

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
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4

*As Engrossed: H2/8/13*

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1262

5 By: Representatives Eubanks, Branscum, Catlett, Clemmer, C. Douglas, Farrer, Gillam, Gossage,  
6 Hickerson, Lampkin, Lenderman, Vines, *Bell, Jett*  
7 By: Senators J. English, Holland, J. Key  
8

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9  
10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL  
11 EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; TO DECLARE AN  
12 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13  
14

## Subtitle

15  
16 TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC  
17 SCHOOL EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT;  
18 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.  
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20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-5-405(b) and (c), concerning professional  
24 development for higher education awareness, is amended to read as follows:

25 (b) ~~Beginning with the 2009 calendar year, professional~~ Professional  
26 development on the availability of, eligibility requirements for, and the  
27 process of applying for state-supported student financial assistance shall be  
28 required for:

29 (1) All public school superintendents and assistant  
30 superintendents; and

31 (2) The following licensed personnel at a public school where  
32 students are enrolled in grade seven through grade twelve (7-12):

33 (A) Principals;

34 (B) Assistant principals; and

35 (C) Guidance counselors.

36 (c)(1) The first course shall be a three-hour course to be taken



1 ~~before within calendar year 2009~~, or within the first year of employment:

2 (A) As a public school superintendent;

3 (B) As a public school assistant superintendent; or

4 (C) In one (1) of the following positions for grades seven  
5 through twelve (7-12):

6 (i) Principal;

7 (ii) Assistant principal; or

8 (iii) Guidance counselor.

9 (2) After the first three-hour course is completed, a one-hour  
10 course ~~is required to~~ shall be completed ~~annually~~ according to the  
11 professional development schedule under § 6-17-709.

12  
13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1703 is amended to read as follows:

14 6-15-1703. Professional development.

15 (a) The State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of  
16 Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts shall require the following  
17 professional development hours according to the professional development  
18 schedule under § 6-17-709:

19 (1) ~~Two (2) or more~~ Two (2) hours of professional development as part of  
20 the ~~annual~~ minimum number of hours of professional development required for  
21 teachers, designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement  
22 strategies; and

23 (2) ~~Three (3) or more~~ Two (2) hours of professional development  
24 as part of the ~~annual~~ minimum number of hours of professional development  
25 required for administrators, designed to enhance understanding of:

26 (A) Effective parent involvement strategies; and

27 (B) The importance of administrative leadership in setting  
28 expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

29 ~~(b) The Department of Education shall provide the professional~~  
30 ~~development required under this section.~~

31 ~~(c)(b)~~ Each A school district shall provide training at least annually  
32 for volunteers who assist in an instructional program for parents.

33  
34 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-703 is amended to read as follows:

35 6-17-703. Arkansas history in-service training.

36 (a) ~~Every school district in this state~~ A school district shall

1 provide two (2) hours of substantive and meaningful ~~in-service training~~  
2 professional development in Arkansas history ~~each school year~~ for  
3 its teachers who provide instruction in Arkansas history according to the  
4 professional development schedule under § 6-17-709.

5 (b) The school district may provide the professional development:

6 (1) ~~contract~~ By contracting with an education service cooperative  
7 to provide the training; or

8 (2) By using the Arkansas Online Professional Development  
9 Initiative under § 6-17-707.

10 (c) The ~~in-service training~~ professional development under this  
11 section shall count toward satisfaction of requirements for professional  
12 development in the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and  
13 School Districts.

14  
15 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-704(a), concerning a professional  
16 development plan, is amended to read as follows:

17 (a) As used in this section, "professional development" means a set of  
18 coordinated ~~set of~~ planned learning activities for teachers, administrators,  
19 and ~~classified~~ nonlicensed school employees that ~~are standards-based and~~  
20 continuous:

21 (1) Is part of the minimum number of professional development  
22 hours required by law or by the Department of Education;

23 (2) Improves the knowledge, skills, and effectiveness of  
24 teachers;

25 (3) Addresses the knowledge and skills of administrators and  
26 paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional strategies, methods, and  
27 skills;

28 (4) Leads to improved student academic achievement;

29 (5) Is research-based and standards-based; and

30 (6) Is any professional development approved by the department.

31  
32 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-704(c)(1), concerning a professional  
33 development plan, is amended to read as follows:

34 (c)(1) ~~Beginning with school year 2004-2005, each~~ Annually, each  
35 school district shall prepare a professional development plan.

