

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 2374

4
5 By: Representative White
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REVISE
10 CONTENT STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS
11 ADOPTED BY THE STATE IN CORE ACADEMIC AREAS OF
12 READING, WRITING, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, HISTORY,
13 GEOGRAPHY, AND CIVICS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15
16 AN ACT TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
17 TO REVISE CONTENT STANDARDS AND
18 CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS ADOPTED BY THE
19 STATE IN CORE ACADEMIC AREAS OF READING,
20 WRITING, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, HISTORY,
21 GEOGRAPHY, AND CIVICS.
22
23

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

25
26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1501 is repealed:

27 ~~6-15-1501. Development, compliance, and implementation.~~

28 ~~(a) The State Board of Education shall develop a plan to be~~
29 ~~known as the "Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work"~~

30 ~~(b)(1) The plan shall be designed to ensure that every public school~~
31 ~~student has the opportunity to learn rigorous and challenging course work by~~
32 ~~eliminating low level, general education tracks offered by local public~~
33 ~~school districts in grades nine through twelve (9-12).~~

34 ~~(2) The plan may include a provision for standardizing students'~~
35 ~~transcripts.~~

36 ~~(3)(A) The plan shall require that all academic subject area~~



1 ~~courses offered by local public school districts in grades nine through~~
 2 ~~twelve (9-12) are to be aligned with the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks in~~
 3 ~~all academic subject matter areas.~~

4 ~~(B) These frameworks, developed by the Department of~~
 5 ~~Education, require student demonstration of the rigorous knowledge and skills~~
 6 ~~necessary to succeed in the state's institutions of post-secondary education~~
 7 ~~or to enter the workforce.~~

8 ~~(c) The board shall review the plan and revise as necessary based on~~
 9 ~~the five-year cycle for school improvement plans required by the Arkansas~~
 10 ~~Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program.~~

11 ~~(d) The superintendent of each school district shall provide to the~~
 12 ~~department, by October 1, 2002, and each year thereafter on that date, a~~
 13 ~~written statement of assurance that the content of each academic subject area~~
 14 ~~course in grades nine through twelve (9-12) is aligned to frameworks~~
 15 ~~developed by the department and required in the plan under subsection (b) of~~
 16 ~~this section.~~

17 ~~(e) The department shall monitor compliance with the requirements of~~
 18 ~~this section during the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public~~
 19 ~~Schools review visit and during the school improvement planning process as~~
 20 ~~defined by the program.~~

21 ~~(f) If the department determines that a school district has failed to~~
 22 ~~align the academic subject area content of any academic course in grades nine~~
 23 ~~through twelve (9-12) to the frameworks in any school containing a~~
 24 ~~combination of these grades, the department shall cite the noncompliance of~~
 25 ~~each school on the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools~~
 26 ~~Annual Report for the school and shall file a noncompliance notation on the~~
 27 ~~school's performance report under § 6-15-1402.~~

28 ~~(g) The board shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulations~~
 29 ~~necessary to carry out the requirements of this section.~~

30 ~~(h) Nothing in the requirements of this section which targets academic~~
 31 ~~subject area courses in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall be construed~~
 32 ~~to mean that public school districts are not to be held accountable for~~
 33 ~~aligning the curriculum in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) to the~~
 34 ~~frameworks for all subject matter areas.~~

35
 36 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 15 is amended

1 by adding five additional sections to read as follows:

2 6-15-1502. Audit, revisions, compliance, and implementation.

3 (a) The State Board of Education shall develop a comprehensive plan to
 4 audit the Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Frameworks
 5 process.

6 (b) The plan shall be a comprehensive plan to provide an external
 7 review of content standards and curriculum frameworks adopted by the state in
 8 core academic areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history,
 9 geography, civics, and other courses identified by the State Board of
 10 Education as state-mandated graduation requirements.

11 (c) In developing the plan, the board shall conduct a full review of
 12 available and relevant academic content standards and curriculum frameworks
 13 that are rigorous, specific, sequenced, clear, focused, and measurable,
 14 whenever possible.

15 (d)(1) The audit plan shall:

16 (A) Reflect high expectations for students and an in-depth
 17 mastery of the content;

18 (B) Be clearly grounded in the content of each academic
 19 area;

20 (C) Be defined grade-by-grade and course-by-course;

21 (D) Be understandable to parents and teachers;

22 (E) Be developed in full recognition of the time available
 23 to teach the core academic areas at each grade level; and

24 (F) Be measurable, whenever possible, in a reliable,
 25 valid, and efficient manner for accountability purposes.

