

2015 Education Acts

Act Number	Arkansas Code Citation	Short Title	Effective Date	Explanation	Type
23	§ 20-78-227	TO EXEMPT STATE INSTITUTIONS, POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, AND ANY OTHER APPLICABLE ENTITY WITH TORT LIABILITY IMMUNITY FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE WHEN OBTAINING A CHILD CARE FACILITY LICENSE	2/6/2015	Regarding licensed childcare centers, the Act clarifies that a state institution, political subdivision, or other entity that is entitled to immunity from liability under 21-9-301 is not required to have general liability insurance coverage in order to be licensed.	Legal
27	§ 6-20-404	TO CHANGE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ISOLATED FUNDING.	7/22/2015	The Act would amend Ark. Code Ann. 6-20-604(d)(1)(C), concerning local school district special needs isolated funding. Currently, one requirement for the receipt of this funding is that the school district must have a density ratio of one and four-tenths (1.4) students or less per mile. This bill would amend that requirement so that a school district must have a density ratio of one and five-tenths (1.5) students or less per square mile.	Fiscal
44	§ 6-17-2402	TO CHANGE THE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS REQUIRED FOR TEACHERS.	7/22/2015	The Act modifies the required number of professional development (PD) days in a teacher's contract to six (6) days from ten (10) days.	Professional Development
141	§ 6-10-108	TO ALLOW SCHOOL VACATIONS TO LAST SEVEN (7) WEEKS IN SCHOOLS THAT OPERATE ON A TWELVE-MONTH CALENDAR.	7/22/2015	The Act allows schools on a twelve-month calendar to have vacations, including summers, last up to seven weeks.	Education
143	§ 6-10-126	TO PROVIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH FLEXIBILITY IN DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY INCLEMENT WEATHER DAY; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.	2/23/2015	The Act adds section 6-10-126, which allows a superintendent to start school late (by 10 a.m.) or dismiss early (after 1:00 p.m.) for inclement weather and still have the day count as a school day. The district may exercise these options up to five (5) days per school year.	Education
160	§ 6-16-146	TO REQUIRE THAT CURSIVE WRITING BE TAUGHT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.	7/22/2015	Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, every public elementary 22 school shall teach cursive writing as a component of English language arts by 23 the end of grade three (3).	Education
187	§ 6-16-146	TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO OFFER A COURSE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE; TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY	2/24/2015	The Act requires public high schools and public charter high schools to offer at least one high school level computer science course that meets or exceeds curriculum standards established by the State Board of Education.	Education
298	§ 6-15-107	TO ALLOW THE ARKANSAS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY TO ENTER INTO A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AND A PUBLIC-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.	7/22/2015	The Act allows the Arkansas Leadership Academy to enter into a private-public partnership or a public-public partnership if the partnership will enhance the leadership skills of school principals, teachers, superintendents, other school administrators, school district board members, students, or other stakeholders.	Professional Development
345	§ 6-20-2204	TO AMEND THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ARKANSAS EDUCATIONAL FINANCIAL ACCOUNT AND REPORTING ACT OF 2004; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.	3/6/2015	The Act change the required number of hours of training for superintendents, charter directors, co-op directors, or other persons in charge of the budget or accounting.	Fiscal
372	§§ 6-13-1501, 6-13-1502	AN ACT TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BY DETACHING TERRITORY FROM AN EXISTING SCHOOL DISTRICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.	7/22/2015	The Act amends the requirements for detachment of territory from a school district in the following ways: the requirement for the number of students in the resulting district has changed from 4,000 to 2,500; the bill repeals the requirements in (b) a new district may be created from an existing school district or two or more existing contiguous school districts. However, (c) still reads that a new school district must only be made up of students from one school district; the new and old districts are required to have 2,500 students each rather than 4,000 students each; the Act expands the districts eligible to have territory detached to those school districts that had between 5,000 and 20,000 students in average daily membership in the previous year and encompass a total area of 450 square miles or more, now or in the future.	Consolidation/Annexation
377	§§ 6-13-1603, 6-13-1613	AN ACT TO PROVIDE A WAIVER FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM AN ADMINISTRATIVE CONSOLIDATION OR REORGANIZATION UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.	7/22/2015	The Act creates code 6-13-1613 which allows for a minimum school district size waiver for schools facing administrative consolidation or reorganization. A school placed on the consolidation list may annually request a waiver from the average daily membership requirement of 350 students by submitting a petition for a waiver no later than 30 days after the consolidation list is published.	Consolidation/Annexation

