Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 1229 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
85th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

By: Representatives Cook, Mahony, Abernathy, Berry, Blount, Bolin, Chesterfield, Cowling, Dangeau, Davenport, Davis, Dickinson, Dobbins, Edwards, Elliott, Everett, Fite, George, Glidewell, Hardwick, Harris, J. Johnson, Kidd, Ledbetter, Maloch, J. Martin, McDaniel, Overbey, Petrus, Pyle, Rainey, Roebuck, Rosenbaum, Sample, Saunders, Walters, Wells, Wills, Wyatt
By: Senators Bisbee, Argue, Broadway, Bryles, J. Jeffress, G. Jeffress, Madison, Malone, Miller, Salmon, Wooldridge

For An Act To Be Entitled
AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF MOVING THE SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS OUT OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle
AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 4 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

(a) There is created the Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support Program through which the Arkansas Leadership Academy in collaboration with the Department of Education shall provide support to schools or school districts designated by the Department of Education as being in school improvement.
(b) The Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support Program shall:
(1) Build the leadership capacity of the school and district personnel;

(2) Train a diverse school leadership team, including, but not limited to, the school principals and teachers;

(3) Provide a cadre of highly-experienced, trained performance coaches to work in the school or school district on a regular basis; and

(4) Work with the school and school district staff, school board members, parents, community members, and other stakeholders as necessary to provide a comprehensive support network that can continue the school’s progress and improvement after completion of the Arkansas Leadership Academy's formal intervention and support.

(c) Any school district that is in school improvement may be invited, strongly encouraged, or required to participate in the Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support Program as provided in the rules of the State Board of Education.

(d) The Arkansas Leadership Academy and participating schools shall commit to continue participation in the program for no fewer than three (3) consecutive school years.

(e) The Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support Program shall be designed, developed, and administered by the Arkansas Leadership Academy created under § 6-15-1007.

(f)(1) The Department of Education and the Arkansas Leadership Academy shall develop criteria for selection of schools or districts to participate in the Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support Program.

(2)(A) The number of schools participating in the Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support Program shall be determined by the amount of funding available for the program.

(B) The State Board of Education or the Department of Education may require a school district to fund a portion of the cost of the school's or district's participation in the Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support Program if the Director of the Department of Education determines that such participation is in the best interest of the students served by the participating school or district.

(C) Subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, the Director of the Department of Education shall determine the portion of the school district’s financial obligation for participation in
the program, if any.

(g) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules as necessary
to implement the requirements of this section.

APPROVED: 3/24/2005