

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

*As Engrossed: H2/23/07*

# 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.

## Subtitle

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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, as 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 ~~(iii)(ii)~~ Create parent centers; and

33 ~~(iv)(iii)~~ Plan and engage in other activities  
34 determined by the school to be beneficial to promoting and supporting  
35 responsible parenting;

36 (5)(A) Acknowledge that parents play an integral role in

1 assisting student learning.

2 (B) To help parents in assisting students, the school  
3 shall:

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

7 (a) What students will be learning;

8 (b) How students will be assessed;

9 (c) What parents should expect for their  
10 child's education; and

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

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

15 (6)(A) Welcome parents into the school and seek parental support  
16 and assistance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 ~~(iii) Print statements attesting to the school~~  
2 ~~district's commitment to parental involvement and distribute the statements~~  
3 ~~to parents of students; and~~

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

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

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

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

14 (ii) Sponsor seminars to inform the parents of high  
15 school students about how to be involved in the decisions affecting course  
16 selection, career planning, and preparation for postsecondary opportunities;  
17 and

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

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

23 (B) To take advantage of community resources, the school  
24 shall:

25 (i) ~~Contact~~ Consider recruiting alumni from the  
26 school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance  
27 for school improvement;

28 (ii)(a) Enable the formation of a Parent Teacher  
29 Association or organization that will foster parental and community  
30 involvement within the school.

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

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

36 (iii) Engage in other activities that the school

1 determines will use community resources to strengthen school programs, family  
2 practices, and student learning; and

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

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

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

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

13 (3) ~~to undertake~~ Undertake efforts to ensure that parental  
14 participation is recognized as an asset to the school.

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

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20 /s/ Walters  
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