

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND  
SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**RULE GOVERNING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Effective date: February 2016

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**1.00 Regulatory Authority**

- 1.01 ~~These Rules~~ This rule shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education Division Of Elementary and Secondary Education Rule Governing Professional Development.
- 1.02 Arkansas law requires the following professional development be provided for educators:
- 1.02.1 ~~School districts~~ A public school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall provide no less than six (6) professional development days under section **3.13** in the basic contract for educators under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-2402;
- 1.02.2 ~~Higher~~ Institutions of higher education shall provide professional development within teacher preparation programs on:
- 1.02.2.1 Child maltreatment, under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-61-133; **and**

1.02.2.2 Dyslexia, under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-609-; **and**

1.02.2.3 Code of Ethics, under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-428.

1.03 The State Board of Education (~~SBE~~) enacts these Rules pursuant to its authority as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-10-122, 6-10-123, 6-11-105, **6-15-1004, § 6-15-1104**, 6-15-1703, **6-17-402**, 6-17-701 et seq., **6-17-402, 6-18-2004**, 6-20-2204, 6-20-2305, 6-41-609, 6-61-133, and 25-15-201 et seq., **and Acts 44 and 1090 of 2015.**

## **2.00 Purposes**

2.01 It is the purpose of these Rules to develop a high quality professional development system for all educators.

2.02 The purpose of professional development is to improve knowledge and skills in order to facilitate individual, team, school-wide, and district-wide improvement designed to ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency on the state academic standards.

## **3.00 Definitions**

~~3.01~~ “ADE” means the Arkansas Department of Education.

~~3.02-3.01~~ “Approved Professional Development Provider” –means any organization or individual that provides content for professional development ~~credit~~, whether delivered in a face-to-face or electronic mode of delivery, whose content has been approved by ~~the ADE~~ the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to meet ~~the annual~~ professional development ~~credit~~ requirements for school employees ~~imposed upon educators by Arkansas Statutes and ADE Rules.~~

~~3.02.1-3.01.1~~ 3.01.1 The following entities and agencies are not required to obtain approval as an Approved Professional Development Provider:

~~3.02.1.1-3.01.1.1~~ 3.01.1.1 An Arkansas public school district, open-enrollment public charter school, **or education service cooperative** that provides a professional development program solely to its own personnel;

~~3.02.1.2-3.01.1.2~~ 3.01.1.2 An ~~Education Cooperative~~ education service cooperative that provides professional development to ~~districts/schools~~ public school districts, public schools, or both; and

~~3.02.1.3-3.01.1.3~~ 3.01.1.3 The Arkansas Department of Education;

3.02.1.4—The Arkansas Department of Career Education; and

3.02.1.5—The Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.

3.03 3.02 **“ArkansasIDEAS”** —is Internet Delivered Education for Arkansas Schools, means a partnership between the ADE the division and the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) to provide through the AETN access to high-quality, online professional development for Arkansas **licensed** educators.

3.04—**Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP)**—a plan developed by a local school team based on an analysis of student performance data and other relevant data that provides a plan of action to address deficiencies in student performance and any academic achievement gap as evidenced in the Arkansas Comprehensive Assessment Program as defined in ADE rules.

3.05 3.03 **“Educator”** —means any individual holding a license issued by the State Board of Education, specifically including without limitation teachers, administrators, library media specialists, and counselors or any individual employed under a waiver of teacher licensure under Arkansas Code §§ 6-23-101 et seq, Arkansas Code § 6-15-2801 et seq, Arkansas Code § 6-15-103, or the Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools, including without limitation teachers, administrators, library media specialists, and counselors.

3.04 “High school equivalency test examiner” means an individual working with a student to assist the student in passing the General Education Development (GED) test under Arkansas Code 6-16-118 or another test used to assess high school core subject competencies that is approved by the state board.

3.06 3.05 **“Illness”** —means disorder of health of an educator or an educator’s immediate family.

3.07 3.06 **“Immediate family”** —means the an educator’s:

3.07.1 3.06.1 Spouse;

3.07.2 3.06.2 Child;

3.07.3 3.06.3 Parent; or

3.07.4 3.06.4 Any other relative if the other relative lives in the same household as the educator;

3.08 3.07 **“LEADS”** —means the Leader Excellence and Development System under Arkansas Code § 6-17-2806.

