

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: H3/8/23 H3/28/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1538

5 By: Representatives Vaught, Duke
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE
9 REQUIRED FOR LICENSED SCHOOL PERSONNEL; TO AMEND THE
10 DEFINITION OF A "BASIC CONTRACT" UNDER THE TEACHER
11 COMPENSATION PROGRAM OF 2003 TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF
12 ADDITIONAL DAYS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT A PUBLIC
13 SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL REQUIRE; AND FOR OTHER
14 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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17 TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
18 SCHEDULE REQUIRED FOR LICENSED SCHOOL
19 PERSONNEL; AND TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF
20 A "BASIC CONTRACT" UNDER THE TEACHER
21 COMPENSATION PROGRAM OF 2003.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709 is amended to read as follows:
28 6-17-709. Professional development schedule.

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

32 (1) In the 2013-2014 school year and every ~~fourth~~ fifth school
33 year thereafter, the professional development for mandated reporters and
34 licensed elementary and secondary public school personnel required under § 6-
35 61-133;

36 (2)(A) ~~In the 2014-2015~~ Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year



1 ~~and every fourth school year thereafter~~, the family and community engagement
2 professional development under § 6-15-1703 shall be taken by licensed
3 personnel at least one (1) time.

4 (B) If the appropriate licensed personnel has completed
5 the family and community engagement professional development required under
6 subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section at least one (1) time before the 2023-
7 2024 school year, he or she shall not be required to complete the family and
8 community engagement professional development again;

9 (3) In the 2023-2024 school year and every ~~fourth~~ fifth school
10 year thereafter, the mental health awareness and teen suicide awareness and
11 prevention professional development required under § 6-17-708; and

12 (4)(A) In the 2016-2017 Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year
13 ~~and every fourth school year thereafter~~, the Arkansas history professional
14 development required under § 6-17-703 shall be taken by licensed personnel at
15 least one (1) time.

16 (B) If the appropriate licensed personnel has completed
17 the Arkansas history professional development required under subdivision
18 (a)(4)(A) of this section at least one (1) time before the 2023-2024 school
19 year, he or she shall not be required to complete the Arkansas history
20 professional development again, except as may be required for the subject
21 matter he or she teaches.

22 (b)(1) Two (2) hours of the professional development, or professional
23 learning credit as determined by the Division of Elementary and Secondary
24 Education, required by subsection (a) of this section shall be counted in one
25 (1) school year toward the professional development required for licensed
26 educators under the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules
27 Governing Professional Development.

28 (2) If additional hours or professional learning credits are
29 obtained by a licensed educator, the school district may count those hours or
30 credits as part of the professional development required for licensed
31 educators under the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules
32 Governing Professional Development.

33 (c) Annually, the State Board of Education may require up to six (6)
34 hours of integrated professional development, or professional learning
35 credits determined by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, for
36 licensed educators in educational technology.

1 (d) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall establish
2 the curriculum under this section in collaboration with educational agencies
3 and associations, including without limitation the:

- 4 (1) Division of Higher Education;
5 (2) Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;
6 (3) Arkansas Education Association;
7 (4) Arkansas School Boards Association;
8 (5) Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum
9 Development;
10 (6) Arkansas State Teachers Association; and
11 (7) Arkansas Rural Ed Association.

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

- 14 (A) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;
15 (B) An institution of higher education; or
16 (C) Providers approved by the Division of Elementary and
17 Secondary Education.

18 (2)(A) Before a person receives a building level administrator's
19 license, the person shall successfully complete the teacher evaluation
20 professional development program.

21 (B) A person who receives an initial building level
22 administrator's license shall complete the certification assessment for the
23 teacher evaluation professional development program before or after receiving
24 the initial building level administrator's license.

25 (3)(A) The Upon the issuance of an initial teaching license by
26 the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not issue an initial
27 teaching license until the applicant verifies that he or she has obtained the
28 required professional development concerning, an applicant shall obtain
29 training in the following areas within his or her first two (2) years of
30 initial employment as a licensed teacher in this state:

- 31 (i) Mandated ~~reporters~~ reporting under § 6-61-133;
32 (ii) Family and community engagement under § 6-15-
33 1703;
34 (iii) Teen suicide awareness and prevention under §
35 6-17-708;
36 (iv) Arkansas history under § 6-17-703; and

1 (v) Human trafficking under § 6-17-710.

2 (B) However, an applicant who has obtained the training
3 required under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section in a separate educator
4 preparation program or in another state and who has provided the division
5 with verification of the obtainment of the training shall not be subject to
6 the additional training required under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section.

7 ~~(B)(C)~~ For a teaching license issued under the state's
8 reciprocity provisions to an out-of-state teacher, the Division of Elementary
9 and Secondary Education shall issue a provisional license until the licensee
10 obtains the professional development identified in subdivision (e)(3)(A) of
11 this section.

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13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2402(1)(A), concerning the definition
14 of a "basic contract" under the Teacher Compensation Program of 2003, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (1)(A)(i) "Basic contract" means a teacher employment contract
17 for one hundred ninety (190) days that includes no less than six (6) days of
18 professional development, except as provided under subdivision (1)(B) of this
19 section for teachers employed in a Civilian Student Training Program or the
20 Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

21 (ii) A public school district shall not require more
22 than four (4) days of professional development in addition to the six (6)
23 days of professional development included in a basic contract under
24 subdivision (1)(A)(i) of this section.

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26 /s/Vaught
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