

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1785

5 By: Representative D. Douglas
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PROVIDE DIGITAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN
9 PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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11

Subtitle

12 TO PROVIDE DIGITAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
13 IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
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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 16, is amended to add an
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:
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Subchapter 14 - Digital Learning

6-16-1401. Title.

This subchapter may be cited as The Digital Learning Act of 2013.

6-16-1402. Legislative intent.

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

29 (1) Provide for the expansion of digital learning opportunities
30 to all Arkansas public school students; and

31 (2) Remove any impediments to the expansion of digital learning
32 opportunities.

33 (b) The General Assembly directs the state to establish and maintain
34 the necessary infrastructure sufficient to facilitate and deliver a quality
35 digital learning environment in each public school district, including public
36 charter schools that may include Internet II capacity.



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2 6-16-1403. Digital learning -- Approved provider list.

3 (a)(1) As used in this subchapter, digital learning means a digital
4 technology or internet-based educational delivery model that does not rely
5 exclusively on compressed interactive video.

6 (2) Digital learning services may be procured from both in-state
7 and out-of-state digital learning providers.

8 (b) The Department of Education shall annually:

9 (1) Publish a list of approved digital learning providers that
10 offer digital learning services; and

11 (2) Provide a copy of the list of approved digital learning
12 providers to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on
13 Education no later than June 1 each year.

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15 6-16-1404. Digital learning environment.

16 A digital learning environment shall be composed of:

17 (1) Access to quality digital learning content and online
18 blended learning courses;

19 (2) Tailored digital content designed to meet the needs of each
20 student;

21 (3) Digital learning content that meets or exceeds the
22 curriculum standards and requirements adopted by the State Board of Education
23 that is capable of being assessed and measured through standardized tests and
24 local assessments; and

25 (4) Infrastructure that is sufficient to handle and facilitate a
26 quality digital learning environment.

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28 6-16-1405. Digital learning providers.

29 (a) To become an approved digital learning provider a digital learning
30 provider shall submit proof that the provider:

31 (1) Is nonsectarian and nondiscriminatory in its programs,
32 employment practices, and operations;

33 (2) Demonstrates or partners with an organization that
34 demonstrates successful experience in furnishing digital learning courses to
35 public school students as demonstrated by student growth in each subject area
36 and grade level for which it proposes to provide digital learning courses;

1 (3) Meets or exceeds the minimum curriculum standards and
2 requirements established by the State Board of Education and ensures
3 instructional and curricular quality through a curriculum and accountability
4 plan that addresses every subject area and grade level for which it agrees to
5 provide digital learning courses; and

6 (4)(A) Utilizes highly qualified teachers to deliver digital
7 learning courses to public school students.

8 (B) A highly qualified teacher that delivers digital
9 learning courses under this subchapter is not required to be licensed as a
10 teacher or administrator by the state board.

11 (b) The Department of Education or state board shall not require as a
12 condition of approval of a digital learning provider that the digital
13 learning provider limit the delivery of digital learning courses to public
14 schools that require physical attendance at the public school to successfully
15 complete the credit for which the digital learning course is provided.

16 (c) A public school district or public charter school may utilize a
17 digital learning provider that is not on the approved list if the public
18 school district or public charter school ensures that the digital learning
19 course provided by the digital learning provider is in compliance with the
20 curriculum standards and requirements established by the state board.

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22 6-16-1406. Digital learning courses.

23 (a) Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, all public school
24 districts and public charter schools shall provide at least one (1) digital
25 learning courses to their students as either a primary or supplementary
26 method of instruction.

27 (b) All digital learning courses provided by public school districts
28 or public charter schools shall:

29 (1) Be of high quality;

30 (2) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements
31 established by the State Board of Education; and

32 (3) Be made available in a blended learning, online-based, or
33 other technology-based format tailored to meet the needs of each individual
34 student.

35 (c) Digital learning courses shall be capable of being assessed and
36 measured through standardized tests and local assessments.

1 (d) Beginning with the entering ninth grade class of the 2013-2014
2 school year, each high school student shall be required to take at least one
3 (1) digital learning course for credit to graduate.

4 (e) The Department of Education of the state board shall not limit the
5 number of digital learning courses for which a student may receive credit
6 through an Arkansas public school.

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