

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: H3/19/07*

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2704

5 By: Representative Saunders  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT PERTAINING TO TEACHER PROFESSIONAL  
10 DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

12 AN ACT PERTAINING TO TEACHER  
13 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.  
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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 the following new section:

21 6-17-708. Teacher mentoring.

22 (a) As used in this section, "teacher mentoring" means the act of  
23 providing professional development for a new teacher through focused feedback  
24 from a more experienced teacher with regard to instructional skills,  
25 classroom management, and professional behaviors with the goal of achieving  
26 enhanced instructional skills, competency, and professional development.

27 (b)(1) A teacher is qualified to serve as a mentor teacher in the  
28 teacher mentoring program if the teacher:

29 (A) Holds a current teaching license in good standing  
30 issued by the State Board of Education;

31 (B) Has a minimum of three (3) years of successful  
32 experience as a full-time classroom teacher in a public school, a charter  
33 school, an accredited private school, an entity with an education component  
34 approved by the Department of Education, or a nonprofit community provider  
35 licensed by the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services of the  
36 Department of Health and Human Services that offers developmental day



1 treatment clinic services with a preschool program;

2 (C) Has successfully completed training in the state-  
3 adopted teacher mentoring model;

4 (D) Demonstrates evidence of ongoing professional growth;  
5 and

6 (E) Possesses good communication and interpersonal skills.

7 (2) A teacher is not required to be employed with a school  
8 district in order to serve as a mentor teacher if the teacher satisfies the  
9 qualifications listed in subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

10 (3) If possible, a mentor teacher shall be assigned to a new  
11 teacher with a compatible background in grade level of licensure and area of  
12 teaching interest.

13 (c)(1) The state board shall establish rules to implement teacher  
14 mentoring programs in accordance with this section.

15 (2) All school districts and state agencies shall establish a  
16 teacher mentoring program in accordance with rules of the state board.

17 (3) Education service cooperatives, charter schools, accredited  
18 private schools, entities with an education component approved by the  
19 Department of Education, and nonprofit community providers licensed by the  
20 Division of Developmental Disabilities Services of the Department of Health  
21 and Human Services that offer developmental day treatment clinic services  
22 with preschool programs are encouraged to establish teacher mentoring  
23 programs in accordance with this section.

24 (d)(1) An education service cooperative, a charter school, an  
25 accredited private school, an entity with an education component approved by  
26 the Department of Education, or a nonprofit community provider licensed by  
27 the division of Developmental Disabilities Services of the Department of  
28 Health and Human Services that offers developmental day treatment clinic  
29 services with a preschool program that wishes to establish a teacher  
30 mentoring program shall submit a mentoring plan to the Department of  
31 Education for approval.

32 (2) A mentoring plan shall:

33 (A) Identify the person who will serve as the teacher  
34 mentoring program director;

35 (B) Provide that new teachers will be assigned to a mentor  
36 teacher within fifteen (15) business days of the hire date of the new

1 teacher;

2 (C) Provide for registration of all mentor teachers and  
3 new teachers with the Department of Education;

4 (D)(i) Identify categories of appropriate professional  
5 development activities and expenditures for mentor teachers and new teachers.

6 (ii) Appropriate professional development activities  
7 shall be designed to adequately prepare the new teacher for successful  
8 completion of the state-mandated performance assessment;

9 (E) Comply with all rules promulgated by the state board  
10 with regard to the assignment, support, and monitoring of mentor teachers and  
11 new teachers;

12 (E) Provide that mentor teachers and new teachers will be  
13 released to attend any mandatory statewide orientation or informational  
14 meetings held by the Department of Education;

15 (F) Provide that new teachers will be released to  
16 participate in the state-mandated performance assessment;

17 (G) Provide for notification of the Department of  
18 Education within fifteen (15) business days of any personnel changes that  
19 might impact the teacher mentoring program; and

20 (H) Provide for the submission of an annual report  
21 detailing teacher mentoring program activities and expenditures no later than  
22 June 30 of each year.

23 (e)(1) A teacher mentoring program director shall be qualified under  
24 subsection (b) of this section to serve as a mentor.

25 (2) A teacher mentoring program director shall:

26 (A) Serve as the teacher mentoring program's liaison to  
27 the Department of Education;

28 (B) Coordinate mentoring assignments;

29 (C) Provide oversight of teacher mentoring program  
30 activities and expenditures; and

31 (D) Be responsible for submission of all reports and other  
32 communications to the Department of Education.

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34 /s/ Saunders  
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