

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1034

5 By: Representatives Cook, Abernathy, M. Burris, George, Rainey, J. Roebuck  
6 By: Senator Broadway  
7  
8

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM OF ARKANSAS  
11 EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN ARKANSAS  
14 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 1, is amended to add an  
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:

### SUBCHAPTER 4 - SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COORDINATING COUNCIL

#### 6-1-401. Title.

There is established the "School Leadership Coordinating Council".

#### 6-1-402. Findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

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

35 (2) High quality classroom teaching and administrative  
36 leadership are strong predictors of student success, all educators in the



1 state must possess the skills and knowledge to increase student and adult  
 2 learning and close the achievement gap;

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

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

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

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 18 6-1-403. Purpose.

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

20 (1) Serve as a central body to coordinate the leadership  
 21 development system efforts across the state including without limitation:

22 (A) Encouraging school districts to work with the state,  
 23 the Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education, and the  
 24 Arkansas Leadership Academy to develop leadership cohorts;

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

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

31 (2) Assist the Department of Education, the Department of Higher  
 32 Education, the Arkansas Leadership Academy, school districts, and others in  
 33 enhancing school leadership and school support efforts; and

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

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2 6-4-404. Creation.

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

5 (1) The Chairmen of the Deans' Council;

6 (2) The Commissioner of Education;

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

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

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

10 (6) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of  
11 Educational Administrators;

12 (7) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Education  
13 Association;

14 (8) The Executive Director of the Arkansas School Board  
15 Association;

16 (9) The President of the Arkansas Rural Education Association;

17 (10) A representative from the Arkansas Professors of  
18 Educational Administration;

19 (11) A representative from the Arkansas Center for Executive  
20 Leadership; and

21 (12) A representative from an Educational Service Cooperatives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1           6-1-405. Report.

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

6           (b) The report shall identify:

7                   (1) Deficient areas of school leadership;

8                   (2) Innovative programs to address deficient areas of school  
 9 leadership;

10                   (3) Progress made to improve school leadership;

11                   (4) Plans to improve the quality of school leadership throughout  
 12 the state;

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

14                   (6) Efforts made to address school leadership recommendations  
 15 expressed in the 2008 Educational Adequacy report submitted by the House  
 16 Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education.

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

19           (a)(1) There is created the Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support  
 20 Program through which the Arkansas Leadership Academy in collaboration with  
 21 the Department of Education shall provide support to schools or school  
 22 districts designated by the department as being in school improvement and  
 23 other school districts who opt to participate.

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

26           (b) The program shall:

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

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

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

33                   (4) Work with the school and school district staff, school board  
 34 members, parents, community members, and other stakeholders as necessary to  
 35 provide a comprehensive support network that can continue the school's  
 36 progress and improvement after completion of the academy's formal

1 intervention and support.

2 (5) Ensure access to training programs and leadership skills  
 3 development;

4 (6) Develop incentive programs for institutions and program  
 5 participants;

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

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

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

13 (2) Any school district that is in school improvement ~~may be~~  
 14 ~~invited, strongly encouraged, or required to~~ shall be eligible to participate  
 15 in the program as provided in the rules of the State Board of Education.

16 (3) The academy and participating schools shall commit to  
 17 continue participation in the program for no fewer than three (3) consecutive  
 18 school years.

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

21 (2) The state board or the department may require a school  
 22 district to fund a portion of the cost of the school's or school district's  
 23 participation in the program if the Commissioner of Education determines that  
 24 such participation is in the best interest of the students served by the  
 25 participating school or school district.

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

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

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

34 (2) The academy shall maintain one (1) main office and a minimum  
 35 of three (3) satellite office strategically located in areas of the state  
 36 identified by the Department of Education as having the greatest need for

1 school leadership support.

2 SECTION 3. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The document attached hereto titled  
 3 “Prologue” contains the Leadership Taskforce recommendations as submitted to  
 4 the Adequacy Study Oversight Subcommittee, the House Interim Committee on  
 5 Education, and the Senate Interim Committee on Education. The document,  
 6 “Prologue”, shall be filed in the journals of the House and Senate.

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 8 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
 9 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is the constitutional  
 10 obligation of the state to ensure that the state’s public school children  
 11 receive an equal opportunity for an adequate education; that to ensure that  
 12 opportunity, it is essential to have strong and effective school leaders; and  
 13 that this act is immediately necessary to allow the Department of Education,  
 14 the Department of Higher Education, and the Arkansas Leadership Academy to  
 15 address deficiencies in the Arkansas’s educational leadership system.  
 16 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately  
 17 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
 18 become effective on:

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

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

23 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
 24 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.