

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

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



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

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

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

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

(5) Clear content standards that:

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

(B) Align and integrate curriculum and instruction;

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) Ensure that guidance counselors and academic advisors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6-5-1004. Technical skills assessments.

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

(b) The technical skills assessment shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPROVED: 03/21/2017