	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 2318 of the Regular Session
1	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/10/05 H3/18/05
2	85th General Assembly A Bill
3	Regular Session, 2005HOUSE BILL2489
4	
5	By: Representatives Pickett, Dickinson, Dunn, Elliott, J. Johnson, Scroggin, Wills
6	By: Senator Bryles
7	
8	
9	For An Act To Be Entitled
10	THE ARKANSAS ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
11	INITIATIVE.
12	
13	Subtitle
14	THE ARKANSAS ONLINE PROFESSIONAL
15	DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.
16	
17	
18	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19	
20	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 7 is amended
21	to add an additional section to read as follows:
22	6-17-705. Statewide professional development program.
23	(a) There is created the Arkansas Online Professional Development
24	Initiative.
25	(b) Under the Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative, the
26	Director of the Department of Education shall identify teacher professional
27	development needs in the state and prioritize the needs based on the areas of
28	professional development most needed to improve academic and teaching
29	knowledge and skills of certified personnel.
30	(c) Based on the needs and priorities identified in the assessment
31	under subsection (b) of this section, the Director of the Department of
32	Education shall work with the Director of the Educational Television Division
33	of the Department of Education and local school districts to develop a
34	statewide online professional development program that includes quality
35	professional development courses that:



1	(1) Are aligned to the required focus areas identified in the
2	State Board of Education rules governing professional development and the
3	Arkansas Comprehensive, Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program;
4	(2) Are aligned with the clear, specific, and challenging
5	academic content areas as established by the Department of Education as
6	required under § 6-15-404;
7	(3) Are aligned with the state curriculum frameworks established
8	by the Department of Education for each class level or subject area included
9	in the respective professional development programs;
10	(4) Are researched-based and available from sources with
11	expertise in technology-delivered professional development courses;
12	(5) Are consistent with the Southern Regional Education Board
13	<u>Multi-State Online Professional Development Standards in existence on January</u>
14	<u>1, 2005;</u>
15	(6) Focus on improving student academic achievement by improving
16	a teacher's academic and teaching knowledge and skills; and
17	(7) Include an assessment at the end of the program designed to
18	measure each certified person's level of understanding and ability to
19	implement or apply the information presented in the program.
20	(d)(l)(A) The Arkansas Educational Television Network shall support
21	the delivery of the online professional development courses developed as part
22	of the Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative to teachers and
23	administrators in each school in each school district in the state via the
24	Internet.
25	(B) In addition to the online courses developed as part of
26	the Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative, the Arkansas
27	Educational Television Network may continue to deliver professional
28	development by broadcast, compressed, satellite, and face-to-face methods.
29	(2) The online professional development courses supported by the
30	Arkansas Educational Television Network or other providers shall include
31	online registration, course evaluation, and attendance and completion
32	documents.
33	(3) Any provider of technology-delivered professional
34	development under the Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative
35	shall demonstrate an ability to successfully deliver technology-delivered
36	products and services.

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1	(4) If a technology-delivered professional development course or
2	service that has been identified as needed under the assessment in subsection
3	(b) of this section is not available, the Arkansas Educational Television
4	Network or other providers shall work with the Department of Education to
5	develope a course or service to meet the identified need.
6	(e) The Department of Education shall determine the content of and
7	preapprove all professional development courses or programs delivered by the
8	Arkansas Educational Television Network that qualify for professional
9	development credit as required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas
10	Public Schools or teacher licensure requirements.
11	(f) The Department of Education shall provide the staff and resources
12	needed to provide the quality leadership necessary to coordinate the Arkansas
13	Online Professional Development Initiative.
14	(g) The Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative shall
15	include a method for the Department of Education, the Arkansas Educational
16	Television Network, school districts, schools, and certified personnel to
17	annually evaluate the effectiveness of the Arkansas Online Professional
18	Development Initiative and its on-line professional development course and
19	programs.
20	(h)(1) Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, the Department of
21	Education may include as part of a school improvement plan guidelines for the
22	professional development programs to be delivered to the certified personnel
23	employed by a school in school improvement status or a school district in
24	school improvement status or academic distress.
25	(2)(A) As part of the school improvement plan, the Department of
26	Education may require the participation and completion of professional
27	development courses or programs by certified personnel in the school or
28	district as appropriate for the certified personnel's job assignments and
29	duties.
30	(B) Certified personnel employed by any school in school
31	improvement or school district in school improvement or academic distress
32	shall participate in, complete, and pass the assessment for the professional
33	development requirements included in the school's or district's school
34	improvement plan.
35	
36	/s/ Pickett, et al

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APPROVED: 4/14/2005