

Hall of the House of Representatives
84th General Assembly - Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1088

"AN ACT TO CREATE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE TEAMS FOR SCHOOLS IN SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1088.

Amend House Bill No. 1088 as originally introduced:

Delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 4 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-15-433. Education assistance teams.

In accordance with §§ 6-15-1901 through 6-15-1915, the school improvement section of the Department of Education, or its successor, shall create education assistance teams to provide public schools in school improvement status under § 6-15-425 with additional resources to evaluate the school and to provide services that will improve the education of children in the school.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

6-15-1801. Education assistance teams – Creation.

(a)(1) The school improvement section of the Department of Education, or its successor, shall create education assistance teams to provide public schools in school improvement status under § 6-15-425 with additional resources to evaluate the school and to provide services that will improve the education of children in the school.

(2) The Department of Education may contract with other entities to provide the services of education assistance teams as set forth under this subchapter.

(b) The education assistance teams shall consist of the following members:

(1) Currently practicing teachers and staff;

(2) Representatives of higher education;

(3) School administrators; and

(4) Others that the school improvement section of the Department of Education, or its successor, considers to be appropriate.

(c) The school improvement section of the Department of Education, or its successor, shall select team members who possess a high degree of



knowledge and skill in the following areas:

- (1) School leadership;
- (2) Curriculum and instruction;
- (3) Classroom management and discipline;
- (4) Academic assessment;
- (5) Home and school relations; and
- (6) Evaluation and research.

(d)(1) Education assistance team members shall have the following qualifications:

(A) Either:

(i) Be certified in elementary or middle school education to serve on an education assistance team at the grades kindergarten through eight (K-8) level; or

(ii) Have teaching experience in either English, mathematics, social studies, science, or grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) reading to serve on an education assistance team at the high school level; and

(B) At least four (4) years of successful experience in classroom instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics, or in the appropriate content area for high school.

(2) Preference is given to applicants whose performance has been recognized as exemplary.

6-15-1802. Duties.

Education assistance teams shall:

(1) Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of all facets of the school;

(2)(A) Evaluate teachers and administrators.

(B)(i) When evaluating teachers and administrators, the education assistance team may make recommendations of methods and strategies for teachers and administrators to improve classroom instruction or school administration to include, but not be limited to, recommending specific professional development objectives.

(ii) Specific professional development objectives may include requiring the teacher or administrator to obtain additional course work in subjects taught or administration duties;

(3) Collaborate with the school's faculty and staff to revise and assist with the implementation of the school improvement plan, as necessary;

(4) Be mentors to the teachers and administrators of the school by providing hands-on instructional leadership in the classrooms and in the administration of the school;

(5) Make recommendations for continuous improvement as the plan is implemented;

(6) Review the school's progress; and

(7) Make appropriate progress reports to the following:

(A) The superintendent;

(B) The local school board;

(C) The State Board of Education; and

(D) The school improvement section of the Department of Education, or its successor.

(b) An education assistance team placed in a public school that is in

school improvement status shall remain in the school on a continuous basis for a minimum of one (1) year or until the school is no longer in need of the type of assistance that is being provided by the education assistance team.

6-15-1803. Comprehensive needs assessment.

(a) The education assistance teams shall:

(1) Review and investigate all facets of the school improvement plan and school operations; and
(2) Assist in developing recommendations for improving student performance.

(b) Information about the school may be gathered by using any of the following:

(1) Surveys;
(2) Classroom observations;
(3) Questionnaires;
(4) Focus group interviews with students, parents, staff, or community members;
(5) Historical student achievement data and goal summaries;
(6) Previous school improvement plans;
(7) Student promotion data;
(8) Attendance, discipline, and school violence reports;
(9) Dropout data; or
(10) Other data as may be available and relevant.

(c) A comprehensive review shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Curricula and program offerings;
(2) Instruction and scheduling;
(3) Student services;
(4) School and community relations;
(5) School climates;
(6) Achievement results;
(7) Staff development opportunities;
(8) School improvement planning process;
(9) School-based management practices; and
(10) Human and fiscal resources.

(d) Once the education assistance team and the school improvement team have carefully reviewed all available data, the education assistance team shall recommend specific actions to improve student achievement at the school.