- 3.09 “Learning Teams”—a group of educators who meet regularly as a team to identify essential and valued student learning, develop common formative assessments, analyze current levels of achievement, set achievement goals, share strategies, and then create lessons to improve upon those levels.
- 3.10 3.08 “Mentoring/coaching”—means actions of support and focused feedback designed to increase the capacity for growth of instructional skills and effectiveness of colleagues.
- 3.09 “Microcredential” means personalized, job-embedded, competency-based professional development that leads to professional learning credit, designation, or microcredential badges or any combination of the three.
- 3.10 “Professional development” means a set of coordinated planned learning activities for teachers, administrators, and nonlicensed school employees that:
- 3.10.1 Is required by statute or by the division; or
- 3.10.2 Meets the following criteria:
- 3.10.2.1 Is part of the professional development hours or professional learning credits, as determined by the division, required by law or by the division;
- 3.10.2.2 Improves the knowledge, skills, and effectiveness of teachers;
- 3.10.2.3 Improves the knowledge and skills of administrators and paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional strategies, methods, and skills;
- 3.10.2.4 Leads to improved student academic achievement; and
- 3.10.2.5 Is research-based and standards-based.
- 3.10.3 May incorporate educational technology as a component of the professional development, including without limitation taking or teaching an online or blended course; and
- 3.10.4 May provide educators with knowledge and skills needed to teach:
- 3.10.4.1 Students with intellectual disabilities, including without limitation Autism Spectrum Disorder;
- 3.10.4.2 Students with specific learning disorders, including without limitation dyslexia;

3.10.4.3 Culturally and linguistically diverse students; and

3.10.4.4 Gifted students.

~~3.11~~ 3.12 **“Professional Development Day development day”** —means either six (6) hours of professional development or one professional learning credit equals one (1) professional development day.

3.13 **“Professional development hour”** means a traditional delivery-based method of professional development.

~~3.12~~ 3.14 **“Professional Development Plan development plan”** —means a plan that outlines the professional development program of activities for a ~~district, school, a public school district or open-enrollment charter school~~ or an educator that is based on student data and is aligned to the ACSIP, and incorporates an educator’s professional growth plan.

~~3.13~~ 3.15 **“Professional Development Program (“Program”) development program”** —means a course of instruction intended to provide content that fulfills the requirement for professional development credit for educators.

3.14 3.16 **“Professional Growth Plan growth plan”** —is means an educator’s plan for professional growth that:

~~3.14.1~~ 3.16.1 Identifies professional learning outcomes to advance the educator’s professional skills; and

~~3.14.2~~ 3.16.2 Clearly links professional development activities and the educator’s individual professional learning needs identified through TESS or LEADS.

3.17 **“Professional learning credit”** means a method of professional development that may have a nontraditional format such as a micro-credentialing process approved by the division.

~~3.15~~ 3.18 **“Study Groups groups”** —means a group of educators who meet to learn, implement, and reflect on research-based techniques in a focus area(s). Members read and discuss current research, examine and reflect on effective instruction, or examine student work.

~~3.16~~ 3.19 **“TESS”**— means the Teacher Excellence and Support System in Arkansas Code § 6-17-2801 et seq.

## 4.00 Professional Development Generally

~~4.01—Professional development is a set of coordinated planned learning activities for educators that:~~

~~4.01.1 Improves the knowledge, skills, and effectiveness of teachers, including the ability to apply what is learned;~~

~~4.01.2 Improves the knowledge and skills of administrators and paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional strategies, methods, and skills, including the ability to apply what is learned;~~

~~4.01.3 Leads to improved student academic achievement;~~

~~4.01.4 Is research-based and standards-based;~~

~~4.01.5 May incorporate educational technology as a component of the professional development, including without limitation taking or teaching an online or blended course; and~~

~~4.01.6 May provide educators with knowledge and skills needed to teach:~~

~~4.01.6.1—Students with intellectual disabilities, including without limitation Autism Spectrum Disorder;~~

~~4.01.6.2—Students with specific learning disorders, including without limitation dyslexia;~~

~~4.01.6.3—Culturally and linguistically diverse students; and~~

~~4.01.6.4—Gifted students.~~

4.01 To renew an educator license, a teacher shall participate in continuing education and professional development:

4.01.1 Based on the teacher's evaluation and professional growth plan under TESS;

4.01.2 As required under Arkansas Code § 6-17-701 et seq.;

4.01.3 As part of a basic contract under Arkansas Code § 6-17-2402; and

4.01.4 As required by these rules.

4.02 To renew an expired educator license, the educator shall complete professional development:

4.02.1 Required for licensure under the professional development schedule in Arkansas Code § 6-17-709;

4.02.2 On the educator Code of Ethics, under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-428;

4.02.3 Required for the educator to obtain credentials for proficiency or awareness of the science of reading, as applicable under the Right to Read Act, Arkansas Code § 6-17-429, if those credentials are not already documented in the Arkansas Educator Licensing System.

~~4.02 4.03~~ The annual professional Professional development requirement must be fulfilled earned between July 1 and June 30 unless the employing school district public school district or open-enrollment charter school approves and documents the professional development year as between June 1 and May 31.

~~4.03 4.04~~ Approved professional development activities that Professional development occur earned during the instructional day or outside the educator's annual contract days may apply toward the annual minimum required professional development requirement.