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379	§§ 6-13-608, 6-13-617, 6-14-115	TO MODIFY STATUTORY PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND TO CLARIFY REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO OATH OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.	7/22/2015	The Act amends various provisions relating to a school board member taking the oath of office after he or she is elected for an initial or nonconsecutive term of office. The bill provides that if a person elected for a position fails to take the oath in the prescribed time, the position is vacant. The bill requires the county clerk to send notice to elected or appointed directors that the directors are required to take the oath of office within 10 days of receipt of the notice. After the oath is administered, the director is required to submit a certification of administration of the oath to the county clerk. The director is commissioned and enters his or her duties upon receipt of the certification by the clerk. By the close of business the day following the receipt of certification, the clerk is required to call the superintendent and tell him or her the individual has taken the oath. The clerk must send a copy of the certification to the superintendent within 5 business days.	Board/Commission
394	§ 6-21-108	TO ENSURE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT CAN DONATE BUILDINGS OR REAL PROPERTY TO AN INCORPORATED TOWN	7/22/2015	The Act amends Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-108(b) to include an incorporated town to the list of potential recipients for school district buildings or real property.	Facilities/Transportation
525	§ 6-11-102	TO MODIFY THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A PERSON TO SERVE AS THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.	3/18/2015	The Act requires the Commissioner of Education to have the current statutorily required qualifications to be commissioner unless the Deputy Commissioner possesses those qualifications.	State Board
560	§§ 6-13-113, 6-18-1901, <i>et seq.</i>	TO REQUIRE A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUBJECT TO A DESEGREGATION ORDER TO NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE DESEGREGATION ORDER; TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE ACT OF 2013; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.	3/20/2015	The Act amends and/or clarifies various provisions of the Public School Choice Act of 2013, including changing its name to the Public School Choice Act of 2015. It also requires school districts subject to a desegregation order to provide a copy of the desegregation order to the Arkansas Department of Education by January 1, 2016.	Legal
562	Not Codified	TO ALLOW FREEDOM OF PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS IN ARKANSAS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.	3/20/2015	The Act states that the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) shall allow an AAA member school to play a home school team if the home school team complies with the conditions listed in the Act.	Education
568	§ 6-13-629	TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION FROM MEMBERS FOR MEMBERS OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.	7/22/2015	The Act concerns training and instruction of board members on how to read an audit report.	Fiscal
722	§§ 6-21-112, 6-21-114, 6-21-809	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC FACILITIES.	7/22/2015	The Act amends several code sections concerning public school academic facilities.	Facilities/Transportation
739	§ 6-23-908	TO ESTABLISH THE OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES FUNDING AID PROGRAM.	7/22/2015	The Act creates the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Facilities Funding Program.	Facilities/Transportation
841	§§ 6-15-426, 6-15-2201, 6-15-2202	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS.	7/22/2015	The Act removes the requirement to include the use of categorical funds from the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP) and replaces it with a general description. Districts and schools that are required to submit a revised ACSIP will now be required to develop the revised plan with ADE. The ADE will have the responsibility to monitor the development and implementation of the revised plan. The Act remove some of ADE's ACSIP monitoring requirements.	Education
846	§§ 6-1-101, 6-11-101, 6-13-611, 6-13-612, 6-13-1022, 6-15-430, 6-15-2009, 6-15-2107, 6-19-114, 6-20-402, 6-20-407, 6-20-601, 6-20-604, 6-20-606, 6-20-806, 6-20-1001, 6-20-1006, 6-20-1008, 6-20-1203, 6-20-1206, 6-20-1217, 6-20-1227, 6-20-2303, 6-20-2305, 6-23-203, 6-23-305, 6-23-601, 6-24-105, 6-24-106, 6-24-107, 6-48-101, 20-7-134, 21-2-702	TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC EDUCATION.	7/22/2015	The Act amends various provisions of the public education code. It makes several technical corrections, repeals certain sections, and changes references from "benchmark" to "state-mandated."	Education

