

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.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1387

4  
5 By: Representatives C. Johnson, White  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO CREATE A  
10 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

13  
14 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO  
15 CREATE A PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN.  
16  
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, is amended to add an  
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:

22 6-15-1601. Findings.

23 (a) The General Assembly recognizes:

24 (1) That a child's education is a responsibility shared by the  
25 school and family during the entire time the child spends in school;

26 (2) To support the goal of the schools to educate all students  
27 effectively, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners;

28 (3) That although parents are diverse in culture, language, and  
29 needs, they are an integral component of a school's ability to provide for  
30 the educational success of their children;

31 (4) That engaging parents is essential to improve student  
32 achievement; and

33 (5) That schools should foster and support active parental  
34 involvement.

35  
36 6-15-1602. Parental involvement plan.



1       (a) By September 1, 2003, each public school district and each public  
2 school within its boundaries, in collaboration with parents, shall establish  
3 a parental involvement plan including programs and practices that enhance  
4 parental involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their  
5 families.

6       (b) The parental involvement program in each school shall:

7           (1) Involve parents of students at all grade levels in a variety  
8 of roles;

9           (2) Be comprehensive and coordinated in nature;

10          (3)(A) Recognize that communication between home and school  
11 should be regular, two-way, and meaningful.

12           (B) To encourage communication with parents the school  
13 shall prepare family kits, appropriate for the age and grade of the child,  
14 describing:

15                   (i) The school's parental involvement program;

16                   (ii) The recommended role of the parent, student,  
17 teacher, and school;

18                   (iii) Ways for the parents to become involved in the  
19 school and his or her child's education;

20                   (iv) Activities planed throughout the school year to  
21 encourage parental involvement;

22                   (v) A system to allow the parents and teachers to  
23 communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner with the child's  
24 teacher and the school principal.

25          (C) To encourage communication with parents, the school  
26 shall schedule no less than two (2) parent-teacher conferences per school  
27 year.

28          (D) The school may plan and engage in other activities  
29 determined by the school to be beneficial to encourage communication with  
30 parents;

31          (4)(A) Promote and support responsible parenting.

32           (B) To promote and support responsible parenting, the  
33 school shall:

34                   (i) Purchase parenting books, magazines and other  
35 informative material regarding responsible parenting through the school  
36 library, advertise the current selection, and give parents an opportunity to

1 borrow the materials for review;

2 (ii) Publish a notice in the local newspaper at the  
3 end of each school year honoring parents who attend all parent-teacher  
4 conferences scheduled by the school;

5 (iii) Create parent centers; and

6 (iv) Plan and engage in other activities determined  
7 by the school to be beneficial to promoting and supporting responsible  
8 parenting;

9 (5)(A) Acknowledge that parents play an integral role in  
10 assisting student learning.

11 (B) To help parents in assisting students, the school  
12 shall:

13 (i) Schedule regular "Parents Make the Difference"  
14 evenings where parents are given a report on the state of the school and an  
15 overview of:

16 (a) What students will be learning;

17 (b) How students will be assessed;

18 (c) What parents should expect for the their  
19 child's education; and

20 (d) How parents can assist and make a  
21 difference in his or her child's education; and

22 (ii) Engage in other activities determined by the  
23 school to help parents assist in his or her child's learning;

24 (6)(A) Welcome parents in the school and seek parental support  
25 and assistance.

26 (B) To welcome parents in the school, the school shall:

27 (i) Not have any school policies or procedures that  
28 would discourage a parent from visiting the school, specifically including:

29 (a) Policies requiring parents to pick-up his  
30 or her child outside the school building each day; and

31 (b) Policies prohibiting the parents from  
32 visiting a child's classrooms during school events;

33 (ii) Publish a volunteer resource book, listing the  
34 interests and availability of volunteers for school staff members' use,  
35 specifically including:

36 (a) Survey parents regarding their interests,

1 so volunteer work will be meaningful;

2 (b) Determine how frequently a volunteer would  
 3 like to participate, including the option of just one (1) time per year;

4 (c) Include options for those who are  
 5 available to help at home;

6 (d) Use the resource book to help match school  
 7 needs with volunteer interests;

8 (iii) Print statements attesting to the school  
 9 district's commitment to parental involvement and distribute the statements  
 10 to parents of student; and

11 (iv) Engage in other activities determined by the  
 12 school to welcome parents in the school;

13 (7)(A) Recognize that a parent is a full partner in the  
 14 decisions that affect his or her child and family.

15 (B) To encourage parents to participate as full partners  
 16 in the decisions that affect his or her child and family, the school shall:

17 (i) Frequently publish the school's process for  
 18 resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem, whom to  
 19 approach first, and how to develop solutions;

20 (ii) Sponsor seminars to inform the parents of high  
 21 school students about how to be involved in the decisions affecting course  
 22 selection, career planning, and preparation for post-secondary opportunities;  
 23 and

24 (iii) Engage in other activities that the school  
 25 determines will encourage parents to participate as full partners in the  
 26 decisions that affect his or her child and family;

27 (8)(A) Recognize that community resources strengthen school  
 28 programs, family practices, and student learning;

29 (B) To take advantage of community resources the school  
 30 shall:

31 (i) Contact alumni from the school to create an  
 32 alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance for school  
 33 improvement;

34 (ii) Develop paycheck size cards with tips for how  
 35 parents can foster their child's success and contact employers about  
 36 including the cards with employee paychecks; and

1 (iii) Engage in other activities that the school  
2 determines will use community resources to strengthen school programs, family  
3 practices, and student learning; and

4 (9) Support the development, implementation, and regular  
5 evaluation of the program to involve parents in the decisions and practices  
6 of the school district, using to the degree possible, the components listed  
7 in this section.

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9 6-15-1603. Staff Development.

10 (a) By September 1, 2003, the State Board of Education’s Standards of  
11 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools shall require no less than two (2)  
12 hours of professional development opportunities for teachers, which may be  
13 included in the thirty (30) hours of professional development required as of  
14 January 1, 2003, designed to enhance understanding of effective parental  
15 involvement strategies.

16 (b) By September 1, 2003, the State Board of Education’s Standards of  
17 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools shall require no less than three (3)  
18 hours of professional development opportunities for administrators, in  
19 addition to the thirty (30) hours of professional development required as of  
20 January 1, 2003, designed to enhance understanding of:

21 (i) Effective parent involvement strategies; and

22 (ii) The importance of administrative leadership in  
23 setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental  
24 participation.

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26 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning on October 1, 2004 and by each October 1  
27 thereafter, every school district shall file a copy of the district’s  
28 parental involvement plan with the Department of Education.

29 (b)(1) The Department of Education shall review each parental  
30 involvement plan and determine if the plan is in compliance with provisions  
31 of this act and shall indicate on the school’s performance report under § 6-  
32 15-1402 if the district is in compliance, or if the district is not in  
33 compliance, with this act.

34 (2) If the Department of Education determines that a school  
35 district is not in compliance with section 1 of this act, the department  
36 shall send the district written notification indicating any deficiencies in

1 the district's plan no later than January 1 of each year and allow the  
2 district an opportunity to correct any deficiency.

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4 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(b)(2)(B), concerning school  
5 performance reports, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as  
6 follows:

7 (iii) The school district has adopted a parental involvement plan in  
8 compliance with § 6-15-1602.

9  
10 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(b)(3)(B), concerning school  
11 performance reports, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as  
12 follows:

13 (iii) The school district has adopted a parental involvement plan in  
14 compliance with § 6-15-1602.