4.04 4.05 Any educator who misses any part of regularly scheduled professional development activities for any reason (such as illness) must make up that time in other approved professional development activities so that the hours of professional development required annually are earned during the approved time frame required under ~~Section section~~ section 4.02 of these Rules this rule, except as provided below:

~~4.04.1 4.05.1~~ If the educator is absent because of illness of the educator or the educator's immediate family, the educator shall be allowed to make up the hours missed during the remainder of the current school year or succeeding school year.

~~4.04.2 4.05.2~~ An educator shall complete any missed hours of professional development through professional development that is:

~~4.04.2.1 4.05.2.1~~ Substantially similar to the professional development missed and approved by the person responsible for the educator's summative evaluation; and

~~4.04.2.2 4.05.2.2~~ Delivered by any method, online or otherwise, that is approved by ADE the division under these Rules this rule.

~~4.05~~ 4.06 Any educator who provides ~~approved~~ professional development approved by the division may count two (2) hours professional development credit for each one (1) hour of time spent in presenting professional development content, if approved by the educator's public school district or open-enrollment public charter school.

~~4.06~~ 4.07 College Courses

~~4.06.1~~ Five (5) hours of credit for professional development shall be given for each one (1) hour of college credit for a graduate-level course, ~~if the college credit:~~

~~4.06.1.1~~ — Is related to and enhances the educator's knowledge of the subject area in which the educator is currently employed and is related to the educator's professional growth plan;

~~4.06.1.2~~ — Is part of the requirement for the educator to obtain additional certification in a subject matter that has been designated by the ADE as having a critical shortage of educators; or

~~4.06.1.3~~ — Is otherwise approved by the ADE as a graduate level course eligible for professional development credit.

~~4.06.2~~ 4.07.1 Professional development obtained under Section ~~4.06.1~~ 4.07 may be allocated as follows:

~~4.06.2.1~~ 4.07.1.1 Up to fifteen (15) hours may be credited to the professional development requirements for licensure; and

~~4.06.2.2~~ 4.07.1.2 Hours obtained in excess of fifteen (15) may be credited to any remaining requirements for professional development generally, if approved by the school district in a professional development plan.

~~4.06.3~~ 4.08 The allocation of professional development credit obtained under Section ~~4.06.1~~ 4.07 shall be approved by the:

~~4.06.3.1~~ 4.08.1 ~~School district or public charter school~~ Public school district or open-enrollment public charter school employing the teacher; or

~~4.06.3.2~~ 4.08.2 ~~Department~~ Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, if the educator is not employed by a ~~school district or public charter school~~ public school district or open-enrollment public charter school.

~~4.06.4 Graduate level courses in educational leadership are eligible for professional development credit based on approval by the ADE. The focus of the course must specifically relate to the job assignment as approved by the employing educational agency.~~

~~4.07.4.09~~ An educator may earn up to twelve (12) hours of professional development credit approved by the school or school district, which may be applied toward the professional development requirement for the time period at the beginning of each school year that is used to plan and prepare curriculum or develop other instructional material. Educators shall be entitled to one (1) hour of professional development credit for each hour of approved preparation under this section, provided the educator spends the time:

~~4.07.1.4.09.1~~ In his/her his or her instructional classroom, office or media center at the public school; and

~~4.07.2.4.09.2~~ Prior to the first student teacher interaction day of the school year; and

~~4.07.3.4.09.3~~ In the focus areas listed in Section 8.02, of these Rules, and may include but is not limited to time spent in the following areas:

~~4.07.3.1~~ Grade level and/or vertical team planning to integrate subject areas;

~~4.07.3.2~~ Team work to analyze student data;

~~4.07.3.3~~ Team work to develop academic improvement plans (AIP) or individual educational programs (IEP);

~~4.07.3.4~~ Developing and/or revising curriculum, including student-centered units and assessments aligned to state curriculum frameworks;

~~4.07.3.5~~ Professional book studies;

~~4.07.3.6~~ Developing intervention strategies to support remediation and/or acceleration;

~~4.07.3.7~~ Developing and/or revising the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP);

~~4.07.3.8~~ Pursuing study as noted in an educator's professional growth plan;

~~4.07.3.9~~ ArkansasIDEAS on-line professional development related to ACSIP or the educator’s professional growth plan.

~~4.07.3.9.1~~ — An educator who obtains professional development from ArkansasIDEAS for the purpose of this subsection 4.07.3.9 may also use ArkansasIDEAS to obtain other professional development under these Rules.

~~4.07.8~~ No professional development credit shall be given for activities under Section 4.07 of these Rules unless those activities meet the criteria and standard requirements under Sections 8.01 and 8.02 of these Rules. Specific activities which do not qualify include without limitation:

~~4.07.8.1~~ — Making and putting up bulletin boards;

~~4.07.8.2~~ — Clerical work associated with documents such as ACSIP, AIP and IEPs; and

~~4.07.8.3~~ — Administrative faculty or team administrative meetings.

