

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1657

By: Representative Vaught
By: Senator E. Cheatham

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1703 is amended to read as follows:
6-15-1703. Professional development.

(a) The State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts shall require the following professional development ~~hours~~ according to the professional development schedule under § 6-17-709:

(1) Two (2) hours of professional development, or professional learning credit as determined by the Department of Education, as part of the ~~minimum number of hours of~~ professional development required for teachers, designed to enhance understanding of effective ~~parental involvement~~ family and community engagement strategies; and

(2) Two (2) hours of professional development, or professional learning credit as determined by the department, as part of the ~~minimum number of hours of~~ professional development required for administrators, designed to enhance understanding of:



(A) Effective ~~parent involvement~~ family and community engagement strategies; and

(B) The importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to ~~parental~~ family and community participation.

(b) A school district shall provide training at least annually for volunteers who assist in an instructional program for ~~parents~~ families and the community.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-418(a)(2)(B), concerning Arkansas history professional development through ArkansasIDEAS, is amended to read as follows:

(B) ~~A forty-five-hour professional development piece~~ An approved learning pathway in Arkansas history offered through ArkansasIDEAS for professional development hours or professional learning credits as determined by the Department of Education.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-703(a), concerning Arkansas history professional development for teachers who provide instruction in Arkansas history, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A school district shall provide two (2) hours, or professional learning credits as determined by the Department of Education, of substantive and meaningful professional development in Arkansas history for its teachers who provide instruction in Arkansas history according to the professional development schedule under § 6-17-709.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-704(a)(2)(A), concerning the minimum number of professional development hours required in a professional development plan, is amended to read as follows:

(A) Is part of the minimum number of professional development hours or professional learning credits as determined by the department required by law or by the department;

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-705(a)-(c), concerning planning and preparation time counting towards professional development credit, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Up to twelve (12) hours of professional development credit, or professional learning credits as determined by the Department of Education, may be earned by licensed personnel for time required at the beginning of each school year to plan and prepare a curriculum and other instructional material for their assigned classes if the time is:

(1) Spent in their classrooms, offices, or media centers at the public school; and

(2) Before the first student-teacher interaction day of the school year, but a school district shall not require licensed personnel to work additional days that are not included in their contracts unless the licensed personnel are paid their daily rate of pay.

(b) Licensed personnel shall earn one (1) hour of professional development credit, or professional learning credits as determined by the department, for each hour of planning and preparation that meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

(c)(1) If illness of a teacher or a teacher's immediate family under § 6-17-1202 prevents a teacher from obtaining the required professional development ~~hours~~, the teacher shall be allowed to make up the ~~hours~~ professional development missed during the:

(A) Remainder of the current school year; or

(B) Succeeding school year.

(2) The teacher may earn the professional development hours, or professional learning credits as determined by the department, through online professional development.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-17-706(a), concerning professional development credit exemption, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Licensed personnel working part time shall be exempt from one-half (1/2) of the professional development ~~hours~~ required under the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts if they work solely in any of the following adult education programs:

- (1) Adult basic education;
- (2) General adult education;
- (3) English as a second language for adults; ~~and~~ or
- (4) High school equivalency test examiners.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-17-708(a)(1), concerning teen suicide awareness and prevention professional development, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The Department of Education shall require two (2) hours of professional development, or professional learning credits as determined by the department, in teen suicide awareness and prevention for licensed public school personnel according to the professional development schedule under § 6-17-709.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709(a)(2), concerning the professional development schedule concerning parental involvement, is amended to read as follows:

(2) In the 2014-2015 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, the ~~parental involvement~~ family and community engagement professional development under § 6-15-1703;

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709(b), concerning the calculation of professional development hours under the professional development schedule, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) Two (2) hours of the professional development, or professional learning credit as determined by the Department of Education, required by subsection (a) of this section shall be counted in one (1) school year toward the ~~minimum number of hours of~~ professional development required for licensed educators under the Department of Education Rules Governing Professional Development.

(2) If additional hours or professional learning credits are obtained by a licensed educator, the school district may count those hours or credits as part of the ~~minimum number of hours of~~ professional development required for licensed educators under the Department of Education Rules Governing Professional Development.

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709(c), concerning professional development with respect to educational technology under the professional development schedule, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Annually, the State Board of Education may require up to six (6) hours of integrated professional development, or professional learning

credits determined by the department, for licensed educators in educational technology.

SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709(e)(3)(A), concerning professional development scheduling, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) The ~~Department of Education~~ department shall not issue an initial teaching license until the applicant verifies that he or she has obtained the required professional development concerning:

- (i) Mandated reporters under § 6-61-133;
- (ii) ~~Parental involvement~~ Family and community engagement under § 6-15-1703;
- (iii) Teen suicide awareness and prevention under § 6-17-708; ~~and~~
- (iv) Arkansas history under § 6-17-703-~~r~~; and
- (v) Human trafficking under § 6-17-710.

SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-17-710(a) and (b), concerning professional development related to recognizing human trafficking, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Each year, a school district shall make available to licensed personnel thirty (30) minutes of professional development, or professional learning credit as determined by the Department of Education, on:

- (1) Recognizing the warning signs that a child is a victim of human trafficking; and
- (2) Reporting a suspicion that a child is a victim of human trafficking.

(b) The ~~Department of Education~~ department or another person, firm, or corporation designated by the department shall develop and administer the professional development under subsection (a) of this section.