

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: H4/12/13
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1709

By: Representative Bragg

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION *PROGRAM FOCUSED ON A CAREER PATH THROUGH VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TRAINING*; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; AND TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM FOCUSED ON A CAREER PATH THROUGH VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TRAINING.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-18-231. Career Path Program.

(a) By July 1, 2014, the Department of Education and the Department of Career Education shall develop a Career Path Program for Arkansas public high schools.

(b) The program shall provide a student who is sixteen (16), seventeen (17), or eighteen (18) years of age the opportunity to select a career focus and complete vocational-technical training that leads to a certificate of completion in the vocational-technical area of study and a high school diploma.



(c) The purpose of the program is to address the educational and career training of students who:

(1) May desire a career path other than the traditional enrollment in postsecondary education as a first-time full-time freshman; or

(2) Have left high school and want to return to complete their secondary education.

(d)(1) When a student enrolls in the program, the school, the Adult Education Section of the Department of Career Education, the student, and the parent jointly shall develop an education plan for the participating student that:

(A) Includes learning opportunities, vocational-technical training, tutoring, and mentoring designed to meet the participating student's needs;

(B) Includes meetings with a guidance counselor;

(C) Is not based entirely on traditional credit-based instruction;

(D) May provide for a minimum number of hours of adult education programming based on:

(i) The educational needs of the participating student; and

(ii) The employment of the student, if applicable;
and

(E) May include without limitation transitional courses and courses for concurrent credit.

(e) In developing the program, the Department of Education and the Department of Career Education may include without limitation:

(1) Exempting the student from the compulsory attendance requirements of § 6-18-201 while the student is participating in the program;

(2) Providing counseling, mentoring, tutoring, or other support services identified under the student's education plan;

(3) Flexibility in the number of instructional hours required to be delivered on a school campus; and

(4) An alternative or dual high school diploma.

(f) The State Board of Education and the State Board of Career Education may promulgate rules as necessary to implement this section.

/s/Bragg