

B1387

As Engrossed: 1/30/91 2/13/91

State of Arkansas

8th General Assembly **A Bill**

Regular Session, 1991 HOUSE BILL 1387

by: Representatives McKissack, Schexnayder and Argue

For An Act to Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANN. TITLE 6, CHAPTER 42, TO ADD A NEW SUBCHAPTER 2, TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated is hereby amended to add the following:

"6-42-201 (a). There is hereby established the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences hereinafter 'School') which shall be a residential school for eleventh and twelfth grade students. The purpose of the School shall be to educate the gifted and talented math and science students of the state and to develop curriculum and materials to improve instruction in mathematics and science for all students in the State. The School's curriculum, faculty, and admissions policy shall reflect such purposes. While the emphasis of the School shall be dedicated to the academic teaching of mathematics and sciences, some emphasis may be placed on the arts and humanities as deemed appropriate by the State Department of Education (hereinafter 'Department').

(b) The School shall be located on the campus of an Arkansas institution of higher education or at such other appropriate facility which can provide the classrooms, laboratories, library facilities, dormitories, and other services necessary for the proper operation and support of the school. The School shall be funded by monies appropriated by the General Assembly for the operation of the School and by such grants, contributions, or donations which may be received by the Department for the support of the School. Students selected to attend the School shall not be required to pay tuition, fees, or room and board. 6-42-202 (a). The School shall be governed by the Department with the advice and counsel of a nine-member advisory Board of Directors. The Director of the General Education Division of the Department of Education, the Director of the Department of Higher Education, and the President of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority shall serve on the Advisory Board. The remaining six members shall be appointed by the Governor. Two of the initial appointees shall be appointed for a term of one year; two for a term of two years; and two for a term of three years. Subsequent appointments to the Board shall be for three year terms. No appointee to the Board shall serve more than nine years. The Board shall annually elect a Chairman and such other officers as the Board shall determine appropriate.

(b) By March 1, 1991, the Department shall develop a plan for structure, operation and funding of the School which shall include equitable procedures for student recruitment. The Department shall then publish a request for proposals to solicit proposals from institutions of higher education or other appropriate organizations or agencies for hosting the School. By July 1, 1992, the Department shall select a location for the School to begin operation for the 1992-93 school year. If the Department determines that the School can be more effectively and efficiently operated by a longer planning and development phase, the Department may delay the initial term of the School until the 1993-94 School year.

(c) The Department shall prepare the biennial budget request for the School's operation which shall be submitted to the State Board of Education for inclusion in the biennial budget request of the Department of Education for funding programs from the Public School Fund.

6-42-203 (a). The Director of the Department of Education shall employ an administrator for the School who shall serve at the pleasure of the Director of the Department of Education. The administrator shall be the chief administrative officer of the School and shall administer the school in accordance with the policies established by the Department.

(b) The Administrator and other personnel employed for the operation of the School shall be

employees of the State of Arkansas. Faculty members and other personnel required for operation of the School shall be recommended for employment by the Administrator and shall be employed by annual contract by the Department. Teachers and administrators so employed shall be eligible for membership in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and earn credited service for such employment. Non-educational personnel employed by the Department shall be eligible for membership in the Public Employees Retirement System and earn credited service for such employment.

(c) There is hereby established and authorized for the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences the following maximum number of employees and the maximum salaries for such employees.

Administrator	1	\$60,000
Principal	1	\$45,000
Teachers	20	\$35,000
Counselors	2	\$35,000
Comptroller Supervisors	2	\$20,000
Assistant Supervisors	2	\$12,000
Cook Workers	4	\$9,000
Resident Advisors	13	\$3,000
Activities Coordinator	1	\$5,000
Bus Driver	1	\$13,000

A teacher employed by an Arkansas public school immediately prior to employment by the Arkansas Math and Science High School whose teaching salary from such district was in excess of the maximum salary authorized by this section may be paid a maximum amount not to exceed his or her previous salary from such public school district.

6-42-204 (a). The State Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education, and the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority shall provide technical assistance to the staff of the School. The Department shall also be authorized to contract with other agencies and/or private research centers as it may deem necessary in carrying out its responsibilities for the operation of the School.

(b) The Department is authorized and empowered to receive contributions, donations, gifts, bequests of money, other forms of financial assistance and/or property, equipment, materials, or personnel from persons, foundations, trust funds, corporations, organizations and other sources, private or public, to be expended and utilized for the operation of the School.

6-42-205. The Department shall supervise the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences and is hereby authorized and empowered to promulgate rules and regulations that may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter."

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It has been found and determined by the General Assembly that there is an urgent need for the establishment of a residential school the purpose of which is to educate gifted and talented math and science students of the State; to establish a unique institution to develop curriculum and materials to improve mathematics and science instruction for all students in the State; for the appointment of a Board to advise with the Department in the development of plans for such School's structure, operation and funding so that the School may begin operation in the 1992-93 school year; and that this Act is designed to correct this situation and should be given effect immediately for this purpose. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

s/ J. McKissack