26 (2) The plan shall include a process for the review of
 27 curriculum offerings to ensure that low level general education tracts
 28 offered by districts are eliminated before the beginning of the 2003-2004
 29 school year.

30 (3) High school course content standards and curriculum
 31 frameworks set forth in the plan shall include the knowledge and skills
 32 necessary to enter the workforce and also shall be aligned with the
 33 coursework required for admission to the state's institutions of post-
 34 secondary education.

35 (e) Upon completion of the audit, the State Board of Education shall
 36 review all curriculum frameworks and supplemental materials that are

1 recommended as a result of the audit.

2 (f) As part of the revision process, the board shall revise and make
3 available to teachers and parents support materials, including teacher and
4 parent guides, for academic content standards and curriculum frameworks that
5 are specifically recommended for revision as a result of the audit.

6 (g) The board shall work in collaboration with Arkansas Higher
7 Education Coordinating Board and the Executive Council to ensure that teacher
8 and school administrator degree programs, ongoing professional development,
9 and other university activity in the state’s public schools align with the
10 revised Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Framework
11 Processes and other educational priorities of the state.

12
13 6-15-1503. State-mandated exams.

14 (a)(1) The State Board of Education shall ensure that any revisions
15 made to the Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Framework
16 Processes be aligned to the primary, intermediate, and middle level benchmark
17 exams, as well as end-of-course tests, as required under § 6-14-404, for:

18 (A) Core academic areas of reading, writing, mathematics,
19 science, history, geography, and civics;

20 (B) The minimum courses required for admission to the
21 constituent institutions; and

22 (C) Other courses identified by the Department of
23 Education as the high school core curriculum courses.

24 (2) All end-of-course tests shall be aligned with the content
25 standards and curriculum frameworks.

26 (b) All other components of the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing,
27 Assessment, and Accountability Program should be aligned with the Arkansas
28 Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Framework Processes.

29
30 6-15-1504. Review.

31 (a) The Department of Education shall review the Arkansas Academic
32 Content Standards and Curriculum Framework plan on its six (6) year revision
33 cycle and report to the State Board of Education annually.

34 (b)(1) The board shall align state programs and support materials with
35 the revised academic content standards and curriculum frameworks for each
36 core academic area.

1 (2) Alignment shall include revising textbook criteria, support
 2 materials, state tests, teacher and school administrator preparation, and
 3 ongoing professional development programs to be compatible with content
 4 standards and curriculum frameworks.

5 (c) The board shall revise and make available to teachers and parents
 6 support materials, including teacher and parent guides, for academic content
 7 standards and curriculum frameworks as set forth in the plan each time the
 8 plan is revised under subsection (a) of this section.

9 (d) The board shall develop a plan to ensure regular collaboration
 10 with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Executive Council
 11 to ensure that teacher and school administrator degree programs, ongoing
 12 professional development, and other university activity in the state's public
 13 schools align with the board's priorities.

14
 15 6-15-1505. District implementation.

16 (a) Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, each local school
 17 district shall establish procedures and monitoring processes to ensure that
 18 the content of each course offered by the district is consistent with content
 19 standards and curriculum frameworks developed by the board in the process.

20 (b) The superintendent of each school district shall provide to the
 21 Department of Education, by October 1 of each year following the adoption of
 22 the plan under subsection (a) of this section, a written statement of
 23 assurance that the content of each class and subject area, regardless of
 24 levels, is aligned to content standards and curriculum frameworks developed
 25 by the board in the plan.

26 (c) The department shall monitor, during the standards review visit,
 27 documentation related to the plan.

28 (d) If the department determines that a school district has failed to
 29 align the content of each class and subject area to content standards and
 30 curriculum frameworks developed by the board, the department shall:

31 (1) Note the failure to comply in the annual school performance
 32 report, under § 6-15-1402; and

33 (2) Cite the failure to comply of each school on the Standards
 34 for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools Annual Report.

35
 36 6-15-1506. Rules and regulations.

1 Before December 31, 2003, the State Board of Education shall promulgate
2 appropriate regulations necessary to carry out this subchapter.

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36