

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/8/13 H2/12/13 S3/26/13 S3/28/13*

89th General Assembly

# A Bill

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL 1262

By: Representatives Eubanks, Branscum, Catlett, Clemmer, C. Douglas, Farrer, Gillam, Gossage,  
Hickerson, Lampkin, Lenderman, Vines, *Bell, Jett*

By: Senators J. English, Holland, J. Key

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL  
EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; TO DECLARE AN  
EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC  
SCHOOL EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT;  
AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-5-405 is repealed.*

~~*6-5-405. Professional development for higher education awareness.*~~

~~*(a) As used in this section, "state-supported student financial assistance" means:*~~

~~*(1) A state-supported scholarship or grant awarded by the Department of Higher Education; and*~~

~~*(2) A scholarship, grant, or tuition waiver awarded by an institution of higher education in this state funded in whole or in part with state funds.*~~

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

~~*(1) All public school superintendents and assistant*~~



~~superintendents; and~~

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

~~(A) Principals;~~

~~(B) Assistant principals; and~~

~~(C) Guidance counselors.~~

~~(e)(1) The first course shall be a three hour course to be taken within calendar year 2009, or within the first year of employment.~~

~~(2) After the first three hour course is completed, a one hour course is required to be completed annually.~~

~~(d) The professional development hours required under this section shall be counted toward the sixty (60) hours of the professional development required for licensed school personnel under the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.~~

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

6-15-1703. Professional development.

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

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

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

(A) Effective parent involvement strategies; and

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

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

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

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-703 is amended to read as follows:  
6-17-703. Arkansas history in-service training.

(a) ~~Every school district in this state~~ A school district shall provide two (2) hours of substantive and meaningful ~~in-service training~~ professional development in Arkansas history ~~each school year~~ for its teachers who provide instruction in Arkansas history according to the professional development schedule under § 6-17-709.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Is required by statute or the Department of Education; or

(2) Meets the following criteria:

(A) Is part of the minimum number of professional development hours required by law or by the department;

(B) Improves the knowledge, skills, and effectiveness of teachers;

(C) Improves the knowledge and skills of administrators and paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional strategies, methods, and skills;

(D) Leads to improved student academic achievement; and

(E) Is research-based and standards-based.

SECTION 5 Arkansas Code § 6-17-704(c)(1), concerning a professional

development plan, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(M) Provides educators with research-based instructional~~

~~strategies to assist students in meeting rigorous academic standards;~~

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

~~(O) Provides educators with knowledge and skills to appropriately involve families and other stakeholders in education;~~

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

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

(e) The professional development under this section:

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

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

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

(B) Culturally and linguistically diverse students.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6-17-709. Professional development schedule.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Department of Higher Education;

(2) Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;

(3) Arkansas Education Association;

(4) Arkansas School Boards Association;

(5) Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum

Development;

(6) Arkansas State Teachers Association; and

(7) Arkansas Rural Education Association.

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

(A) The Department of Education;

(B) An institutions of higher education; or

(C) Providers approved by the Department of Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2303(15)(A), concerning the definition of "professional development" for school funding purposes, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

(a) As used in this section:

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

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

- (A) School or school district administrator;
- (B) Teacher;
- (C) Coach for a school athletics program;
- (D) School counselor;
- (E) School social worker;
- (F) School psychologist; and
- (G) School nurse.

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

(d)(1) of this section.

(c) Licensed school personnel shall obtain the ~~training professional development~~ identified in subsection (d) of this section ~~within twelve (12) months of:~~

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

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

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

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

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

(C) Methods for managing disclosures regarding child victims.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 12. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is the state's

constitutional obligation to provide a general, suitable, and efficient free system of public schools in the state; that the professional development of public school teachers and administrators is critical to the delivery of a constitutionally adequate education; and that this act is immediately necessary for school districts and educators to prepare for the professional development requirements needed for the 2013-2014 school year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

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

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

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

*/s/Eubanks*

**APPROVED: 04/08/2013**