

## INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-088

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H4/12/13

89th General Assembly

**A Bill**

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL 1709

By: Representative Bragg

Filed with: Interim House Committee on Education  
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN A  
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE HIGH  
SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM FOCUSED ON A CAREER PATH  
THROUGH VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TRAINING; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO  
OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; AND TO  
ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL  
COMPLETION PROGRAM FOCUSED ON A CAREER  
PATH THROUGH VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL  
TRAINING.

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:*

6-18-231. Career Path Program.

(a) By July 1, 2014, the Department of Education and the Department of Career Education shall develop a Career Path Program for Arkansas public high schools.

(b) The program shall provide a student who is sixteen (16), seventeen (17), or eighteen (18) years of age the opportunity to select a career focus and complete vocational-technical training that leads to a certificate of completion in the vocational-technical area of study and a high school diploma.

1 (c) The purpose of the program is to address the educational and career training of students  
2 who:

3 (1) May desire a career path other than the traditional enrollment in postsecondary  
4 education as a first-time full-time freshman; or

5 (2) Have left high school and want to return to complete their secondary education.

6 (d)(1) When a student enrolls in the program, the school, the Adult Education Section of the  
7 Department of Career Education, the student, and the parent jointly shall develop an education plan for  
8 the participating student that:

9 (A) Includes learning opportunities, vocational-technical training, tutoring, and  
10 mentoring designed to meet the participating student's needs;

11 (B) Includes meetings with a guidance counselor;

12 (C) Is not based entirely on traditional credit-based instruction;

13 (D) May provide for a minimum number of hours of adult education programming  
14 based on:

15 (i) The educational needs of the participating student; and

16 (ii) The employment of the student, if applicable; and

17 (E) May include without limitation transitional courses and courses for concurrent  
18 credit.

19 (e) In developing the program, the Department of Education and the Department of Career  
20 Education may include without limitation:

21 (1) Exempting the student from the compulsory attendance requirements of § 6-18-201  
22 while the student is participating in the program;

23 (2) Providing counseling, mentoring, tutoring, or other support services identified under  
24 the student's education plan;

25 (3) Flexibility in the number of instructional hours required to be delivered on a school  
26 campus; and

27 (4) An alternative or dual high school diploma.

28 (f) The State Board of Education and the State Board of Career Education may promulgate rules  
29 as necessary to implement this section.

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/s/Bragg

Referred by the Arkansas House of Representatives

Prepared by: CLR/VJF