~~4.08~~ 4.10 Educators may count up to two (2) professional development days for attendance at instructional professional development sessions conducted by bona fide professional organizations and approved by ADE the division under A.C.A. § 6-17-702.

~~4.09~~ 4.11 Nothing in this Section 4 shall prevent or restrict a school district a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school from requiring additional in-service training.

## ~~5.0~~ **Minimum Annual Requirements**

~~5.01~~ — Each educator shall obtain thirty-six (36) hours of professional development annually for renewal of an educator’s license.

~~5.02~~ — The thirty-six (36) professional development hours under this section shall include, at a minimum:

~~5.02.1~~ — The professional development required in the educator’s professional growth plan under the requirements of TESS or LEADS; and

~~5.02.2~~ — Professional development required by law or by rule.

## ~~6.0~~ 5.00 **Scheduled Professional Development**

~~6.01~~ 5.01 The professional development required under ~~this Section 6~~ 5 shall include content that is provided by:

~~6.01.1~~ 5.01.1 ~~ADE~~ The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, including ArkansasIDEAS;

~~6.01.2~~ 5.01.2 An institution of higher education;

~~6.01.3~~ 5.01.3 A provider approved by ~~ADE~~ the division; or

~~6.01.4~~ 5.01.4 An education service cooperative.

~~6.02~~ 5.02 The ~~two (2) hours in each area of~~ professional development required under ~~this Section 6 section~~ shall be counted ~~in for~~ for the school year ~~in which that~~ the professional development is ~~taken~~ earned toward the ~~minimum number of hours of required~~ professional development ~~required for educators~~ for that school year.

~~6.03~~ 5.03 If an educator ~~obtains~~ earns additional ~~hours above professional development beyond~~ the ~~minimum~~ requirements of this ~~Section 6 section~~, the educator may count ~~those~~ the additional ~~hours professional development~~ toward ~~the total minimum hours of required~~ professional development ~~required for educators~~ for that school year.

~~6.04~~ 5.04 ~~As part of the minimum annual requirement under these Rules, a public school or school district~~ A public school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall make available to the appropriate educator, or an educator not employed by a ~~public school or school district~~ a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall obtain, required professional development.

~~6.04.1 Child Maltreatment Mandated Reporter~~ 5.04.1 Professional development required within one year of receiving a teaching license shall include:

~~6.04.1.1~~ In the 2013-2014 school year and every fourth ~~year~~ thereafter, all educators shall obtain two (2) hours of professional development in: 5.04.1.1 Two (2) hours of professional development for mandated reporters, which covers:

~~6.04.4.1.1~~ 5.04.1.1.a Recognizing the signs and symptoms of child maltreatment;

~~6.04.4.1.2~~ 5.04.1.1.b The legal requirements of the Child Maltreatment Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 12-18-101 et seq., and the duties of mandated reporters under the Act;

~~6.04.4.1.3~~ 5.04.1.1.c Methods for managing disclosures regarding child victims; and

~~6.04.4.1.4~~ 5.04.1.1.d Methods for connecting a victim of child maltreatment to appropriate in-school services and other agencies, programs, and services needed to provide the child with the emotional and educational support the child needs to continue to be successful in school.

~~6.04.1.2~~ 5.04.1.1.e The child maltreatment professional development required under this section shall be based on curriculum approved by the Arkansas Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic Violence Commission and may be ~~obtained~~ earned in-person or online.

#### 6.04.2 Parent Involvement

5.04.1.2 Two (2) hours of professional development on family and community engagement

~~6.04.2.1~~ In the 2014-2015 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, each 5.04.1.2.a Each educator shall be required to have two (2) hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement family and community engagement strategies.

~~6.04.2.2~~ 5.04.1.2.b In the 2014-2015 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, each administrator shall be required to have two (2) hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parent participation. If the appropriate licensed personnel has completed the family and community engagement professional development required under section 5.04.1.2.a at least one (1) time before the 2023-2024 school year, he or she shall not be required to complete the family and community engagement professional development again.

~~6.04.3~~ 5.04.1.3 Teen Suicide Awareness and Prevention Two hours of professional development on mental health awareness and teen suicide awareness and prevention

~~6.04.3.1 In the 2015-2016 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, all educators shall obtain two (2) hours of professional development in teen suicide awareness and prevention.~~

6.04.3.2 5.04.1.3.a The required professional development under this section may be accomplished by self-review of suitable mental health awareness and suicide prevention materials approved by ADE the division.

~~6.04.4 Arkansas History~~

~~6.04.4.1 In the 2016-2017 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, each educator who provides instruction in Arkansas history shall obtain two (2) hours of professional development in Arkansas history.~~

5.04.1.4 Two hours of professional development in Arkansas history for educators providing instruction in Arkansas history.

5.04.1.4.a If the appropriate licensed personnel has completed the Arkansas history professional development required under subdivision of this section at least one (1) time before the 2023-2024 school year, he or she shall not be required to complete the Arkansas history professional development again, except as may be required for the subject matter he or she teaches.

