

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1521

5 By: Representative Walters
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING
10 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLANS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO
11 ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP PARENTAL
12 INVOLVEMENT PLANS THAT FACILITATE BETTER
13 COMMUNICATION, SUPPORT FOR PARENTING SKILLS,
14 INTEGRATION OF PARENTS INTO STUDENT LEARNING,
15 VOLUNTEERING, AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS
16 AND COMMUNITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

18 AN ACT TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS
19 CONCERNING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLANS
20 FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 Arkansas Code § 6-15-1702 is amended to read as follows:

27 6-15-1702. Parental involvement plan.

28 (a) ~~By September 1, 2003, each~~ Each public school district and each
29 public school within its boundaries, in collaboration with parents, shall
30 establish a parental involvement plan, including programs and practices that
31 enhance parental involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and
32 their families.

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

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

36 (2) Be comprehensive and coordinated in nature;



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

3 (B) To encourage communication with parents, the school
 4 shall prepare ~~family kits~~ an informational packet to be distributed annually
 5 to the parent of each child in the school, appropriate for the age and grade
 6 of the child, describing:

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

8 (ii) The recommended role of the parent, student,
 9 teacher, and school;

10 (iii) Ways for the parent to become involved in the
 11 school and his or her child's education;

12 (iv) A survey for the parent regarding his or her
 13 interests concerning volunteering at the school;

14 ~~(iv)(v)~~ Activities planned throughout the school
 15 year to encourage parental involvement; and

16 ~~(v)(vi)~~ A system to allow the parents and teachers to
 17 communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner with the child's
 18 teacher and the school principal.

19 ~~(C) To encourage communication with parents, the school~~
 20 ~~shall schedule no fewer than two (2) parent teacher conferences per school~~
 21 ~~year.~~

22 ~~(D)(C)~~ The school may plan and engage in other activities
 23 determined by the school to be beneficial to encourage communication with
 24 parents;

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

26 (B) To promote and support responsible parenting, the
 27 school shall, if funds are available:

28 (i) Purchase parenting books, magazines, and other
 29 informative material regarding responsible parenting through the school
 30 library, advertise the current selection, and give parents an opportunity to
 31 borrow the materials for review;

32 ~~Publish a notice in~~ At the end of each school
 33 year, provide to the local newspaper at the end of each school year a list of
 34 names honoring parents who ~~attend~~ attended all parent-teacher conferences
 35 scheduled by the school;

36 (iii) Create parent centers; and

1 (iv) Plan and engage in other activities determined
2 by the school to be beneficial to promoting and supporting responsible
3 parenting;

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

6 (B) To help parents in assisting students, the school
7 shall:

8 (i) Schedule regular ~~Parents Make the Difference~~
9 ~~evenings where~~ parent involvement meetings at which parents are given a
10 report on the state of the school and an overview of:

11 (a) What students will be learning;

12 (b) How students will be assessed;

13 (c) What parents should expect for their
14 child's education; and

15 (d) How a parent can assist and make a
16 difference in his or her child's education; and

17 (ii) Engage in other activities determined by the
18 school to help a parent assist in his or her child's learning;

19 (6)(A) Welcome parents into the school and seek parental support
20 and assistance.

21 (B) To welcome parents into the school, the school shall:

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

24 ~~(a) Policies requiring a parent to pick up his~~
25 ~~or her child outside the school building each day; and~~

26 ~~(b) Policies prohibiting the parents or from~~
27 ~~visiting a child's classrooms during school events;~~

28 (ii) ~~Publish~~ Encourage school staff to use the
29 volunteer surveys to compile a volunteer resource book, listing the interests
30 and availability of volunteers ~~for school staff members' use, specifically~~
31 ~~including~~ so that school staff may:

32 ~~(a) Survey parents regarding their interests,~~
33 ~~so that volunteer work will be meaningful;~~

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

1 ~~(e)(b)~~ Include options for those who are
2 available to help at home; and

3 ~~(d)(c)~~ Use ~~the resource book to help~~ Help
4 match school needs with volunteer interests; and

5 ~~(iii)~~ ~~Print statements attesting to the school~~
6 ~~district's commitment to parental involvement and distribute the statements~~
7 ~~to parents of students; and~~

8 ~~(iv)(iii)~~ Engage in other activities determined by
9 the school to welcome parents into the school;

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

12 (B) To encourage a parent to participate as a full partner
13 in the decisions that affect his or her child and family, the school shall:

14 (i) ~~Frequently publish~~ Include in the school's
15 policy handbook the school's process for resolving parental concerns,
16 including how to define ~~the~~ a problem, whom to approach first, and how to
17 develop solutions;

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

22 (iii) Engage in other activities that the school
23 determines will encourage a parent to participate as a full partner in the
24 decisions that affect his or her child and family;

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

27 (B) To take advantage of community resources, the school
28 shall:

29 (i) ~~Contact~~ Consider recruiting alumni from the
30 school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance
31 for school improvement;

32 (ii)(a) Enable the formation of a Parent Teacher
33 Association or organization that will foster parental and community
34 involvement within the school.

35 (b) Leaders of this organization shall be
36 utilized in appropriate decisions affecting the children and families.

1 ~~(ii)~~(iii) Develop paycheck-size cards with tips for
2 how ~~parents can foster their~~ a parent can foster his or her child's success
3 and ~~contact~~ encourage local banks to include cards with bank statements or
4 local employers ~~about including~~ to include the cards with employee paychecks;
5 and

6 ~~(iii)~~(iv) Engage in other activities that the school
7 determines will use community resources to strengthen school programs, family
8 practices, and student learning; and

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

13 (c)~~(1)~~ The principal of each school in a district shall designate one
14 (1) ~~certified~~ staff member who is willing to serve as a parent facilitator
15 to:

16 (1) Help organize meaningful training for staff and parents;

17 (2) promoting Promote and ~~encouraging~~ encourage a welcoming atmosphere
18 to foster parental involvement in the school; and

19 (3) to undertake Undertake efforts to ensure that parental
20 participation is recognized as an asset to the school.

21 ~~(2) The certified staff member serving as a parental facilitator~~
22 ~~shall receive supplemental pay for the assigned duties as required by law.~~

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