A Bill

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND § 6-61-110; TO IMPROVE THE TEACHING STRATEGIES OF REMEDIAL COURSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND § 6-61-110; TO IMPROVE THE TEACHING STRATEGIES OF REMEDIAL COURSES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-61-110 is amended to read as follows:

6-61-110. Testing of entering freshmen for remedial courses.

(a)(1) As used in this section:

(A) "Blended method of instructional delivery" means instruction that combines classroom instruction and technology or research based instruction focused on the improvement of specific skills deficiencies together; and

(B) "Remedial courses" means courses that are prerequisite to the level of work expected at an institution of higher education including without limitation:

(i) Courses that teach the basic academic skills necessary to succeed at an institution of higher education; or

(ii) Courses designed for students who demonstrate a deficient skill level in the general competencies necessary to succeed in a standard postsecondary curriculum in:

(a) English composition;

(b) Reading; and
(c) Mathematics.

(2) Remedial courses shall not provide credit toward a degree.

(a) A first-time entering freshman at a state-supported institution of higher education who is admitted to enroll in an associate or a bachelor's degree program shall be tested by the admitting institution for purposes of placement in either college-level credit courses in English and mathematics or remedial courses in English composition, reading, and mathematics.

(b) Remedial courses shall not provide credit toward a degree.

(c)(1) Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, a state-supported four-year institution of higher education shall count no more than one (1) remedial course attempt per subject per student for funding formula purposes under § 6-61-228.

(2) Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year a state-supported four-year institution of higher education shall not count remedial courses for funding formula purposes under § 6-61-228, unless the student's test score for remedial placement is within the range determined by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to be acceptable for enrollment in a credit course and remedial course using a blended method of instructional delivery.

(3) A student may be concurrently enrolled at state-supported four-year and two-year institutions of higher education while completing remedial courses at a state-supported two-year institution of higher education.

(d)(1) A remedial course shall be counted as credit courses for purposes of the formula funding model for two-year colleges under § 6-61-229.

(2) Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a state-supported two-year institution of higher education shall count no more than one (1) remedial course attempt per subject per student for funding formula purposes under § 6-61-229.

(e)(1) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall determine the:

(A) Test to be used;

(B) Testing procedures and exemptions; and

(C) Minimum scores below which students at all state-supported institutions of higher education must take remedial courses; and

(D) Acceptable range for a student requiring remediation.
to enroll in a credit course and a remedial course using a blended method of instructional delivery under subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

(2) The board shall base these decisions on:

(A) Consultation with representatives of the state-supported institutions of higher education;

(B) Analysis of the placement procedures presently used by two-year state-supported institutions in the state;

(C) Statewide placement testing programs in other states;

and

(D) Pilot projects involving testing of entering freshmen at selected two-year state-supported institutions in the state.

(3) The board, in collaboration with two-year state-supported institutions of higher education, shall develop by institution uniform measurable exit standards for remedial courses that are comparable to the ACT or SAT equivalent required for college-level enrollment in credit courses to be implemented no later than the fall semester of 2010.

(d)(f)(1) The board shall work with two-year state-supported institutions of higher education to:

(A) Develop innovative alternatives to traditional instruction and delivery methods for remedial courses; and

(B) Provide professional development opportunities to help remedial education faculty gain knowledge in best practices and trends in the instruction and delivery of remedial education.

(2) The board shall report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education by February 1, 2010, each year on the progress made in addressing the requirements in subdivision (d)(f)(1) of this section.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-61-228(m)(3) concerning, the funding formula model for universities, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) This funding formula The model is designed to produce educational and general operating funds for universities of higher education that generate student semester credit hours.

(B) This The model does not determine the funding needs of special units, such as the medical school, division of agriculture, and system offices.
(C) The model shall only provide funds for remedial courses as defined in § 6-61-11(c)(1).