5.04.1.5 Thirty (30) minutes of professional development in human trafficking prevention, including:

5.04.1.5.a Recognizing the warning signs that a child is a victim of human trafficking; and

5.04.1.5.b Reporting a suspicion that a child is a victim of human trafficking.

5.04.1.6 Two (2) hours of professional development in bullying prevention, including:

5.04.1.6.a Recognition of the relationship between incidents of bullying and the risk of suicide.

5.04.1.7 Dyslexia professional awareness, including:

5.04.1.7.a The characteristics of dyslexia; and

5.04.1.7.b The evidence-based interventions and accommodations for dyslexia.

5.05 In addition to the professional development required for initial licensure, the following rotating schedule shall apply:

5.05.1 Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year and every fifth year thereafter, an educator shall be required to earn the professional development on mental health awareness and teen suicide awareness and prevention required under 5.04.1.3.

5.05.2 Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, and every fifth year thereafter, an educator shall be required to earn the professional development in bullying prevention required under 5.04.1.6.

5.05.3 Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, and every fifth year thereafter, an educator shall be required to earn the professional development for mandated reporters required under 5.04.1.1

5.06 The professional development in human trafficking prevention under 5.04.1.5 will be offered annually.

5.07 The required professional development under this section shall count toward the satisfaction of requirements for professional development in the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts and for licensure requirements for licensed personnel.

## **7.0 6.00 Requirements for Specific Licensure Areas**

~~7.01~~ 6.01 Administrator

~~7.01.1~~ For each administrator, ~~the annual~~ required professional development ~~requirement~~ shall include training in data disaggregation, instructional leadership, and fiscal management.

~~7.01.2~~ 6.01.1 This training may include without limitation the Initial, Tier 1, and Tier 2 training required for superintendents and district designees by the ~~Arkansas Department of Education~~ Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Financial Accounting and Reporting System and Annual Training Requirements.

~~7.01.3~~ 6.01.2 An applicant for a building-level administrator license shall successfully complete the teacher evaluation professional development program.

~~7.01.3.1~~ 6.01.2.1 An educator who receives an initial building level administrator's license shall complete ~~the~~ credentialing ~~assessment~~ for the teacher evaluation professional development program either before or after receiving the initial building level administrator's license.

~~7.02~~ 6.02 ~~Athletic Coaches~~

At least once every three (3) years, each person employed as an athletic coach shall obtain training in recognition and management regarding each of the following events or conditions that may be encountered by a student during athletic training and physical activities:

~~7.02.1~~ 6.02.1 A concussion, dehydration, or other health emergency;

~~7.02.2~~ 6.02.2 An environmental issue that threatens the health or safety of students; and

~~7.02.3~~ 6.02.3 A communicable disease.

~~7.02.4~~ 6.02.4 The training may include a component on best practices for a coach to educate parents of students involved in athletics on sports safety.

~~7.03~~ 6.03 ~~Advanced Placement~~

Each hour of approved training received by educators related to teaching an advanced placement class for a subject covered by the College Board and Educational Testing Service shall count as professional development up to a maximum of thirty (30) hours annually.

~~7.04~~ 6.04 ~~Adult Education~~

Educators working solely part-time in one of the following settings shall obtain one-half (1/2) of the required hours of professional development annually for licensure.

~~7.04.1~~ 6.04.1 Adult basic education;

~~7.04.2~~ 6.04.2 General adult education;

~~7.04.3~~ 6.04.3 English as a second language for adults; and

~~7.04.4~~ 6.04.4 General Educational Development Test examiners. High school equivalency test examiners.

## **8.0 7.00 Professional Development Criteria**

- 8.01 7.01 All approved professional development shall be aligned to the standards developed by the State Board of Education.
- 8.02 7.02 Approved professional development activities shall relate to the following ~~Focus Areas~~ focus areas:
- 8.02.1 7.02.1 Content (K-12);
  - 8.02.2 7.02.2 Instructional strategies;
  - 8.02.3 7.02.3 ~~Assessment/data-driven decision making~~ Student assessment and data-driven decisionmaking;
  - 8.02.4 7.02.4 ~~Advocacy/leadership/fiscal management~~ Advocacy, leadership, and fiscal management;
  - 8.02.5 7.02.5 Systemic change process;
  - 8.02.6 7.02.6 Standards, frameworks, and curriculum alignment;
  - 8.02.7 7.02.7 Supervision;
  - 8.02.8 7.02.8 Mentoring/~~peer coaching~~;
  - 8.02.9 7.02.9 ~~Next-generation learning/integrated technology~~ Next-generation learning and technology integration;
  - 8.02.10 7.02.10 ~~Principles of learning/developmental stages/diverse learners~~ Principles of learning and developmental stages;
  - 8.02.11 7.02.11 Cognitive research;
  - 8.02.12 7.02.12 ~~Parent involvement/academic planning and scholarship~~ Family and community engagement and academic planning;
  - 8.02.13 7.02.13 Collaborative learning community;
  - 8.02.14 7.02.14 Student health and wellness, which may include but is not limited to:
    - 8.02.14.1 7.02.14.1 Antibullying policies;

~~8.02.14.2~~ 7.02.14.2 Appropriate training for anticipated rescuers in the use of automated defibrillator or cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and

~~8.02.15~~ 7.02.15 The Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators.

