

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

SENATE BILL 571

By: Senator J. English
By: Representative Cozart

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE TO CLARIFY WHICH INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY IN KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF SCIENTIFIC READING INSTRUCTION.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

(A) As a condition of licensure; or

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

(i) Already licensed; or

(ii) Employed under a waiver from licensure.

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

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

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

APPROVED: 4/12/23