

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

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1652

By: Representatives Ratliff, Baltz

By: Senator B. Pierce

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING THE TEACHER EXCELLENCE AND SUPPORT SYSTEM;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING THE TEACHER EXCELLENCE AND
SUPPORT SYSTEM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1305(10), concerning school district policy, is amended to read as follows:

(10) Teacher evaluations, professional ~~learning~~ growth plans, and teacher support under the Teacher Excellence and Support System, § 6-17-2801 et seq.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-202(f)(49) and (50), concerning the statement of assurances of public school superintendents, are amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(49) Section 6-42-101 concerning gifted and talented children;
~~and~~

(50) Section 6-17-2803(5) and rules promulgated by the state board concerning the required training and credentialing of evaluators under the Teacher Excellence and Support System, § 6-17-2801 et seq.; and

(51) Any other statutory mandate for school districts identified



by the department as relevant to the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1004(c)(1)(A), concerning the requirement for a highly qualified teacher to obtain professional development, is amended to read as follows:

(A) Based on the teacher's evaluation and professional ~~learning growth~~ plan under the Teacher Excellence and Support System, § 6-17-2801 et seq.;

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-705(c)(2), concerning professional development credit earned during planning time at the beginning of a school year, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Teacher's professional ~~learning growth~~ plan under the Teacher Excellence and Support System, § 6-17-2801 et seq.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2803(7)(B)(i), concerning the definition of "formal classroom observation", is amended to read as follows:

(B)(i) Is conducted by an evaluator for at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the class period either by observing the teacher ~~in:~~

(a) In the classroom ~~or through~~;

(b) Through the use of three-hundred-sixty-degree video technology; or

(c) For a teacher in a digital learning environment, through the use of other appropriate technology.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2803, concerning definitions for the Teacher Excellence and Support System, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

(21) "Professional development plan" means the professional development plan under § 6-17-704 that encompasses all professional development required by rule, under law, and by a school district, public school, or education service cooperative for a teacher; and

(22) "Professional growth plan" means the component of a professional development plan that is designed to meet the specific growth needs of a teacher identified under the Teacher Excellence and Support

System, § 6-17-2801 et seq.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2805(d), concerning summative evaluations, is repealed.

~~(d)(1) In a tested content area, among the artifacts considered by the teacher and evaluator shall be external assessment measures chosen by the teacher and evaluator or by the evaluator if the teacher and evaluator are unable to agree.~~

~~(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (d)(2)(B) of this section, in a nontested content area, among the artifacts considered by the teacher and evaluator, or by the evaluator if the teacher and evaluator cannot agree, shall be external assessments.~~

~~(B)(i) If an external assessment measurement does not exist for the nontested content area, the Department of Education shall by rule determine the type of artifact that may be used otherwise to satisfy the external assessment measurement requirement under subdivision (d)(2)(A) of this section.~~

~~(ii) In a tested content area, the teacher and evaluator shall choose the summary growth statistic associated with the state-mandated assessment for the tested content area as one (1) of the external assessment measures to satisfy the requirements under subdivision (d)(1) of this section.~~

~~(iii) In tested and nontested content areas, the department may authorize school districts to create external assessment measures to include without limitation formative assessments.~~

~~(iv) If an external assessment measure does not exist for the nontested content area and a school district does not create an external assessment measure for the nontested content area, the department may prescribe a state-mandated assessment to satisfy the requirements of subdivision (d)(2) of this section.~~

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2805(e)(2), concerning what a summative evaluation shall include, is amended to read as follows:

(2) A formal classroom observation and may also include an informal classroom observation;

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2806(a), concerning teacher support components of the Teacher Excellence and Support System, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(3) of this section, a teacher being evaluated and the evaluator, working together, shall develop a professional learning growth plan for the teacher that:

(A) Identifies professional learning growth outcomes to advance the teacher's professional skills; and

(B) Clearly links professional development activities and the teacher's individual professional learning growth needs identified through the Teacher Excellence and Support System, § 6-17-2801 et seq.

(2) The professional learning growth plan shall require that at least one-half (1/2) of the professional development hours required by law or rule for a teacher licensure are directly related to one (1) or more of:

(A) The teacher's content area;

(B) Instructional strategies applicable to the teacher's content area; or

(C) The teacher's identified needs.

(3) If the teacher and the evaluator cannot agree on a professional learning growth plan, the evaluator's decision shall be final.

(4)(A) For a teacher in intensive support status, the evaluator or an administrator designated by the evaluator shall have final approval of the teacher's professional learning growth plan.

(B) Until the teacher is removed from intensive support status, the teacher's professional growth plan shall require that all professional development identified in the professional learning plan required for licensure, except professional development that is required by law ~~or by the public school where the teacher is employed~~ shall be directly related to the individual teacher's needs.

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2807(d)(1)(A), concerning intensive support status under the Teacher Excellence and Support System, is amended to read as follows:

(A) The professional learning growth plan; and

SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2808(b)(2), concerning implementation

of the Teacher Excellence and Support System, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) At least one (1) time every ~~three (3)~~ four (4) school years, a public school shall conduct a summative evaluation for a teacher who is not in a status under subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

(B) In a school year in which a summative evaluation is not required for a teacher under this subdivision (b)(2), the teacher:

(i) Shall focus on elements of the teacher's professional ~~learning growth~~ plan as approved by the evaluator that are designed to help the teacher improve his or her teaching practices; and

(ii) With the evaluator's approval may:

(a) Collaborate with a team of teachers on a shared plan that benefits the whole school, a content area, or a grade level; or

(b) Conduct self-directed research related to the teacher's professional ~~learning growth~~ plan under § 6-17-2806.

SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2808(b)(2)(C), concerning implementation of the Teacher Excellence and Support System, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

(3) Annually, a public school shall assign each teacher employed by the school an annual overall rating that is based on:

(A) The teacher's professional practice, as evidenced by the performance rating for a summative evaluation or for an interim appraisal; and

(B) Student growth, as determined by rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.

(4)(A) A teacher shall submit artifacts agreed upon by the teacher and evaluator or by the evaluator if the teacher and evaluator cannot agree, as evidence of professional practice in determining the performance rating for a summative evaluation for or for an interim appraisal.

(B) External assessment measures may be among the artifacts submitted.

SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2808(c)(1)(B), concerning implementation of the Teacher Excellence and Support System, is amended to read as follows:

(B)(i) Collaborate in good faith with the evaluator to develop the teacher's professional ~~learning~~ growth plan under § 6-17-2806(a).

(ii) If a teacher and evaluator cannot agree on the professional ~~learning~~ growth plan, the evaluator's decision shall be final.