~~8.03~~ 7.03 Approved professional development takes on many forms and may be earned in the following ways:

~~8.03.1~~ 7.03.1 ~~Conferences/workshops/institutes~~ Conferences, workshops, or institutes;

~~8.03.2~~ 7.03.2 ~~Mentoring/peer coaching~~ Mentoring or peer coaching;

~~8.03.3~~ 7.03.3 ~~Study groups/learning teams~~

~~8.03.4~~ 7.03.4 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification;

~~8.03.5~~ 7.03.5 Distance and online learning, ~~to include~~ including ArkansasIDEAS;

~~8.03.6~~ 7.03.6 Internships;

~~8.03.7~~ 7.03.7 ~~State/district/school programs~~ Programs administered by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, an education service cooperative, a public school district, or an open-enrollment public charter school;

~~8.03.8~~ 7.03.8 ~~College/university~~ College or university course work;

~~8.03.9~~ 7.03.9 Action research; or

~~8.03.10~~ 7.03.10 Individually-guided, as noted in an educator's individual professional development plan.

~~8.04~~ 7.04 Requirements for ArkansasIDEAS include:

~~8.04.1~~ 7.04.1 ~~The ADE~~ The division shall determine the content and approve all professional development delivered through the Arkansas On-line Professional Development Initiative that counts toward ~~the annual~~ required professional development ~~required under these Rules.~~

~~8.04.2~~ 7.04.2 ~~The ADE~~ The division shall select ~~courses/products~~ courses, products, or both, which are research-based and are available from sources, with expertise in technology-delivered professional development ~~courses.~~

~~8.04.3~~ 7.04.3 Online professional development ~~courses~~ shall include online registration, assessment, ~~course~~ evaluation, and attendance and completion documents.

7.05 A person who holds any license issued by the state board may obtain credit for required professional development through a micro-credentialing process approved by the division.

## **9.0 8.00 School and School District Professional Development Plans**

~~9.01~~ 8.01 Each ~~school district and school~~ public school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall develop and implement a professional development plan.

~~9.01.1~~ 8.01.1 Teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals shall be involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of their respective professional development offerings under ~~the school and school district a~~ public school district or open-enrollment public charter school's professional development plan.

~~9.01.2~~ 8.01.2 An educator may count toward ~~the annual minimum required~~ professional development ~~required under these rules~~ each hour of training included in the professional development plan that is mandated by law or by rule, including without limitation in the following areas:

~~9.01.2.1~~ 8.01.2.1 School Fire Marshal Program under ~~A.C.A.~~ Arkansas Code § 6-10-110;

~~9.01.2.2~~ 8.01.2.2 Tornado and earthquake safety under ~~A.C.A.~~ Arkansas Code § 6-10-121;

~~9.01.2.3~~ 8.01.2.3 Literacy assessment, ~~and/or~~ mathematics assessment, or both under ~~A.C.A. § 6-15-420~~ Arkansas Code § 6-15-2907;

~~9.01.2.4~~ 8.01.2.4 Test Assessment security and confidentiality under ~~A.C.A. § 6-15-438~~ Arkansas Code § 6-15-2907(i);

~~9.01.2.5~~ 8.01.2.5 Emergency plans and ~~Panic Button Alert System~~ panic button alert systems under ~~A.C.A.~~ Arkansas Code § 6-15-1302;

~~9.01.2.6~~ 8.01.2.6 Anti-bullying policies under ~~A.C.A.~~ Arkansas Code § 6-18-514;

~~9.01.2.7~~ 8.01.2.7 Teacher Excellence and Support System under A.C.A. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2804;

~~9.01.2.8~~ 8.01.2.8 Student discipline training under A.C.A. Arkansas Code § 6-18-502;

~~9.01.2.9~~ Student Services Program ~~8.01.2.9~~ Youth mental health training under A.C.A. § 6-18-12004;

~~9.01.2.10~~ 8.01.2.10 Training required by ADE ~~the division~~ under academic, fiscal, and facilities distress laws and rules Arkansas Code § 6-15-2901 et seq, Arkansas Code § 6-20-1901 et seq, Arkansas Code § 6-21-811, or any accompanying Division of Elementary and Secondary Education rules; and

~~9.01.2.11~~ 8.01.2.11 Annual active shooter drills under A.C.A. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1303.

## ~~9.02~~ 8.02 School Improvement and ACSIP

~~9.02.1~~ School and district professional development plans shall be included in the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP) and shall be reviewed annually by the school/district and the ADE.

