

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.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003  
4

# A Bill

Act 1116 of 2003  
HOUSE BILL 2375

5 By: Representative White  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT ALL COURSES OFFERED BY  
10 SCHOOL DISTRICTS BE ALIGNED WITH THE ARKANSAS  
11 CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT ALL COURSES  
14 OFFERED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS BE ALIGNED  
15 WITH THE ARKANSAS CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS.  
16  
17  
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1501 is amended to read as follows:  
22 6-15-1501. Development, compliance, and implementation.

23 (a) The State Board of Education shall develop a plan to be known as  
24 the "Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work".

25 (b)(1) The plan shall be designed to ensure that every public school  
26 student has the opportunity to learn rigorous and challenging course work by  
27 eliminating low level, general education tracks offered by local public  
28 school districts ~~in grades nine through twelve (9-12)~~.

29 (2) The plan may include a provision for standardizing students'  
30 transcripts.

31 (3)(A) The plan shall require that all ~~academic~~ subject area  
32 courses, including courses taught to special education, limited English  
33 proficient and alternative learning students, offered by local public school  
34 districts ~~in grades nine through twelve (9-12)~~ are to be aligned with the  
35 Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks in all ~~academic~~ subject matter areas where  
36 frameworks are available.

1                   (B) Any course outside of the required units by the  
2 standards of accreditation for grades nine through twelve (9-12), must be  
3 approved through the Department of Education course approval process before  
4 being offered for a credit by a school district.

5                   ~~(B)~~(C) These frameworks, developed by the Department of  
6 Education, require student demonstration of the rigorous knowledge and skills  
7 necessary to succeed in the state's institutions of post-secondary education  
8 or to enter the workforce.

9                   (c) The board shall review the plan and revise as necessary based on  
10 the five-year cycle for school improvement plans required by the Arkansas  
11 Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program.

12                   (d) The superintendent of each school district shall provide to the  
13 department, by October 1, 2002, and each year thereafter on that date, a  
14 written statement of assurance that the content of each academic subject area  
15 course ~~in grades nine through twelve (9-12)~~ is aligned to frameworks  
16 developed by the department and required in the plan under subsection (b) of  
17 this section.

18                   (e) The department shall monitor compliance with the requirements of  
19 this section during the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public  
20 Schools review visit and during the school improvement planning process as  
21 defined by the program.

22                   (f) If the department determines that a school district has failed to  
23 align the academic subject area content of any academic course ~~in grades nine~~  
24 ~~through twelve (9-12)~~ to the frameworks in any school ~~containing a~~  
25 ~~combination of these grades~~, the department shall cite the noncompliance of  
26 each school on the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools  
27 Annual Report for the school and shall file a noncompliance notation on the  
28 school's performance report under § 6-15-1402.

29                   (g) The board shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulations  
30 necessary to carry out the requirements of this section.

31                   ~~(h) Nothing in the requirements of this section which targets academic~~  
32 ~~subject area courses in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall be construed~~  
33 ~~to mean that public school districts are not to be held accountable for~~  
34 ~~aligning the curriculum in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) to the~~  
35 ~~frameworks for all subject matter areas.~~

36 \_\_\_\_\_ **APPROVED: 4/7/2003**