receiving isolated funding and shall have a per student isolated funding amount as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>School District</u>	<u>Per Student Isolated Funding Amount</u>
<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>	<u>Column C</u>
Van Buren	Alread	2,219
Desha	Arkansas City	2,040
Randolph	Biggers-Reyno	763
Miller	Bright Star	916
Marion	Bruno-Pyatt	329
Dallas	Carthage	1,938
Independence	Cord-Charlotte	235
Woodruff	Colton Plant	733
Crittenden	Crawfordsville	642
Newton	Deer	853
Greene	Delaplaine	215
Desha	Delta Special	952
Nevada	Emmet	307
Sharp	Evening Shade	115
Ashley	Fountain Hill	339
Yell	Fourche Valley	1,603
Arkansas	Gillett	1,000
Lincoln	Gould	765
Lincoln	Grady	560
Polk	Hatfield	42
Monroe	Holly Grove	868
Arkansas	Humphrey	328
Union	Huttig	668
Cleveland	Kingsland	394
Madison	Kingston	661
Phillips	Lake View	1,054

Searcy	Leslie	628
Lawrence	Lynn	782
Columbia	McNeil	329
Union	Mount Holly	898
Newton	Mount Judea	622
Izard	Mount Pleasant	225
Johnson	Oark	1,576
Montgomery	Oden	671
Saline	Paron	733
Yell	Plainview-Rover	297
Franklin	Pleasant View	679
Randolph	Randolph County	444
Lawrence	River Valley	106
Stone	Rural Special	788
Searcy	Saint Joe	727
Madison	Saint Paul	123
Hempstead	Saratoga	1,407
Van Buren	Scotland	1,841
Dallas	Sparkman	487
Ouachita	Stephens	1
Stone	Stone County	367
Jackson	Swifton	458
Columbia	Taylor	353
Howard	Umpire	2,152
Union	Union	45
Columbia	Walker	819
Newton	Western Grove	375
Cleburne	Wilburn	978
Sharp	Williford	475
Washington	Winslow	494

(b) Each school year, state financial aid in the form of isolated funding shall be provided to school districts containing an isolated school area in an amount equal to the prior-year three-quarter average daily membership of the isolated school area multiplied by the per student isolated funding amount for the isolated school areas as set forth under column "C" of subsection (a) of this section.

(c)(1) Except as provided under subdivision (c)(2) of this section, a school district may not receive isolated funding under this section for an isolated school area if the prior-year three-quarter average daily membership of the isolated school area exceeds three hundred fifty (350).

(2) A school district is entitled to receive the funding under this section for an isolated school area received by the school district in:

(A) A consolidation under § 6-13-1401 et seq. or the Public Education Reorganization Act, § 6-13-1601 et seq.; or

(B) An annexation under § 6-13-1401 et seq. or the Public Education Reorganization Act, § 6-13-1601 et seq.

(d) A school district receiving isolated funding for an isolated school area shall expend the funds solely for the operation, maintenance, and support of the isolated school area.

(e)(1) Except as provided under subdivision (e)(2) of this section, a school district that qualifies under § 6-20-601 to receive additional state aid because its prior-year three-quarter average daily membership is less than three hundred fifty (350) is not eligible to receive funding under this section.

(2) A school district may elect to receive funding under this section in lieu of funding under § 6-20-601 if the school district qualifies for funding under § 6-20-601 and for funding under this section.

(f) For the purposes of this section, school districts with isolated school areas shall account for the average daily membership of all schools located in the isolated school areas as required by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and shall submit reports as required by the division.

(g) The division shall distribute isolated funding under this section in two (2) payments per school year.

(h) This section does not determine a school district's qualification as an isolated school district under § 6-20-601 as required to prohibit the closing of an isolated school in § 6-20-602.

(i)(1)(A) If all of an isolated school area in a school district is closed, the school district shall receive funding based on the prior-year three-quarter average daily membership of the isolated school area.

(B) If part of an isolated school area in a school district is closed, the school district funding is based on the prior-year three-quarter average daily membership of the part of the isolated school area that remains open.

(C) Funding received by a school district under this subsection is restricted for use at the closed isolated school area or for transporting students of the closed isolated school area to another school in the district.

(2) If a closed isolated school area is subsequently used by the school district for an alternative learning environment program or other regular classroom teaching, the school district using the now closed isolated school area may submit prior-year three-quarter average daily membership to the state to request funding under this section.

(j) The State Board of Education may promulgate rules as necessary for the proper implementation of this section.

Credits

Acts of 2003 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Act 65, § 1, eff. June 3, 2004; Acts of 2007, Act 1573, §§ 29, 30, eff. July 31, 2007; Acts of 2009, Act 811, § 1, eff. April 3, 2009; Acts of 2011, Act 996, § 1, eff. July 27, 2011; Acts of 2011, Act 1131, § 3, eff. July 27, 2011; Acts of 2019, Act 910, § 1612, eff. July 1, 2019.

Formerly A.S.A. 1947, § 80-486; Acts of 1983 (Ex. Sess.), Act 42, § 3; Acts of 1983 (Ex. Sess.), Act 64, § 3; Acts of 1989, Act 890, § 1; Acts of 1995, Act 890, § 1; Acts of 1995, Act 917, § 15, eff. July 1, 1996.

A.C.A. § 6-20-603, AR ST § 6-20-603

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