~~9.02.2~~ The ACSIP will include an assurance statement that each educator in the school/district shall have an individual professional development plan that has been developed in cooperation and collaboration with the educator and the school and/or district consistent with the Teacher Effectiveness and Support System.

~~9.02.3~~ ADE The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may require specific professional development programs for ~~the district or the school designated in school improvement or academic distress~~ a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school identified as in need of targeted, comprehensive, or intensive support under the Rules Governing The Arkansas Educational Support And Accountability Act.

~~9.02.4~~ These requirements may become part of the school district or school improvement plan.

## ~~10.0~~ 9.00 Provider and Program Approval Process

~~10.01~~ 9.01 All professional development providers and programs must be approved by ~~the ADE~~ the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education ~~in order to to be eligible~~ to provide credit toward required ~~the annual~~ professional development required under these Rules.

~~10.01.1~~ 9.01.1 A person whose license has been revoked by the State Board of Education is not eligible to be an approved provider of professional development.

~~10.02~~ 9.02 At least thirty (30) days before a program is offered to educators, the professional development provider shall provide a detailed description of the entire program including staff qualifications to ~~the ADE~~ the division in an electronic format prescribed by ~~ADE~~ the division.

~~10.03~~ 9.03 ~~The ADE~~ The division shall promptly review the content of the program for compliance with all applicable ~~statutes and ADE rules~~ law to determine if any or all of the program content shall be deemed to provide professional development credit and shall establish the time period the professional development provider is approved to offer the program.

~~10.04~~ 9.04 Upon notification by ~~the ADE~~ the division of approval of the program (or a part or parts thereof) for professional development credit, the professional development provider may enroll participants in the program and offer the program for professional development credit for the set time period.

~~10.05~~ 9.05 The program provider shall be responsible for the preparation and dissemination of proof of completion of the program, ~~(or parts thereof),~~ to all attendees. All ~~such proofs, or copies thereof,~~ shall be submitted by the attendees who are employed by ~~an Arkansas school district~~ a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school to the superintendent of the district, ~~or the chief executive of the open-enrollment public charter school.~~

## ~~11.00~~ 10.00 Funding

~~11.01~~ 10.01 Professional Development Funding provided under ~~Ark. Code Ann.~~ Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305 must be directed to activities that meet the conditions described in these Rules and shall not be used for any other purpose unless otherwise allowed by law or rule.

## ~~12.00~~ 11.00 Reporting, Monitoring, and Evaluation

~~12.01~~ 11.01 Each ~~school district~~ public school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall maintain all documents for its employees that reflect completion of professional development programs, whether ~~such~~ those programs were provided by an outside organization or by the ~~district~~ public school district or open-enrollment public charter school itself.

~~12.02~~ 11.02 Each ~~school district~~ public school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall report the amount of all professional development programs completed by its employees to ~~the ADE~~ the Division of Elementary and

Secondary Education at the time and in the manner specified by ~~the ADE~~ the division.

~~12.03~~ 11.03 ~~The ADE~~ The division may monitor all ~~school districts~~ public school districts or open-enrollment public charter schools, and all educators to whom these Rules apply, for compliance with these requirements, and may administer appropriate sanctions ~~specified in statute and Rule~~ as authorized by law, including the ~~Arkansas Department of Education~~ Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, to any ~~district public school district, open-enrollment public charter school,~~ district public school district, open-enrollment public charter school, or educator whom it finds to be in noncompliance or ~~for dishonesty in~~ to have falsified reporting under these Rules.

~~12.03.1~~ 11.03.1 Regular monitoring activities of the professional development requirements within these Rules shall occur when the superintendent of the school district or the chief executive of the open-enrollment public charter school provides written assurance to the Commissioner of Education as required by law. However, ~~the ADE~~ the division may directly monitor the professional development activities of any ~~school or school district~~ public school district or open-enrollment public charter school to determine compliance with the professional development requirements.

~~12.04~~ The criteria for evaluating the impact of professional development in a public school or school district ACSIP plan shall be the improvement of student achievement on state-mandated assessments, other related indicators as defined by ACTAAP and next generation assessments, and the evaluations of the professional development offerings. These data shall be used to revise ACSIP and the district, school and individual professional development plans associated with the local improvement plan.

~~12.05~~ 11.04 All institutions of higher education shall maintain documentation for employees who wish to meet the professional development hours to maintain a license under these rules.

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/8/23 H3/28/23

2 94th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2023

HOUSE BILL 1538

4

5 By: Representatives Vaught, Duke

6

7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE  
9 REQUIRED FOR LICENSED SCHOOL PERSONNEL; TO AMEND THE  
10 DEFINITION OF A "BASIC CONTRACT" UNDER THE TEACHER  
11 COMPENSATION PROGRAM OF 2003 TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF  
12 ADDITIONAL DAYS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT A PUBLIC  
13 SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL REQUIRE; AND FOR OTHER  
14 PURPOSES.