6-15-1804. Recommendations for improvement – Review progress – Report progress.

(a)(1) The education assistance team shall make recommendations as the school develops and implements the school improvement plan.

(2) The team and the school staff may accept the school's original plan or develop a new, more focused plan.

(3) Continuous assessment of the school improvement plan and the progress of the school improvement plan is required.

(4) The team and the school staff shall identify areas of the plan for adjustment.

(5) The plan may be modified as necessary to serve as a working guide for the school improvement process.

(b)(1) The education assistance team shall review the school's progress under the school improvement plan.

(2) The review should include an analysis of student achievement.

(3) The review should be conducted monthly.

(c)(1) The education assistance team shall report, as appropriate, to the local school board of each community and the State Board of Education on the school's progress.

(2) Monthly reports shall be submitted by education assistance team leaders to the school improvement section of the Department of Education, or its successor.

(3) The progress reports shall be provided to the principal and the staff of the school, the superintendent, and the local school board chairperson.

(4) The progress reports to the state board shall include the following information:

(A) The identified challenges and needs;

(B) Recommendations; and

(C) The level of cooperation exhibited by the principal, school staff, and the superintendent.

(d)(1) The education assistance team shall provide feedback to the low-performing school at least monthly.

(2) The monthly report shall include a status report on benchmarks, findings, and recommendations.

6-15-1806. Schools showing lack of progress.

(a) If a school fails to improve student performance after assistance is provided under this subchapter, the education assistance team may recommend that assistance continue as consistent with the Quality Education Act of 2003 and State Board of Education rules and regulations.

6-15-1807. Compensation and composition.

(a)(1) The members of the education assistance teams who are teachers and administrators shall be compensated and shall receive employment benefits for twelve (12) months.

(2) The compensated education assistance team members shall serve a minimum of one (1) full school year.

(b) The compensated members shall assist designated public schools in school improvement status.

(c) Typical education assistance teams may have up to five (5) members, but the number of team members may vary depending on the needs of the school or school district, and shall, whenever possible, include educators from the same geographic area of the school that is in school improvement status.

6-15-1808. Training.

(a) Training for education assistance team members shall include the following:

(1) Effective intrapersonal, interpersonal, and communication skills;

(2) School leadership;

(3) Curriculum and instruction;

- (4) Classroom management and discipline;
- (5) Academic assessment;
- (6) Home-school relations; and
- (7) Evaluation and research.

(b)(1) The training required under this section shall be provided through the Department of Education.

(2) To the extent possible, the Department of Higher Education and state institutions of higher education shall provide assistance in developing, locating, or providing appropriate training programs for education assistance team members as requested by the Department of Education.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

6-15-1901. Safe and orderly schools.

(a)(1)(A) A local school board may request the State Board of Education to help restore safety and an orderly learning environment of a persistently dangerous school.

(B) A "persistently dangerous school" shall be as defined by the state board in keeping with the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq., as in existence on December 1, 2003.

(2) The local school board shall file a copy of the request with the state board.

(b) The state board may provide an education assistance team as provided under this subchapter to a persistently dangerous school if the local school board or the superintendent requests that the state board provide an education assistance team to the school and the state board determines that the school needs assistance.

(c)(1) If an education assistance team is assigned to a school under this section, the team shall spend a sufficient amount of time at the school to:

(A) Assess the problems at the school;

(B) Assist school personnel with resolving those problems;

and

(C) Work with school personnel and others to develop a long-term plan for restoring and maintaining safety and an orderly learning environment at the school.

(2)(A) The education assistance team shall also make recommendations to the local school board and the superintendent on the actions or steps that the local school board and the superintendent shall consider taking to resolve problems at the school.

(B) The recommendations shall be in writing and are public record.

(d) If an education assistance team is assigned to a school under this subchapter, the powers given to the state board and the powers given under this subchapter shall apply as if the school had been identified as a school in school improvement status, except in cases in which the Department of Education and the school agree that the request is a preemptive intervention to address emerging disciplinary concerns.

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Pickett
KAC/TAT - 01-16-2004 09:00
TAT302 _____ Chief Clerk