

Subchapter 11

— Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness

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6-5-1101. Legislative intent.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Public schools should help all students:

(A) Have the reading, writing, and mathematics skills needed to succeed in all first-year coursework in associate and baccalaureate degree programs in non-mathematics-based majors; and

(B) Be ready for as many career options as possible by having a base level of employability; and

(2) The development of college and career readiness standards should be undertaken as an integrative process among:

(A) The legislature;

(B) State agencies that regulate and support the public educational systems of the state;

(C) Kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary educational institutions; and

(D) The public.

History. Acts 2013, No. 585, § 1.

6-5-1102. Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness established — Membership — Meetings.

(a) This subchapter establishes the Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness to facilitate the collaboration of kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary educational institutions in Arkansas in developing college and career readiness standards that align school curriculum and graduation standards with postsecondary education

requirements and business community expectations for employability.

(b) The council shall consist of eleven (11) members as follows:

- (1)** The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;
- (2)** The Director of the Department of Higher Education or his or her designee;
- (3)** The Director of the Department of Career Education or his or her designee;
- (4)** The Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission or his or her designee;
- (5)** The Director of the Department of Workforce Services or his or her designee;
- (6)** A president or chancellor of an Arkansas four-year institution of higher education or his or her designee, appointed annually by the Director of the Department of Higher Education;
- (7)** The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators or his or her designee;
- (8)** The Executive Director of Arkansas Community Colleges or his or her designee;
- (9)** The Executive Director of the Arkansas Education Association or his or her designee;
- (10)** The Executive Director of the Arkansas School Boards Association or his or her designee; and
- (11)** The President of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Industries of Arkansas or his or her designee.

(c)(1) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee shall call the first meeting of the council and serve as chair for the first meeting.

(2) The first meeting shall occur within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this subchapter.

(d) At the first meeting of the council and annually thereafter, the voting members of the council shall elect one (1) member to serve as chair for one (1) year.

(e)(1) All members are voting members except the chair, who may vote only to break a tie vote.

(2) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(f) The council shall meet at least three (3) times in a calendar year.

(g) The Department of Education, Department of Higher Education, and Department of Career Education, alternating each year, shall provide meeting space and staff for the council.

(h) Council members shall serve without pay and shall not receive expense reimbursement except from the agency or institution employing the member.

History. Acts 2013, No. 585, § 1; 2015 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 7, § 67; 2015 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 8, § 67.

A.C.R.C. Notes. Acts 2015 (1st Ex. Sess.), Nos. 7 and 8, § 62, provided:

“Transfer of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority.

“(a)(1) The Arkansas Science and Technology Authority is transferred to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission by a type 2 transfer under § 25-2-105.

“(2) For the purposes of this act, the commission is the principal department under Acts 1971, No. 38.

“(b) The statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, records, personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds, including the functions of budgeting or purchasing, of the authority are transferred to the commission, except as specified in this act.

“(c) The prescribed powers, duties, and functions, including rulemaking, regulation, and licensing; promulgation of rules, rates, regulations, and standards; and the rendering of findings, orders, and adjudication of the authority are transferred to the executive director of the commission, except as specified in this act.

“(d) The members of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority, and their successors, shall continue to be selected in the manner and serve for the terms provided by the statutes applicable to the board except as specified in this act.”

Amendments. The 2015 amendment by Acts 2015 (1st Ex. Sess.), Nos. 7 and 8 substituted “eleven (11)” for “twelve (12)” in the introductory language of (b); inserted “Executive” in (b)(4); and deleted former (b)(5) and redesignated the remaining subdivisions accordingly.

6-5-1103. Powers and duties.

(a) The Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness shall:

(1) Develop a unified strategy to:

(A) Reduce remediation rates among high school graduates entering postsecondary education by at least fifty percent (50%) by the year 2020; and

(B) Increase postsecondary graduation and completion rates;

(2)(A) Support college and career readiness standards that:

(i) Require higher performance levels than those currently required for high school graduation; and

(ii) Promote accelerated learning opportunities, including without limitation Advanced Placement courses, concurrent credit opportunities, and other accelerated opportunities with college or vocational-technical school assistance to ensure that all students have the skills to be successful in either employment or postsecondary education.

(B) College and career readiness standards shall be implemented with the understanding that until July 1, 2022, interim high school graduation standards may be used until the high school graduation standards adopted by the State Board of Education are equal to the college and career readiness standards;

(3) Develop a successful transition-to-work matrix that schools and students may use to help students develop employment skills;

(4) Develop guidelines for secondary school intervention programs and transitional courses;

(5) Develop guidelines for professional development for teachers of transitional courses and opportunities for collaboration among high school, vocational-technical school, and college faculty to ensure that transitional courses target gaps in students' college and career readiness skills; and

(6) Provide the reports required under this subchapter.

(b)(1) The council shall establish working groups of its members, or staff of the agencies or institutions employing the members, to direct the planning process and strategic implementation of its plans.

(2) The working groups shall:

(A) Develop goals and action plans;

(B) Identify resources; and

(C) Determine expected outcomes to measure for each strategy promoting college and career readiness and postsecondary completion.

History. Acts 2013, No. 585, § 1.

6-5-1104. Reporting requirements.

(a) By June 30, 2014, the Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness shall:

(1) Develop a written plan to reduce remediation rates and increase postsecondary graduation rates, including without limitation:

- (A) Annual goals;
- (B) Action strategies;
- (C) Assigned responsibilities for implementing strategies;
- (D) Timelines; and
- (E) Reporting mechanisms;

(2) Provide the written plan to:

(A) The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education;

(B) The board of directors of each school district and open-enrollment charter school in this state; and

(C) The governing board of each state-supported institution of higher education in this state; and

(3) Encourage each school district board of directors and the governing board of each state-supported institution of higher education in the state to participate in the council's plan and to work collaboratively to reduce the remediation rates and further postsecondary graduation and completion rates.

(b) By June 30, 2015, and annually thereafter, the council shall report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education:

(1) The progress of the council's work for the year; and

(2) Its recommendations, which may include without limitation proposals for legislative action.

History. Acts 2013, No. 585, § 1.