

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 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

As Engrossed: H1/30/09

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1034

5 By: Representatives Cook, Abernathy, M. Burris, George, Rainey, J. Roebuck, *Betts, Dale, Perry, G.*
6 *Smith, Wagner*
7 By: Senator Broadway
8
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM OF ARKANSAS
12 *EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR OTHER*
13 *PURPOSES.*
14

Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN ARKANSAS
17 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 1, is amended to add an
23 additional subchapter to read as follows:

24 SUBCHAPTER 4 - SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COORDINATING COUNCIL
25

26 6-1-401. Title.

27 There is established the "School Leadership Coordinating Council".
28

29 6-1-402. Findings.

30 The General Assembly finds that:

31 (1) A statewide performance and results based system of
32 leadership development to ensure high levels of collaborative leadership and
33 continuous improvement must have all educators work collaboratively with
34 community stakeholders to apply effective, evidence-based strategies and
35 practices that increase student and adult learning and close the achievement
36 gap;



1 (2) High quality classroom teaching and administrative
2 leadership are strong predictors of student success, all educators in the
3 state must possess the skills and knowledge to increase student and adult
4 learning and close the achievement gap;

5 (3) High quality leadership capacity building and training is
6 required to align the public education system from kindergarten through
7 postsecondary and workforce readiness, with an objective of universal
8 proficiency for all students.

9 (4) High quality learning experiences focus on both individual
10 and organizational improvement and provide educational leaders with a variety
11 of support systems as they progress on the career continuum from aspiring to
12 retiring; and

13 (5) An effective statewide leadership development system will
14 result in increased graduation rates, reduced remediation rates, closing of
15 achievement gaps, increased student and adult performance, increased
16 recruitment of effective leaders, and increased capacity for instructional
17 leaders, thus will increase the number of Arkansas citizens with bachelors
18 degrees.

19
20 6-1-403. Purpose.

21 The purpose of the School Leadership Coordinating Council is to:

22 (1) Serve as a central body to coordinate the leadership
23 development system efforts across the state including:

24 (A) Encouraging school districts to work with, the
25 Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education,
26 the Arkansas Leadership Academy, and other leadership groups;

27 (B) Recommending a state leadership development system to
28 coordinate all aspects of leadership development based on educational
29 leadership standards adopted by the Department of Education; and

30 (C) Devise a system of gathering data which includes input
31 from practitioners, educational and community leaders, university leadership
32 and faculty, and other interested parties;

33 (2) Assist the Department of Education, the Department of Higher
34 Education, the Arkansas Leadership Academy, school districts, and other
35 leadership groups in enhancing school leadership and school support efforts;
36 and

1 (3) Aid in the development of model evaluation tools for school
2 boards to use in the evaluation of administrators.

3
4 6-1-404. Creation.

5 (a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of twelve (12)
6 members as follows:

7 (1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for
8 Teacher Education Council of Deans;

9 (2) The Commissioner of Education;

10 (3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;

11 (4) The Director of the Department of Higher Education;

12 (5) The Director of the Department of Workforce Education;

13 (6) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of
14 Educational Administrators;

15 (7) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Education
16 Association;

17 (8) The Executive Director of the Arkansas School Boards
18 Association;

19 (9) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association for
20 Supervision and Curriculum Development;

21 (10) The President of the Arkansas Rural Education Association;

22 (11) A representative from the Arkansas Professors of
23 Educational Administration;

24 (12) A representative from the Arkansas Center for Executive
25 Leadership; and

26 (13) A representative from an Educational Service Cooperatives.

27 (b) Any member may appoint a designee to serve in his or her place if
28 necessary.

29 (c)(1) The Chair of the School Leadership Coordinating Council is
30 elected by majority vote at the first meeting of the council.

31 (2) All changes in council chairmanship are decided by majority
32 vote of the council.

33 (d)(1) The council shall meet at the times and places that the chair
34 deems necessary but no less than four (4) times per year.

35 (2) Seven (7) members of the council shall constitute a quorum
36 for the purpose of transacting business.

1 (3) All actions of the council are by quorum.

2 (e) The Department of Education, with the assistance of the Department
3 of Higher Education, shall staff the council.

4 (f) All members of the council may receive expense reimbursement in
5 accordance with § 25-16-902 paid by the Department of Education if
6 funds are available.

7
8 6-1-405. Report.

