

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.

Act 222 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H1/30/09 H2/4/09 H2/6/09 S2/12/09

2 87th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL 1034

4

5 By: Representatives Cook, Abernathy, M. Burris, George, Rainey, J. Roebuck, Betts, Dale, Perry, G.

6 Smith, Wagner, Blount, Breedlove, J. Brown, Cheatham, J. Dickinson, Nix, Pennartz, Tyler

7 By: Senator Broadway

8

9

10 For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM OF ARKANSAS

12 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR OTHER

13 PURPOSES.

14

15

Subtitle

16

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN ARKANSAS

17

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

18

19

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

21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 1, is amended to add an  
23 additional subchapter to read as follows:

24 SUBCHAPTER 4 - SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COORDINATING COUNCIL

25

26 6-1-401. Title.

27 There is established the "School Leadership Coordinating Council".

28

29 6-1-402. Findings.

30 The General Assembly finds that:

31

32 (1) A statewide performance and results based system of  
33 leadership development to ensure high levels of collaborative leadership and  
34 continuous improvement must have all educators work collaboratively with  
35 community stakeholders to apply effective, evidence-based strategies and  
practices that increase student and adult learning and close the achievement



1 gap;

2 (2) High quality classroom teaching and administrative  
3 leadership are strong predictors of student success, all educators in the  
4 state must possess the skills and knowledge to increase student and adult  
5 learning and close the achievement gap;

6 (3) High quality leadership capacity building and training is  
7 required to align the public education system from kindergarten through  
8 postsecondary and workforce readiness, with an objective of universal  
9 proficiency for all students.

10 (4) High quality learning experiences focus on both individual  
11 and organizational improvement and provide educational leaders with a variety  
12 of support systems as they progress on the career continuum from aspiring to  
13 retiring; and

14 (5) An effective statewide leadership development system will  
15 result in increased graduation rates, reduced remediation rates, closing of  
16 achievement gaps, increased student and adult performance, increased  
17 recruitment of effective leaders, and increased capacity for instructional  
18 leaders, thus will increase the number of Arkansas citizens with bachelors  
19 degrees.

20  
21 6-1-403. Purpose.

22 The purpose of the School Leadership Coordinating Council is to:

23 (1) Serve as a central body to coordinate the leadership  
24 development system efforts across the state including:

25 (A) Encouraging school districts to work with, the  
26 Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education,  
27 *the Department of Workforce Education, the Arkansas Leadership Academy, and*  
28 *other leadership groups;*

29 (B) Recommending a state leadership development system to  
30 coordinate all aspects of leadership development based on educational  
31 leadership standards adopted by the Department of Education; and

32 (C) Devise a system of gathering data which includes input  
33 from practitioners, educational and community leaders, university leadership  
34 and faculty, and other interested parties;

35 (2) Assist the Department of Education, the Department of Higher  
36 Education, the Department of Workforce Education, the Arkansas Leadership

1 Academy, school districts, and other leadership groups in enhancing school  
2 leadership and school support efforts; and

3 (3) Aid in the development of model evaluation tools for use in  
4 the evaluation of school administrators.

5  
6 6-1-404. Creation.

7 (a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of thirteen  
8 (13) members as follows:

9 (1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for  
10 Teacher Education Council of Deans;

11 (2) The Commissioner of Education;

12 (3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;

13 (4) The Director of the Department of Higher Education;

14 (5) The Director of the Department of Workforce Education;

15 (6) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of  
16 Educational Administrators;

17 (7) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Education  
18 Association;

19 (8) The Executive Director of the Arkansas School Boards  
20 Association;

21 (9) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association for  
22 Supervision and Curriculum Development;

23 (10) The President of the Arkansas Rural Education Association;

24 (11) A representative from the Arkansas Professors of  
25 Educational Administration;

26 (12) A representative from the Arkansas Center for Executive  
27 Leadership; and

28 (13) A representative from an Educational Service Cooperatives.

29 (b) Any member may appoint a designee to serve in his or her place if  
30 necessary.

31 (c)(1) The Chair of the School Leadership Coordinating Council is  
32 elected by majority vote at the first meeting of the council.

33 (2) All changes in council chairmanship are decided by majority  
34 vote of the council.

35 (d)(1) The council shall meet at the times and places that the chair  
36 deems necessary but no less than four (4) times per year.

1           (2) Seven (7) members of the council shall constitute a quorum  
2 for the purpose of transacting business.

3           (3) All actions of the council are by quorum.

4           (e) The Department of Education, with the assistance of the Department  
5 of Higher Education and the Department of Workforce Education, shall staff  
6 the council.

