

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

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/9/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1811

By: Representative Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-15-104. Prekindergarten programs.

(a) A prekindergarten program that receives state funds shall:

(1) Be approved by the Department of Education pursuant to requirements developed by the department; and

(2) Use the prekindergarten academic content standards established by the State Board of Education under § 6-15-404.

(b) The department shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-404(a), concerning academic content standards, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) The State Board of Education shall establish clear, specific, and challenging academic content standards for prekindergarten through grade twelve (preK-12) which that define what students shall know and be able to do in each content area.

(B) The prekindergarten academic content standards



established under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall be aligned with the academic content standards established for students in kindergarten to facilitate the transition from prekindergarten programs into kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) education.

(2) Instruction in all public schools and prekindergarten programs that receive state funds shall be based on these academic content standards.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-45-103(1), concerning the definition of "appropriate early childhood program" under the Arkansas Better Chance Program Act, is amended to read as follows:

(1)(A) "Appropriate early childhood program" means a developmentally appropriate program for young children, birth through five (5) years of age, approved by the Department of Education as complying with the regulatory guidelines of the early childhood state accreditation by the Department of Human Services and Arkansas Better Chance Core Quality Approval Standards of the Department of Education to be issued by the Department of Education pursuant to this chapter.

(B) An "appropriate early childhood program" that serves children from three (3) years of age to five (5) years of age shall:

(i) Be a prekindergarten program approved by the Department of Education under § 6-15-104; and

(ii) Use the prekindergarten academic content standards established by the State Board of Education under § 6-15-404;

/s/Davis