

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1657

5 By: Representative Vaught
6 By: Senator E. Cheatham
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
10 CONCERNING EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
16 CONCERNING EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL
17 DEVELOPMENT.
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19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1703 is amended to read as follows:
23 6-15-1703. Professional development.

24 (a) The State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of
25 Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts shall require the following
26 professional development ~~hours~~ according to the professional development
27 schedule under § 6-17-709:

28 (1) Two (2) hours of professional development, or professional
29 learning credit as determined by the Department of Education, as part of the
30 ~~minimum number of hours of~~ professional development required for teachers,
31 designed to enhance understanding of effective ~~parental involvement~~ family
32 and community engagement strategies; and

33 (2) Two (2) hours of professional development, or professional
34 learning credit as determined by the department, as part of the ~~minimum~~
35 ~~number of hours of~~ professional development required for administrators,
36 designed to enhance understanding of:



1 (A) Effective ~~parent involvement~~ family and community
2 engagement strategies; and

3 (B) The importance of administrative leadership in setting
4 expectations and creating a climate conducive to ~~parental~~ family and
5 community participation.

6 (b) A school district shall provide training at least annually for
7 volunteers who assist in an instructional program for ~~parents~~ families and
8 the community.

9
10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-418(a)(2)(B), concerning Arkansas
11 history professional development through ArkansasIDEAS, is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 (B) ~~A forty-five-hour professional development piece~~ An
14 approved learning pathway in Arkansas history offered through ArkansasIDEAS
15 for professional development hours or professional learning credits as
16 determined by the Department of Education.

17
18 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-703(a), concerning Arkansas history
19 professional development for teachers who provide instruction in Arkansas
20 history, is amended to read as follows:

21 (a) A school district shall provide two (2) hours, or professional
22 learning credits as determined by the Department of Education, of substantive
23 and meaningful professional development in Arkansas history for its teachers
24 who provide instruction in Arkansas history according to the professional
25 development schedule under § 6-17-709.

26
27 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-704(a)(2)(A), concerning the minimum
28 number of professional development hours required in a professional
29 development plan, is amended to read as follows:

30 (A) Is part of the minimum number of professional
31 development hours or professional learning credits as determined by the
32 department required by law or by the department;

33
34 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-705(a)-(c), concerning planning and
35 preparation time counting towards professional development credit, is amended
36 to read as follows:

1 (a) Up to twelve (12) hours of professional development credit, or
 2 professional learning credits as determined by the Department of Education,
 3 may be earned by licensed personnel for time required at the beginning of
 4 each school year to plan and prepare a curriculum and other instructional
 5 material for their assigned classes if the time is:

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

8 (2) Before the first student-teacher interaction day of the
 9 school year, but a school district shall not require licensed personnel to
 10 work additional days that are not included in their contracts unless the
 11 licensed personnel are paid their daily rate of pay.

12 (b) Licensed personnel shall earn one (1) hour of professional
 13 development credit, or professional learning credits as determined by the
 14 department, for each hour of planning and preparation that meets the
 15 requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

16 (c)(1) If illness of a teacher or a teacher's immediate family under §
 17 6-17-1202 prevents a teacher from obtaining the required professional
 18 development ~~hours~~, the teacher shall be allowed to make up the ~~hours~~
 19 professional development missed during the:

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

21 (B) Succeeding school year.

22 (2) The teacher may earn the professional development hours, or
 23 professional learning credits as determined by the department, through online
 24 professional development.

25
 26 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-17-706(a), concerning professional
 27 development credit exemption, is amended to read as follows:

28 (a) Licensed personnel working part time shall be exempt from one-half
 29 (1/2) of the professional development ~~hours~~ required under the Standards for
 30 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts if they work
 31 solely in any of the following adult education programs:

32 (1) Adult basic education;

33 (2) General adult education;

34 (3) English as a second language for adults; ~~and~~ or

35 (4) High school equivalency test examiners.

36

1 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-17-708(a)(1), concerning teen suicide
2 awareness and prevention professional development, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 (a)(1) The Department of Education shall require two (2) hours of
5 professional development, or professional learning credits as determined by
6 the department, in teen suicide awareness and prevention for licensed public
7 school personnel according to the professional development schedule under §
8 6-17-709.

9
10 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709(a)(2), concerning the professional
11 development schedule concerning parental involvement, is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 (2) In the 2014-2015 school year and every fourth school year
14 thereafter, the ~~parental involvement~~ family and community engagement
15 professional development under § 6-15-1703;

16
17 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709(b), concerning the calculation of
18 professional development hours under the professional development schedule,
19 is amended to read as follows:

20 (b)(1) Two (2) hours of the professional development, or professional
21 learning credit as determined by the Department of Education, required by
22 subsection (a) of this section shall be counted in one (1) school year toward
23 the ~~minimum number of hours of~~ professional development required for licensed
24 educators under the Department of Education Rules Governing Professional
25 Development.

26 (2) If additional hours or professional learning credits are
27 obtained by a licensed educator, the school district may count those hours or
28 credits as part of the ~~minimum number of hours of~~ professional development
29 required for licensed educators under the Department of Education Rules
30 Governing Professional Development.

31
32 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709(c), concerning professional
33 development with respect to educational technology under the professional
34 development schedule, is amended to read as follows:

35 (c) Annually, the State Board of Education may require up to six (6)
36 hours of integrated professional development, or professional learning

1 credits determined by the department, for licensed educators in educational
 2 technology.

3
 4 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709(e)(3)(A), concerning professional
 5 development scheduling, is amended to read as follows:

6 (3)(A) The ~~Department of Education~~ department shall not issue an
 7 initial teaching license until the applicant verifies that he or she has
 8 obtained the required professional development concerning:

- 9 (i) Mandated reporters under § 6-61-133;
- 10 (ii) ~~Parental involvement~~ Family and community
 11 engagement under § 6-15-1703;
- 12 (iii) Teen suicide awareness and prevention under §
 13 6-17-708; ~~and~~
- 14 (iv) Arkansas history under § 6-17-703-~~r~~; and
- 15 (v) Human trafficking under § 6-17-710.

16
 17 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-17-710(a) and (b), concerning
 18 professional development related to recognizing human trafficking, are
 19 amended to read as follows:

20 (a) Each year, a school district shall make available to licensed
 21 personnel thirty (30) minutes of professional development, or professional
 22 learning credit as determined by the Department of Education, on:

- 23 (1) Recognizing the warning signs that a child is a victim of
 24 human trafficking; and
- 25 (2) Reporting a suspicion that a child is a victim of human
 26 trafficking.

27 (b) The ~~Department of Education~~ department or another person, firm, or
 28 corporation designated by the department shall develop and administer the
 29 professional development under subsection (a) of this section.