

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 1309 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

As Engrossed: H3/25/09 S4/2/09

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1999

4
5 By: Representative Lea

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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING TEACHER
10 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.

12
13 **Subtitle**

14 TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING
15 TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT.

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17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

19
20 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-702 is amended to read as follows:*

21 *6-17-702. Staff development sessions.*

22 *(a)(1)(A) ~~No~~ A school district shall not deny ~~certified~~ licensed*
23 *personnel the opportunity to attend certified instructional staff development*
24 *sessions conducted by bona fide professional organizations within the ~~State~~*
25 *of Arkansas state.*

26 *(B) ~~Certified~~ Licensed personnel may count up to two (2)*
27 *days of ~~five and one half (5½)~~ six (6) hours each of attendance at*
28 *instructional professional development sessions conducted by bona fide*
29 *professional organizations toward fulfillment of the ~~five (5)~~ ten (10) days*
30 *of staff development required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas*
31 *Public Schools and School Districts, provided the sessions have been*
32 *certified by the Department of Education.*

33 *(2) The State Board of Education ~~is hereby authorized to~~ may*
34 *promulgate rules ~~and regulations~~ to implement the certification process for*
35 *instructional staff development sessions.*



1 (b) ~~No provision of this~~ This section shall does not be interpreted as
 2 authorizing authorize a local school district employee to refrain from
 3 attending meetings and workshops designed to implement restructuring mandated
 4 by § 6-15-1001 et seq.

5
 6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-705 is amended to read as follows:

7 6-17-705. Professional development credit.

8 (a) Up to twelve (12) hours of professional development credit may be
 9 earned by ~~certified~~ licensed personnel for time required at the beginning of
 10 each school year to plan and prepare a curriculum and other instructional
 11 material for their assigned classes if the time is:

12 (1) Spent in their classrooms, offices, or media centers at the
 13 public school; and

14 (2) ~~Prior to~~ Before the first student-teacher interaction day of
 15 the school year, but ~~no~~ a school district shall not require ~~certified~~
 16 licensed personnel to work additional days that are not included in their
 17 contracts unless the ~~certified~~ licensed personnel are paid their daily rate
 18 of pay.

19 (b) ~~Certified~~ Licensed personnel shall earn one (1) hour of
 20 professional development credit for each hour of planning and preparation
 21 that meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

22 (c) Licensed personnel may earn the twelve (12) hours of professional
 23 development credit required under subsection (a) of this section through
 24 online professional development credit approved by the Department of
 25 Education and related to the:

26 (1) School district's Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement
 27 Plan; or

28 (2) Teacher's professional growth plan.

29 (d)(1) If illness of a teacher or a teacher's immediate family under §
 30 6-17-1202 prevents a teacher from obtaining the required professional
 31 development hours, the teacher shall be allowed to make up the hours missed
 32 during the:

33 (A) Remainder of the current school year; or

34 (B) Succeeding school year.

35 (2) The teacher may earn the professional development hours
 36 through online professional development.