9 (a) The Chair of the School Leadership Coordinating Council shall
10 provide a report to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate
11 Interim Committee on Education no later than September 1, 2010, and each year
12 thereafter.

13 (b) The report shall identify:

14 (1) Deficient areas of school leadership;

15 (2) Innovative programs to address deficient areas of school
16 leadership;

17 (3) Progress made to improve school leadership;

18 (4) Plans to improve the quality of school leadership throughout
19 the state;

20 (5) Development and activities of school leadership cohorts; and

21 (6) Efforts made to address school leadership recommendations

22 *expressed in the 2008 Educational Adequacy report or subsequent reports*
23 *submitted by the House*

24 Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education.

25

26 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-440 is amended to read as follows:

27 (a)(1) There is created the Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support
28 Program through which the Arkansas Leadership Academy in collaboration with
29 *the Department of Education* and other leadership groups shall identify and
30 *provide support to schools or school districts designated by the department*
31 *as being in target assisted school improvement and*
32 *districts designated by the department as being in school improvement and*
33 other school districts who opt to participate.

34 (2) The program shall be designed, developed, and administered
35 by the academy created under § 6-15-1007.

36 (b) The program shall:

1 (1) Build the leadership capacity of the school and school
2 district personnel;

3 (2) Train a diverse school leadership team, including, but not
4 limited to, ~~the superintendents~~, school principals and teachers;

5 (3) Provide a cadre of highly experienced, trained performance
6 coaches to work in the school or school district on a regular basis; and

7 (4) Work with the school and school district staff, school board
8 members, parents, community members, and other stakeholders as necessary to
9 provide a comprehensive support network that can continue the school's
10 progress and improvement after completion of the academy's formal
11 intervention and support.

12 (5) Ensure access to training programs and leadership skills
13 development;

14 (6) Develop incentive programs for institutions and program
15 participants;

16 (7) Assist in the development of partnerships between university
17 leadership programs and school districts; and

18 (8) Work closely with the School Leadership Coordinating
19 Council, the Department of Education, and the Department of Higher Education
20 to coordinate cohesive leadership goals.

21 (c)(1) The department and the academy shall develop criteria for
22 selection of schools or school districts to participate in the program.

23 (2) *Any school district that is in target assisted school*
24 *improvement ~~may be~~*

25 *~~invited, strongly encouraged, or required to~~ shall be eligible to*
26 *participate in the program as provided in the rules of the State Board of*
27 *Education.*

28 (3) The academy and participating schools shall commit to
29 *continue participation in the school support program for no fewer than three*

30 *(3) consecutive school years.*

31 (d)(1) The number of schools participating in the program shall be
32 determined by the amount of funding available for the program.

33 (2) The state board or the department may require a school
34 district to fund a portion of the cost of the school's or school district's
35 *participation in the school support program if the Commissioner of Education*
36 *determines that such participation is in the best interest of the students*

1 served by the participating school or school district.

2 (3) Subject to the approval of the state board, the commissioner
3 shall determine the portion of the school district's financial obligation for
4 participation in the program, if any.

5 (e) The state board shall promulgate rules as necessary to implement
6 the requirements of this section.

7 (f)(1) The State Board of Education shall have the authority to issue
8 requests for proposals if the state board should determine to change the
9 operator or the location of the Arkansas Leadership Academy.

10 (2) The academy shall maintain one (1) main office and a minimum
11 of three (3) satellite offices partnered with institutions of higher
12 education that have approved leadership programs and are strategically
13 located in areas of the state identified by the Department of Education as
14 having the greatest need for school leadership support.

15
16 SECTION 3. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The document attached hereto titled
17 "Prologue" contains the Leadership Taskforce recommendations as submitted to
18 the Adequacy Study Oversight Subcommittee, the House Interim Committee on
19 Education, and the Senate Interim Committee on Education. The document,
20 "Prologue", shall be filed in the journals of the House and Senate.

21
22 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
23 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is the constitutional
24 obligation of the state to ensure that the state's public school children
25 receive an equal opportunity for an adequate education; that to ensure that
26 opportunity, it is essential to have strong and effective school leaders; and
27 that this act is immediately necessary to allow the Department of Education,
28 the Department of Higher Education, and the Arkansas Leadership Academy to
29 address deficiencies in the Arkansas's educational leadership system.
30 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately
31 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
32 become effective on:

33 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

34 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
35 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
36 bill; or