7           (f) All members of the council may receive expense reimbursement in  
8 accordance with § 25-16-902 paid by the Department of Education if  
9 funds are available.

10  
11          6-1-405. Report.

12          (a) The Chair of the School Leadership Coordinating Council shall  
13 provide a report to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate  
14 Interim Committee on Education no later than September 1, 2010, and each year  
15 thereafter.

16          (b) The report shall identify:

17           (1) Deficient areas of school leadership;

18           (2) Innovative programs to address deficient areas of school  
19 leadership;

20           (3) Progress made to improve school leadership;

21           (4) Plans to improve the quality of school leadership throughout  
22 the state;

23           (5) Development and activities of school leadership cohorts; and

24           (6) Efforts made to address school leadership recommendations  
25 expressed in the 2008 Educational Adequacy report or subsequent reports  
26 submitted by the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim  
27 Committee on Education.

28  
29          SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-440 is amended to read as follows:

30          (a)(1) There is created the Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support  
31 Program through which the Arkansas Leadership Academy in collaboration with  
32 the Department of Education and other leadership groups shall provide support  
33 to schools or school districts designated by the department as being in  
34 school improvement and other school districts who opt to participate.

35          (2) The program shall be designed, developed, and administered  
36 by the academy created under § 6-15-1007.

1 (b) The program shall:

2 (1) Build the leadership capacity of the school and school  
3 district personnel;

4 (2) Train a diverse school leadership team, including, but not  
5 limited to, ~~the superintendents~~, school principals and teachers;

6 (3) Provide a cadre of highly experienced, trained performance  
7 coaches to work in the school or school district on a regular basis; and

8 (4) Work with the school and school district staff, school board  
9 members, parents, community members, and other stakeholders as necessary to  
10 provide a comprehensive support network that can continue the school's  
11 progress and improvement after completion of the academy's formal  
12 intervention and support.

13 (5) Ensure access to training programs and leadership skills  
14 development;

15 (6) Develop incentive programs for institutions and program  
16 participants;

17 (7) Assist in the development of partnerships between university  
18 leadership programs and school districts; and

19 (8) Work closely with the School Leadership Coordinating  
20 Council, the Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education, and  
21 the Department of Workforce Education to coordinate cohesive leadership  
22 goals.

23 (c)(1) The department and the academy shall develop criteria for  
24 selection of schools or school districts to participate in the program.

25 (2) *Any school district that is in school improvement ~~may be~~*  
26 *~~invited, strongly encouraged, or required to~~ shall be eligible* to  
27 participate in the program as provided in the rules of the State Board of  
28 Education.

29 (3) The academy and participating schools shall commit to  
30 *continue participation in the school support program for no fewer than three*  
31 *(3) consecutive school years.*

32 (d)(1) The number of schools participating in the program shall be  
33 determined by the amount of funding available for the program.

34 (2) The state board or the department may require a school  
35 district to fund a portion of the cost of the school's or school district's  
36 participation in the school support program if the Commissioner of Education

1 *determines that* such participation is in the best interest of the students  
2 served by the participating school or school district.

3 (3) Subject to the approval of the state board, the commissioner  
4 shall determine the portion of the school district's financial obligation for  
5 participation in the program, if any.

6 (e) The state board shall promulgate rules as necessary to implement  
7 the requirements of this section.

8 (f)(1) The State Board of Education shall have the authority to issue  
9 requests for proposals if the state board should determine to change the  
10 operator or the location of the Arkansas Leadership Academy.

11 (2) The academy shall maintain one (1) main office and, as  
12 needed, satellite offices partnered with institutions of higher education  
13 that have approved leadership programs and are strategically located in areas  
14 of the state identified by the Department of Education as having the greatest  
15 need for school leadership support.

16  
17 SECTION 3. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The document attached hereto titled  
18 "Prologue" contains the Leadership Taskforce recommendations as submitted to  
19 the Adequacy Study Oversight Subcommittee, the House Interim Committee on  
20 Education, and the Senate Interim Committee on Education. The document,  
21 "Prologue", shall be filed in the journals of the House and Senate.

22  
23 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
24 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is the constitutional  
25 obligation of the state to ensure that the state's public school children  
26 receive an equal opportunity for an adequate education; that to ensure that  
27 opportunity, it is essential to have strong and effective school leaders; and  
28 that this act is immediately necessary to allow the Department of Education,  
29 the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Workforce Education,  
30 and the Arkansas Leadership Academy to address deficiencies in the Arkansas's  
31 educational leadership system. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist  
32 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
33 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

34 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

35 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
36 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the

1 bill; or

2 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
3 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

4

5 */s/ Cook*

6

7 **APPROVED: 2/25/2009**

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36