

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 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2489

4
5 By: Representative Pickett
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 THE ARKANSAS ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
10 INITIATIVE.
11

Subtitle

12
13 THE ARKANSAS ONLINE PROFESSIONAL
14 DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 7 is amended
20 to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 6-17-705. Statewide professional development program.

22 (a) There is created the Arkansas Online Professional Development
23 Initiative.

24 (b) Under the Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative, the
25 Director of the Department of Education shall identify teacher professional
26 development needs in the state and prioritize the needs based on the areas of
27 professional development most needed to improve academic and teaching
28 knowledge and skills of certified personnel.

29 (c) Based on the needs and priorities identified in the assessment
30 under subsection (b) of this section, the Director of the Department of
31 Education shall work with the Director of the Educational Television Division
32 of the Department of Education and local school districts to develop a
33 statewide online professional development program that includes quality
34 professional development courses that:

35 (1) Are aligned to the required focus areas identified in the
36 State Board of Education rules governing professional development and the



1 Arkansas Comprehensive, Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program;

2 (2) Are aligned with the clear, specific, and challenging
3 academic content areas as established by the Department of Education as
4 required under § 6-15-404;

5 (3) Are aligned with the state curriculum frameworks established
6 by the Department of Education for each class level or subject area included
7 in the respective professional development programs;

8 (4) Are researched-based and available from sources with
9 expertise in technology-delivered professional development courses;

10 (5) Are consistent with the Southern Regional Education Board
11 Multi-State Online Professional Development Standards in existence on January
12 1, 2005;

13 (6) Focus on improving student academic achievement by improving
14 a teacher's academic and teaching knowledge and skills; and

15 (7) Include an assessment at the end of the program designed to
16 measure each certified person's level of understanding and ability to
17 implement or apply the information presented in the program.

18 (d)(1)(A) The Arkansas Educational Television Network shall support
19 the delivery of the online professional development courses developed as part
20 of the Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative to teachers and
21 administrators in each school in each school district in the state via the
22 Internet.

23 (B) In addition to the online courses developed as part of
24 the Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative, the Arkansas
25 Educational Television Network may continue to deliver professional
26 development by broadcast, compressed, satellite, and face-to-face methods.

27 (2) The online professional development courses supported by the
28 Arkansas Educational Television Network or other providers shall include
29 online registration, course evaluation, and attendance and completion
30 documents.

31 (3) Any provider of technology-delivered professional
32 development under the Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative
33 shall demonstrate an ability to successfully deliver technology-delivered
34 products and services.

35 (4) If a technology-delivered professional development course or
36 service that has been identified as needed under the assessment in subsection

1 (b) of this section is not available, the Arkansas Educational Television
2 Network or other providers shall work with the Department of Education to
3 develope a course or service to meet the identified need.

4 (e) The Department of Education shall determine the content of and
5 preapprove all professional development courses or programs delivered by the
6 Arkansas Educational Television Network that qualify for professional
7 development credit as required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas
8 Public Schools or teacher licensure requirements.

9 (f) The Department of Education shall provide the staff and resources
10 needed to provide the quality leadership necessary to coordinate the Arkansas
11 Online Professional Development Initiative.

12 (g) The Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative shall
13 include a method for the Department of Education, the Arkansas Educational
14 Television Network, school districts, schools, and certified personnel to
15 annually evaluate the effectiveness of the Arkansas Online Professional
16 Development Initiative and its on-line professional development course and
17 programs.

18 (h)(1) Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, the Department of
19 Education may include as part of a school improvement plan guidelines for the
20 professional development programs to be delivered to the certified personnel
21 employed by a school in school improvement status or a school district in
22 school improvement status or academic distress.

23 (2)(A) As part of the school improvement plan, the Department of
24 Education may require the participation and completion of professional
25 development courses or programs by certified personnel in the school or
26 district as appropriate for the certified personnel's job assignments and
27 duties.

28 (B) Certified personnel employed by any school in school
29 improvement or school district in school improvement or academic distress
30 shall participate in, complete, and pass the assessment for the professional
31 development requirements included in the school's or district's school
32 improvement plan.

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