36

1 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-17-704(e), concerning a professional  
2 development plan, is amended to read as follows:

3 ~~(e)(1) The professional development offerings may meet the objectives~~  
4 ~~of subdivision (e)(2) of this section developed by the National Staff~~  
5 ~~Development Council and shall comply with the rules of the State Board of~~  
6 ~~Education governing professional development.~~

7 ~~(2) Professional development that improves the learning of all~~  
8 ~~students;~~

9 ~~(A) Requires skillful school and school district leaders~~  
10 ~~who guide continuous instructional improvement;~~

11 ~~(B) Organizes educators into learning communities whose~~  
12 ~~goals are aligned with those of the school and school district;~~

13 ~~(C) Provides resources to support educator learning and~~  
14 ~~collaboration;~~

15 ~~(D) Uses disaggregated student data to determine educator~~  
16 ~~learning priorities, monitor progress, and help sustain continuous~~  
17 ~~improvements;~~

18 ~~(E) Uses multiple sources of information to guide educator~~  
19 ~~improvement and demonstrate its impact;~~

20 ~~(F) Prepares educators to apply research to decision~~  
21 ~~making;~~

22 ~~(G) Uses learning strategies appropriate to the intended~~  
23 ~~goal;~~

24 ~~(H) Applies knowledge about human learning and change;~~

25 ~~(I) Prepares educators to understand and appreciate all~~  
26 ~~students;~~

27 ~~(J) Creates safe, orderly, and supportive learning~~  
28 ~~environments;~~

29 ~~(K) Holds high expectations for the students' academic~~  
30 ~~achievement;~~

31 ~~(L) Deepens educators' content knowledge;~~

32 ~~(M) Provides educators with research-based instructional~~  
33 ~~strategies to assist students in meeting rigorous academic standards;~~

34 ~~(N) Prepares educators to use various types of classroom~~  
35 ~~assessments appropriately;~~

36 ~~(O) Provides educators with knowledge and skills to~~

1 ~~appropriately involve families and other stakeholders in education;~~

2 ~~(P) Provides educators with knowledge and skills needed to~~  
 3 ~~teach students with disabilities, including without limitation autism; and~~

4 ~~(Q) Provides educators with knowledge and skills needed to~~  
 5 ~~teach culturally and linguistically diverse students.~~

6 (e) The professional development under this section:

7 (1) Shall comply with the Arkansas Department of Education Rules  
 8 Governing Professional Development; and

9 (2) May provide educators with knowledge and skills needed to  
 10 teach:

11 (A) Students with disabilities, including without  
 12 limitation autism; and

13 (B) Culturally and linguistically diverse students.

14  
 15 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code §6-17-708 is amended to read as follows:

16 6-17-708. Teen suicide awareness and prevention in-service training.

17 (a)(1) ~~Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, the~~ The Department of  
 18 Education shall require two (2) hours of ~~in-service training~~ professional  
 19 development in teen suicide awareness and prevention ~~one (1) time every five~~  
 20 ~~(5) school years~~ for licensed public school personnel according to the  
 21 professional development schedule under § 6-17-709.

22 (2) The ~~in-service training~~ professional development under this  
 23 section may be accomplished through self-review of suitable suicide  
 24 prevention materials approved by the department.

25 (b) The ~~in-service training~~ professional development under this  
 26 section shall count toward the satisfaction of requirements for professional  
 27 development in the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and  
 28 School Districts and for licensure requirements for licensed personnel.

29  
 30 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 7, is amended  
 31 to add an additional section to read as follows:

32 6-17-709. Professional development schedule.

33 (a) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, a school district or an  
 34 open-enrollment public charter school shall make available to the appropriate  
 35 licensed personnel the following professional development:

36 (1) In the 2013-2014 school year and every fourth school year

1 thereafter:

2 (A) The one (1) hour of higher education scholarship  
3 awareness professional development required under § 6-5-405; and

4 (B) The professional development for mandated reporters  
5 and licensed elementary and secondary public school personnel required under  
6 § 6-61-133;

7 (2) In the 2014-2015 school year and every fourth school year  
8 thereafter, the parental involvement professional development under § 6-15-  
9 1703;

10 (3) In the 2015-2016 school year and every fourth school year  
11 thereafter, the teen suicide awareness and prevention professional  
12 development required under § 6-17-708; and

13 (4) In the 2016-2017 school year and every fourth school year  
14 thereafter, the Arkansas history professional development required under § 6-  
15 17-703.

16 (b)(1) Two (2) hours of the professional development required by  
17 subsection (a) of this section shall be counted in one (1) school year toward  
18 the minimum number of hours of professional development required for licensed  
19 educators under the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing  
20 Professional Development.

21 (2) If additional hours are obtained by a licensed educator, the  
22 school district may count those hours as part of the minimum number of hours  
23 of professional development required for licensed educators under the  
24 Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Professional Development.

25 (c) Annually, the State Board of Education may require up to six (6)  
26 hours of integrated professional development for licensed educators in  
27 educational technology.

28 (d) The Department of Education shall establish the curriculum under  
29 this section in collaboration with educational agencies and associations  
30 including without limitation the:

31 (1) Department of Higher Education;

32 (2) Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;

33 (3) Arkansas Education Association;

34 (4) Arkansas School Boards Association; and

35 (5) Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum  
36 Development.

1 (e)(1) The professional development under this subsection shall not  
 2 be provided by a school district but shall be provided by:

3 (A) The Department of Education;

4 (B) An institutions of higher education; or

5 (C) Providers approved by the Department of Education.

6 (2)(A) Before a person receives an initial building level  
 7 administrator's license, the person shall successfully complete the teacher  
 8 evaluation professional development program.

9 (B) A person who receives an initial building level  
 10 administrator's license shall complete the certification assessment for the  
 11 teacher evaluation professional development program before or after receiving  
 12 the initial building level administrator's license.

