

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: H3/25/13
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2039

By: Representative Mayberry

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COLLEGE AND CAREER COACHES PROGRAM; TO ASSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO A COLLEGE AND CAREER COACH FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND CAREERS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE COLLEGE AND CAREER COACHES PROGRAM; AND TO ASSURE ACCESS TO A COLLEGE AND CAREER COACH FOR ALL STUDENTS.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Many students leave high school:

(A) Without a plan for their education, training, or career after high school;

(B) Unaware or lacking understanding of the process or preparation required for success after high school graduation; and

(C) Failing to recognize the value of secondary education, leading to high dropout rates; and

(2) The state has a responsibility to assist the citizens of Arkansas to advance and to prosper by providing access to the College and Career Coaches Program that will assist students by:

(A) Intervening at the middle school and high school



level;

(B) Assisting students with developing and maintaining dynamic career plans;

(C) Exposing students to various opportunities for careers and education after high school; and

(D) Educating students about the process for pursuing postsecondary education and financial assistance.

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

Subchapter 6 - College and Career Coaches Program

6-1-601. Findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Highly skilled and educated people who can handle demanding jobs and generate new ideas are necessary for Arkansas to prosper in a global economy; and

(2) With only eighteen percent (18%) of Arkansans twenty-five (25) years of age and older holding a baccalaureate degree, Arkansas is ranked forty-ninth in the nation for adults who hold a baccalaureate degree, creating a impediment to the success of the state.

6-1-602. Creation - Program participation.

(a)(1) The College and Career Coaches Program is established to assist students in preparing for postsecondary education or careers.

(2) Coaches shall be accessible to students who attend middle schools and high schools located in Tier 3 and Tier 4 counties.

(b)(1) School districts located in Tier 3 and Tier 4 counties shall receive priority to participate in the College and Career Coaches Program.

(2) School districts located outside of Tier 3 and Tier 4 counties who do not have access to a College and Career Coaches Program may apply jointly with an institution of higher education, an education service cooperative, or a non-profit organization to the Department of Career Education for participation in the College and Career Coaches Program.

(c) A school district participating in the College and Career Coaches Program is eligible for administrative support and supplemental grants if funding is available.

(d) A school district may use national school lunch state categorical funds to support the school district's participation in the College and Career Coaches Program.

(e) Participation in the College and Career Coaches Program is contingent on the availability of funding.

6-1-603. Program administration.

(a) The Department of Career Education, in partnership with the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education, shall develop and administer the College and Career Coaches Program.

(b) The Department of Career Education, the division manager for Arkansas Works, an administrative analyst and at least two (2) managers, shall manage the College and Career Coaches Program and:

(1) Provide guidelines and procedures for implementing the College and Career Coaches Program;

(2) Develop, coordinate, and offer training opportunities for college and career coaches;

(3) Monitor implementation of the College and Career Coaches Program by on-site technical assistance visits at least one (1) time every five (5) years;

(4) Develop guidelines and procedures for the application process;

(5) Accept or reject the annual application of a College and Career Coaches Program after:

(A) Reviewing and evaluating evidence of the performance and success of a College and Career Coaches Program; and

(B) Prioritizing approval and supplemental grant funding to College and Career Coaches Programs in Tier 3 and Tier 4 counties that are operated in partnership between a school district, an institution of higher education, an education service cooperative, or a non-profit organization; and

(6) Prepare annual reports that may be shared with members of the:

(A) Governor's Workforce Cabinet;

(B) General Assembly; and

(C) Governor's office.

6-1-604. College and career coaches - Duties - Supervision.

(a) A college and career coach shall:

(1) Hold a baccalaureate degree; and

(2) Complete the required career development facilitator training within one (1) year of hiring.

(b) The college and career coaches shall be stationed at an institution of higher education, an education service cooperative, or a non-profit organization and shall provide services and support to students in middle schools and high schools located in Tier 3 and Tier 4 counties, including without limitation:

(1) Assisting the career orientation instructor with the development of college and career plans for students, beginning in grade seven (7);

(2) Assisting the school counselor with college and career planning resources and revising college and career plans for each student annually, beginning in grade nine (9);

(3) Offering high school students college and career planning services and activities that combine counseling on career options and experiential learning with academic planning to assist students with their college and career plans;

(4) Encouraging parental participation by scheduling annual parent sessions, beginning with students in grade seven (7), to assist parents and students in understanding the college and career planning process;

(5) Providing parents and high school students with information about career and technology education program opportunities available in Arkansas and the level of education and skill required to be successful in various career fields;

(6) Preparing high school students with information and preparation for financing a postsecondary education;

(7) Assisting schools in promoting quality career development for students in grades seven through twelve (7-12);

(8) Supporting students in middle school and high school in the exploration of career clusters and the selection of an area of academic focus with a cluster of study;

(9) Improving and promoting career development and college planning opportunities within school districts and communities;

(10) Attending continuing education programs on the certified career development facilitator curriculum sponsored by the state;

(11) Coordinating with school counselors and school administrators on career day events, career classes, career programming, college planning, and financial aid activities;

(12) Coordinating community resources and citizens representing diverse occupations to provide career development activities for parents and students; and

(13) Assisting with online-based career guidance and college planning systems.

(c)(1) An institution of higher education, an education service cooperative, or a non-profit organization participating in the College and Career Coaches Program shall assign an on-site supervisor who shall:

(A) Supervise the College and Career Coaches Program locally; and

(B) Be a liaison between the institution of higher education, education service cooperative, or non-profit organization and the Department of Career Education.

(2) The Department of Career Education, through the division manager for Arkansas Works, and the on-site supervisor shall evaluate the performance of each college and career coach.

6-1-605. Program effectiveness and measurement.

(a)(1) The effectiveness of the College and Career Coaches Program shall be evaluated based on measurable benefits to students, including increases in:

(A) High school graduation rates;

(B) Completion of the Smart Core curriculum;

(C) College attendance rates;

(D) Remediation rates; and

(E) Applications for financial aid.

(2)(A) The Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education shall collect and report performance data to determine the effectiveness of the program.

(B) The data shall be collected for each county and school district served by the College and Career Coaches Program and shall be shared with the Department of Career Education on January 1 and August 1 each year.

(b) Annually, each college and career coach shall submit a report to the division manager for Arkansas Works describing his or her student contacts and the programs and services provided.

/s/Mayberry