

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 571

5 By: Senator J. English
6 By: Representative Cozart
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE TO CLARIFY WHICH
10 INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY
11 IN KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF SCIENTIFIC READING
12 INSTRUCTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14
15
16 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE TO CLARIFY
17 WHICH INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO
18 DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY IN KNOWLEDGE AND
19 PRACTICES OF SCIENTIFIC READING
20 INSTRUCTION.
21

22
23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-429(d), concerning the individuals
26 required to demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and practices of scientific
27 reading instruction, is amended to read as follows:

28 (d)(1) By the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year:

29 (A)(i) All teachers employed in a classroom teaching
30 position that requires a license to teach elementary students in grades
31 kindergarten through six (K-6) or a license to teach a special education
32 course that directly relates to literacy for students in grades kindergarten
33 through twelve (K-12) shall demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and
34 practices of scientific reading instruction.

35 (ii) A teacher described in subdivision (d)(1)(A)(i)
36 of this section who has not demonstrated proficiency by the 2023-2024 school



1 year may be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency by being
2 placed in an intensive support status under § 6-17-2807 for a period of time
3 specified by the teacher’s evaluator in the professional growth plan for the
4 teacher; and

5 (B) All other teachers shall demonstrate awareness in
6 knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction.

7 (2) All teachers who begin employment in the 2023-2024 school
8 year and each following school year shall demonstrate proficiency or
9 awareness in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction as is
10 applicable to their teaching position by completing the prescribed
11 proficiency or awareness in knowledge and practices of scientific reading
12 instruction credential either:

13 (A) As a condition of licensure; or

14 (B) Within one (1) year if the teacher is:

15 (i) Already licensed; or

16 (ii) Employed under a waiver from licensure.

17 (3) The requirements under this subsection (d) shall not apply
18 to a teacher who:

19 (A) Has already demonstrated proficiency through an
20 approved, prescribed pathway; and

21 (B) Is adding an endorsement to his or her teaching
22 license.

23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36