13 (3)(A) The Department of Education shall not issue an initial  
 14 teaching license until the applicant verifies that he or she has obtained the  
 15 required professional development concerning:

16 (A) Mandated reporters under § 6-61-133;

17 (B) Parental involvement under § 6-15-1703;

18 (C) Teen suicide awareness and prevention under § 6-  
 19 17-708; and

20 (D) Arkansas history under § 6-17-703.

21 (B) For a teaching license issued under the state's  
 22 reciprocity provisions to an out-of-state teacher, the Department of  
 23 Education shall issue a provisional license until the licensee obtains the  
 24 professional development identified in subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section.

25  
 26 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2602(2), concerning the definition of  
 27 "professional development" for purposes of the lifetime teaching license, is  
 28 amended to read as follows:

29 (2) ~~"Professional development" means a coordinated set of~~  
 30 ~~planned, learning development activities for teachers that are standards-~~  
 31 ~~based and that meet the focus areas for professional development required by~~  
 32 ~~the department~~ has the same meaning as the meaning given to the term under §  
 33 6-17-704; and

34  
 35 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2303(15)(A), concerning the  
 36 definition of "professional development" for school funding purposes, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 (15)(A) "Professional development" ~~means a coordinated set of~~  
3 ~~planned learning activities for teachers and administrators that are~~  
4 ~~standards-based~~ has the same meaning as the meaning given to the term under §  
5 6-17-704.

6  
7 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-61-133(c), concerning professional  
8 development for mandated reporters and licensed elementary and secondary  
9 public school personnel, is amended to read as follows:

10 6-61-133. ~~Training~~ Professional development for ~~mandatory mandated~~  
11 reporters and licensed elementary and secondary public school personnel.

12 (a) As used in this section:

13 (1) "Child maltreatment" means the abuse, sexual abuse, neglect,  
14 sexual exploitation, or abandonment of a child under the Child Maltreatment  
15 Act, § 12-18-101 et seq.; and

16 (2) "Licensed school personnel" means a person who works with  
17 students in an elementary or secondary public school, a public charter  
18 school, a school district, or an education service cooperative for whom a  
19 license issued by the State Board of Education is a condition of employment,  
20 including without limitation a:

21 (A) School or school district administrator;

22 (B) Teacher;

23 (C) Coach for a school athletics program;

24 (D) School counselor;

25 (E) School social worker;

26 (F) School psychologist; and

27 (G) School nurse.

28 (b) For each degree program at an institution of higher education in  
29 this state that is a prerequisite for licensure or certification in a  
30 profession in which the professional is a child maltreatment mandated  
31 reporter under the Child Maltreatment Act, § 12-18-101 et seq., the  
32 Department of Higher Education shall coordinate with all the institutions of  
33 higher education to ensure that before receiving a degree, each graduate  
34 receives the ~~training~~ professional development identified in subdivision  
35 (d)(1) of this section.

36 (c) Licensed school personnel shall obtain the ~~training~~ professional



1 development identified in subsection (d) of this section ~~within twelve (12)~~  
2 ~~months of:~~

3 (1) ~~The~~ Not more than one (1) year before the individual's  
4 initial licensure; and

5 (2) ~~All subsequent renewals of the individual's license~~  
6 According to the professional development schedule under § 6-17-709.

7 (d)(1) The ~~training~~ professional development required under this  
8 section shall include without limitation:

9 (A) Recognizing the signs and symptoms of child  
10 maltreatment;

11 (B) The legal requirements of the Child Maltreatment Act,  
12 § 12-18-101 et seq., and the duties of mandated reporters under the act; and

13 (C) Methods for managing disclosures regarding child  
14 victims.

15 (2) In addition to the ~~training~~ professional development  
16 required under subdivision (d)(1) of this section, licensed school personnel  
17 shall obtain ~~training~~ professional development in connecting a victim of  
18 child maltreatment to appropriate in-school services and other agencies,  
19 programs, and services needed to provide the child with the emotional and  
20 educational support the child needs to continue to be successful in school.

21 (e)(1) The ~~training~~ professional development obtained by licensed  
22 school personnel may be obtained as in-person or online ~~training~~ professional  
23 development.

24 (2) The Arkansas Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic Violence Commission  
25 shall approve the curriculum for the ~~training~~ professional development.

26 (3) Licensed school personnel shall document completed ~~training~~  
27 professional development according to the rules of the State Board of  
28 Education.

29 ~~(f) Licensed school personnel may substitute for the required number~~  
30 ~~of hours of staff development on parental involvement plans under § 6-15-1703~~  
31 ~~an equal number of hours of training obtained under this section.~~

32  
33 SECTION 12. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
34 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is the state's  
35 constitutional obligation to provide a general, suitable, and efficient free  
36 system of public schools in the state; that the professional development of

1 public school teachers and administrators is critical to the delivery of a  
2 constitutionally adequate education; and that this act is immediately  
3 necessary for school districts and educators to prepare for the professional  
4 development requirements needed for the 2013-2014 school year. Therefore, an  
5 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for  
6 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become  
7 effective on:

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

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

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

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15 */s/Eubanks*  
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