

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 2587

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

8
9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO BE
10 ALIGNED WITH THE STATE CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS AND
11 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES REGARDING
12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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15 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PROFESSIONAL
16 DEVELOPMENT TO BE ALIGNED WITH THE STATE
17 CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS AND THE STATE
18 BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES REGARDING
19 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-701 is amended to read as follows:
25 6-17-701. Reading.

26 (a) The Department of Education is authorized and directed to develop
27 and implement an inclusive statewide program that is aligned with the state
28 curriculum frameworks and the State Board of Education rules regarding
29 professional development to improve the reading skills of students in the
30 public schools of this state.

31 (b) The program shall include an in-service training program to assist
32 elementary teachers who desire or are designated as requiring special
33 assistance in improving their skills in teaching reading and to assist
34 elementary principals in improving their skills in the supervision and
35 support of reading programs.

36 (c) The intensive in-service training in the teaching of reading



1 provided for in this section shall be developed and implemented under the
 2 direction of reading specialists of the department and selected in-service
 3 teachers who have been identified as having been particularly successful in
 4 the teaching of reading.

5 (d) This training shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- 6 (1) Classroom observation;
- 7 (2) The use of student inventories for diagnosing reading
 8 problems;
- 9 (3) Planning instruction based on test results and classroom
 10 inventories;
- 11 (4) Reading activities to improve reading skills;
- 12 (5) Ideas for parental involvement in reading instruction; and
- 13 (6) The effective use of the teacher's time in planning for
 14 instruction in reading.

15 (e) Records shall be kept of the activities authorized by this
 16 section, and studies shall be conducted to determine the impact of this
 17 program on the achievement test scores of the students of teachers receiving
 18 special in-service training.

19 (f) Participating schools shall be required to allow the use of their
 20 teachers and principals who have received training to assist in the training
 21 of other teachers and principals.

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 23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-702 is amended to read as follows:
 24 6-17-702. Staff development sessions.

25 (a)(1)(A) No school district shall deny certified personnel the
 26 opportunity to attend certified instructional staff development sessions
 27 conducted by bona fide professional organizations within the State of
 28 Arkansas.

29 (B) Certified personnel may count up to two (2) days of
 30 five and one-half (5 1/2) hours each of attendance at instructional
 31 professional development sessions that are aligned with the state curriculum
 32 frameworks and the State Board of Education rules regarding professional
 33 development, and that are conducted by bona fide professional organizations
 34 toward fulfillment of the ~~five (5) days of~~ staff development required by the
 35 Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools, provided the sessions
 36 have been certified by the Department of Education.

1 (2) The State Board of Education is hereby authorized to
2 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the certification process.

3 (b) No provision of this section shall be interpreted as authorizing a
4 local school employee to refrain from attending meetings and workshops
5 designed to implement restructuring mandated by § 6-15-1001 et seq.

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7 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-703 is amended to read as follows:
8 6-17-703. Arkansas history in-service training.

9 (a) Every public school district in this state shall provide
10 substantive and meaningful in-service training in Arkansas history that is
11 aligned with the state curriculum frameworks and the State Board of Education
12 rules regarding professional development for its teachers.

13 (b) The district may contract with an education service cooperative to
14 provide the training.

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16 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-704 is amended to read as follows:
17 6-17-704. Professional development plan.

18 (a) For purposes of this section, "professional development" means a
19 coordinated set of planned learning activities for teachers, administrators,
20 and classified employees that are standards-based, ~~and~~ continuous, and
21 aligned with the state curriculum frameworks and the State Board of Education
22 rules regarding professional development.

23 (b) The purpose of professional development is to improve teaching and
24 learning in order to facilitate individual, school-wide, and system-wide
25 improvements designed to ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency on
26 state academic standards and that teachers are teaching the information that
27 is required under the state curriculum frameworks.

28 (c)(1) Beginning with school year 2004-2005, each school district
29 shall prepare a professional development plan.

30 (2)(A)(i) Teachers, administrators, and classified school
31 employees shall be involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of
32 their respective professional development offerings under the plan.

33 (ii) All professional development offerings shall be
34 aligned with the state curriculum frameworks and the State Board of Education
35 rules regarding professional development.

36 (B) The evaluation results shall be given to each group of

1 employees in the school district and used to improve professional development
2 offerings.

3 (d) The professional development offerings may include approved
4 conferences, workshops, institutes, individual learning, mentoring, peer-
5 coaching, study groups, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
6 certification, distance learning, internships, and college or university
7 course work if the offerings are aligned with the state curriculum frameworks
8 and the State Board of Education rules regarding professional development.

9 (e)(1) The professional development offerings may meet the objectives
10 of subdivision (e)(2) developed by the National Staff Development Council and
11 shall comply with the rules of the Department of Education governing
12 professional development.

13 (2) Professional development that improves the learning of all
14 students:

15 (A) Requires skillful school and school district leaders
16 who guide continuous instructional improvement;

17 (B) Organizes educators into learning communities whose
18 goals are aligned with those of the school and school district;

19 (C) Provides resources to support educator learning and
20 collaboration;

21 (D) Uses disaggregated student data to determine educator
22 learning priorities, monitor progress, and help sustain continuous
23 improvements;

24 (E) Uses multiple sources of information to guide educator
25 improvement and demonstrate its impact;

26 (F) Prepares educators to apply research to decision
27 making;

28 (G) Uses learning strategies appropriate to the intended
29 goal;

30 (H) Applies knowledge about human learning and change;

31 (I) Prepares educators to understand and appreciate all
32 students;

33 (J) Creates safe, orderly, and supportive learning
34 environments;

35 (K) Holds high expectations for the students' academic
36 achievement;

- 1 (L) Deepens educators' content knowledge;
- 2 (M) Provides educators with research-based instructional
- 3 strategies to assist students in meeting rigorous academic standards;
- 4 (N) Prepares educators to use various types of classroom
- 5 assessments appropriately; and
- 6 (O) Provides educators with knowledge and skills to
- 7 appropriately involve families and other stakeholders in education.

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