

Lunch Bill 1

DJB

3/20/19(ThursAM)

The Senate Education Committee on Wednesday approved a bill that would cut funding for public and charter schools in high-poverty areas that don't show improvement in reading scores. The bill, sponsored by Republican Sen. Alan Clark of Lonsdale, would reduce National School Lunch Program funding at schools that don't improve their reading proficiency by one-ten-thousandth of a percent every two years. Clark says schools should be expected to meet that standard of growth.

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“...show some improvement.”

The National School Lunch Program is a state program that provides additional funding based on the concentration of poverty in school districts. Cutting that funding would not impact school lunch programs, instead cutting supplemental funding from state sales tax revenue for educational services. According to Clark, Arkansas students currently average about 41 percent reading proficiency.

Lunch Bill 2

DJB

3/20/19(ThursAM)

A bill that would reduce funding to certain Arkansas schools that don't show improvement on reading proficiency passed the Senate Education Committee Wednesday. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Alan Clark, R-Lonsdale, would reduce National School Lunch Program funding at schools that don't improve their reading proficiency by one-ten-thousandth of a percent every two years. Janet Blair, a retired school administrator, spoke against the bill, saying it doesn't include an accurate measurement of reading improvement.

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“...might be worse.”

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