

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
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A Bill

SENATE BILL 423

By: Senators U. Lindsey, J. English
By: Representative D. Douglas

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS IN THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS IN THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 6-5-1003 and 6-5-1004 are amended to read
as follows:

6-5-1003. College and career readiness ~~program~~ standards.

(a)(1) The Department of Career Education shall work in collaboration
with the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education to
develop college and career readiness ~~program~~ standards for career and
technical education ~~program of study~~ courses.

(2) College and career readiness ~~program~~ standards shall address
the importance of rigorous academic standards and the role rigorous academic
standards have in higher education.

(b) The college and career readiness ~~program~~ standards for career and
technical education ~~program of study~~ courses shall incorporate ~~consistent~~
~~framework to~~ current frameworks that promote sustainability of career and
technical education programs of study, ~~including that include:~~

(1) Legislation, local resources, and administrative policies



1 that promote career and technical education ~~program-of-study~~ development and
2 implementation within a school district;

3 (2) Partnerships with educators, businesses, and other community
4 stakeholders that support career and technical education ~~program-of-study~~
5 design, implementation, and maintenance;

6 (3) Professional development opportunities for administrators
7 and teachers who foster career and technical education ~~programs-of-study~~,
8 including design, implementation, and maintenance;

9 (4) Accountability and evaluation systems and strategies that
10 gather quantitative and qualitative data on both career and technical
11 education ~~program-of-study~~ components and student outcomes to determine the
12 effectiveness of each program of study;

13 (5) Clear content standards that:

14 (A) Define what a student is expected to know and what the
15 student should be able to do to achieve success in college or in a career;
16 and

17 (B) Align and integrate curriculum and instruction;

18 (6)(A) Sequences of secondary and postsecondary career and
19 technical education ~~program-of-study~~ courses that help students transition to
20 postsecondary education without requiring duplicate classes or remedial
21 education.

22 (B) The Department of Career Education, in collaboration
23 with the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education,
24 shall establish a common course numbering system that incorporates career and
25 technical education ~~program-of-study~~ courses at both the secondary and
26 postsecondary level;

27 (7) Formal credit transfer agreements between secondary schools
28 and postsecondary institutions of higher education;

29 (8) Comprehensive guidance counseling and academic advisory
30 systems developed by the Department of Career Education in collaboration with
31 the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education that:

32 (A) Enable students to make informed decisions about which
33 program of study to pursue;

34 (B) Are based on state or local guidance and counseling
35 standards, for example, the National Career Development Guidelines;

36 (C) Ensure that guidance counselors and academic advisors

1 have current information about career and technical education programs of
2 study;

3 (D) Offer information and tools to help students learn
4 about postsecondary education and career options, including prerequisites
5 that may be required;

6 (E) Provide resources for students to identify career
7 interests and aptitudes and to select an appropriate career and technical
8 education program of study based on the results;

9 (F) Provide information for parents, including workshops
10 on college financial aid and applications, preparing students for college and
11 college applications, and preparing students for careers; and

12 (G) Provide web-based resources and tools for obtaining
13 student financial assistance;

14 (9) Innovative and creative instructional approaches that enable
15 teachers to integrate academic, career, and technical instruction; and

16 (10) Valid and reliable technical skills assessments ~~that~~
17 ~~provide ongoing information on whether or not a student is attaining the~~
18 ~~necessary knowledge and skills for entry into postsecondary education or a~~
19 ~~career in his or her selected career and technical education program of~~
20 ~~study.~~

21
22 6-5-1004. Technical skills assessments.

23 (a) The Department of Career Education shall ~~provide~~ recognize valid
24 and reliable technical skills assessments that provide ~~information on whether~~
25 ~~or not a student is attaining the necessary~~ evaluation of students' knowledge
26 and skills necessary for entry into postsecondary education or a career in
27 ~~his or her a selected career and technical education~~ program of study.

28 (b) The technical skills assessment shall:

29 (1)(A) Be a third-party, industry-recognized assessment
30 ~~recognized by industry or an assessment developed or~~ approved by the
31 department that is based on current industry standards.

32 (B)(i) The department shall provide a current list of
33 approved third-party, industry-recognized assessments.

34 (ii) The third-party, industry-recognized
35 assessments shall be reviewed and approved by the department using a process
36 developed by the department;

1 (2) Measure student attainment of technical skill proficiencies
2 ~~at multiple points~~ during a student's career and technical education program
3 of study;

4 (3)(A) Incorporate performance-based assessment ~~items where a~~
5 ~~student demonstrates~~ measures that demonstrate the application of ~~his or her~~
6 knowledge and skills, to the extent possible.

7 (B) A student who successfully completes a ~~performance-~~
8 ~~based~~ technical skills assessment may receive a secondary credit,
9 postsecondary credit, ~~or~~ and special designation on ~~his or her~~ the student's
10 high school diploma; and

11 (4)(A) Be used as a tool to evaluate the quality of career and
12 technical education programs of study in secondary schools.

13 (B) The department ~~may~~ shall provide technical assistance
14 on career and technical education ~~programs of study~~ to secondary ~~schools~~
15 administrators and teachers.
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