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## Subtitle

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

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SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709 is amended to read as follows:

28

6-17-709. Professional development schedule.

29

(a) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, a school district or an open-enrollment public charter school shall make available to the appropriate licensed personnel the following professional development:

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(1) In the 2013-2014 school year and every ~~fourth~~ fifth school year thereafter, the professional development for mandated reporters and licensed elementary and secondary public school personnel required under § 6-61-133;

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(2)(A) ~~In the 2014-2015~~ Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year

36



1 ~~and every fourth school year thereafter~~, the family and community engagement  
2 professional development under § 6-15-1703 shall be taken by licensed  
3 personnel at least one (1) time.

4 (B) If the appropriate licensed personnel has completed  
5 the family and community engagement professional development required under  
6 subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section at least one (1) time before the 2023-  
7 2024 school year, he or she shall not be required to complete the family and  
8 community engagement professional development again;

9 (3) In the 2023-2024 school year and every ~~fourth~~ fifth school  
10 year thereafter, the mental health awareness and teen suicide awareness and  
11 prevention professional development required under § 6-17-708; and

12 (4)(A) In the 2016-2017 Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year  
13 ~~and every fourth school year thereafter~~, the Arkansas history professional  
14 development required under § 6-17-703 shall be taken by licensed personnel at  
15 least one (1) time.

16 (B) If the appropriate licensed personnel has completed  
17 the Arkansas history professional development required under subdivision  
18 (a)(4)(A) of this section at least one (1) time before the 2023-2024 school  
19 year, he or she shall not be required to complete the Arkansas history  
20 professional development again, except as may be required for the subject  
21 matter he or she teaches.

22 (b)(1) Two (2) hours of the professional development, or professional  
23 learning credit as determined by the Division of Elementary and Secondary  
24 Education, required by subsection (a) of this section shall be counted in one  
25 (1) school year toward the professional development required for licensed  
26 educators under the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules  
27 Governing Professional Development.

28 (2) If additional hours or professional learning credits are  
29 obtained by a licensed educator, the school district may count those hours or  
30 credits as part of the professional development required for licensed  
31 educators under the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules  
32 Governing Professional Development.

33 (c) Annually, the State Board of Education may require up to six (6)  
34 hours of integrated professional development, or professional learning  
35 credits determined by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, for  
36 licensed educators in educational technology.

1 (d) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall establish  
2 the curriculum under this section in collaboration with educational agencies  
3 and associations, including without limitation the:

- 4 (1) Division of Higher Education;  
5 (2) Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;  
6 (3) Arkansas Education Association;  
7 (4) Arkansas School Boards Association;  
8 (5) Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum  
9 Development;  
10 (6) Arkansas State Teachers Association; and  
11 (7) Arkansas Rural Ed Association.

12 (e)(1) The professional development under this subsection shall not be  
13 provided by a school district but shall be provided by:

- 14 (A) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;  
15 (B) An institution of higher education; or  
16 (C) Providers approved by the Division of Elementary and  
17 Secondary Education.

18 (2)(A) Before a person receives a building level administrator's  
19 license, the person shall successfully complete the teacher evaluation  
20 professional development program.

21 (B) A person who receives an initial building level  
22 administrator's license shall complete the certification assessment for the  
23 teacher evaluation professional development program before or after receiving  
24 the initial building level administrator's license.

25 (3)(A) The Upon the issuance of an initial teaching license by  
26 the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not issue an initial  
27 teaching license until the applicant verifies that he or she has obtained the  
28 required professional development concerning, an applicant shall obtain  
29 training in the following areas within his or her first two (2) years of  
30 initial employment as a licensed teacher in this state:

- 31 (i) Mandated ~~reporters~~ reporting under § 6-61-133;  
32 (ii) Family and community engagement under § 6-15-  
33 1703;  
34 (iii) Teen suicide awareness and prevention under §  
35 6-17-708;  
36 (iv) Arkansas history under § 6-17-703; and

(v) Human trafficking under § 6-17-710.

(B) However, an applicant who has obtained the training required under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section in a separate educator preparation program or in another state and who has provided the division with verification of the obtainment of the training shall not be subject to the additional training required under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section.

~~(B)~~(C) For a teaching license issued under the state’s reciprocity provisions to an out-of-state teacher, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall issue a provisional license until the licensee obtains the professional development identified in subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2402(1)(A), concerning the definition of a "basic contract" under the Teacher Compensation Program of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

(1)(A)(i) "Basic contract" means a teacher employment contract for one hundred ninety (190) days that includes no less than six (6) days of professional development, except as provided under subdivision (1)(B) of this section for teachers employed in a Civilian Student Training Program or the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

(ii) A public school district shall not require more than four (4) days of professional development in addition to the six (6) days of professional development included in a basic contract under subdivision (1)(A)(i) of this section.

/s/Vaught

APPROVED: 4/11/23