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853	§ 6-15-213	TO ENSURE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF THE STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFERS A COURSE BUT NO STUDENTS ENROLL IN THE COURSE.	7/22/2015	The Act states that a course will be considered "taught" if: (1) all students enrolled in the course drop it, or (2) the course is offered and no one signs up to take it. The Act also provides that the school district will not be cited for a violation of the Standards for Accreditation related to this issue, assuming it meets the other statutory requirements including seeking a waiver from the State Board of Education.	Education
854	§§ 6-15-419, 6-15-2107	TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL RECOGNITION AND REWARD PROGRAM.	7/22/2015	The Act makes changes to the Arkansas School Recognition and Reward Program, specifically qualification criteria.	Education
931	§§ 6-41-701 <i>et seq.</i>	TO ESTABLISH THE BUILDING BETTER FUTURES HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM.	4/2/2015	The Act establishes the Building Better Futures High School Program, the purpose of which is to allow students with intellectual disabilities to broaden their career opportunities in an inclusive, age-appropriate environment while completing additional years of high school.	Education
936	§ 6-20-2517	TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL NURSES HAVE ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT THAT ENABLE THEM TO DO THEIR JOB.	7/22/2015	The Act requires that each new application for a new school building or major renovation to an existing building to include a school nursing center, beginning with the 2017-2019 funding cycle for Facilities Partnership. It also adds a new section creating a pilot program for school nurse facility and equipment needs. The Facilities commission would make the rules for granting funds, and the Facilities division would be responsible for administering grant funds.	Facilities/Transportation
941	§ 6-19-129	TO ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT THE OPTION OF ALLOWING ADVERTISING ON SCHOOL BUSES.	7/22/2015	The Act creates new code section 6-19-129 that would allow a school district board of directors to allow advertising on school buses provided it meets the requirements established by the Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation. Any revenue generated shall be used for school transportation purposes only, as determined by the board.	Facilities/Transportation
947	§§ 6-13-1505, 6-20-1201	TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT DETACHMENT; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.	4/2/2015	The Act amends code 6-13-1505 which regulates the creation of a school district, and amends code 6-20-1201 which authorizes a school district to borrow money and issue bonds.	Education
950	§§ 6-15-1302, 6-15-1303	TO CREATE THE 2015 SCHOOL SAFETY ACT.	7/22/2015	The Act removes the requirement for emergency plans for terror attacks and creates requirements for a panic button alert system, if funding is available. The panic button alert system must be in place by September 1, 2015, and connect the caller with 911 while simultaneously notifying on-site personnel and must directly interface with the Smart 911 system. The alert system must be compatible with smart phone apps, have a non-smartphone wireless capability, and must be limited to designated users.	Education
952	§ 6-16-1004	AN ACT TO INCLUDE DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS IN THE CURRICULUM FOR HEALTH.	7/22/2015	The Act requires a health course offered in grades seven through twelve (7-12) to include a Dating Violence Awareness component. ADE shall annually provide a list of source materials available for school districts to use to teach the unit.	Education
960	§§ 6-1-602 <i>et seq.</i>	TO AMEND THE COLLEGE AND CAREER COACHES PROGRAM.	7/22/2015	The Act expands the Career Coaches program to all schools, rather than only schools in Tier 3 and Tier 4 counties.	Education
962	§§ 6-20-2511, 6-20-2514, 6-20-2515	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF TITLE 6 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES.	7/22/2015	The Act amends several provisions concerning public school facilities.	Facilities/Transportation
964	§ 6-17-120	TO DETERMINE A TIME FRAME FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE TO OPT IN OR OPT OUT OF MEMBERSHIP IN A LABOR ORGANIZATION.	7/22/2015	The Act adds code 6-17-120 which defines "labor organization" and states a public school employee may join or terminate membership in a labor organization at any time, and that a labor organization or employer may not place restrictions on the employee's ability to join or terminate membership.	District Personnel
987	Appropriation	AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION- GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR	7/1/2015	This is the FY16 appropriation bill for the Public School Fund. Appropriation amounts reflect Legislative Recommendation for each line item. Positions and special language reflect Legislative Recommendation.	Fiscal
989	§ 6-15-441	TO EXPAND THE ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PLANNING PROGRAM BY ALLOWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO USE THE ASPIRE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE ACT EXPLORE AND ACT PLAN OR PSAT.	7/22/2015	The Act offers the option of administering the Aspire Assessment System to each student "at the appropriate grade level." It also adds the Aspire Assessment System (including the ACT) to the current list of assessments (EXPLORE, PLAN, and PSAT) for which "the Department may designate alternative assessments to satisfy the purposes of this section."	Education

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993	§ 6-17-812	TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION TO A TEACHER IN GRADES SEVEN THROUGH TWELVE (7-12) WHO ELECTS TO TEACH MORE THAN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS PERMITTED.	7/22/2015	The Act allow a teacher in grades 7-12 to volunteer to teach more students than is allowed in the Standards for Accreditation and have his or her pay increased in a proportionate amount to his or her base pay and the additional number of students. A teacher is not required to teach more students than required, class sizes may not exceed what is allowed in Standards, and each school district is to adopt a policy to implement the section.	Education
994	§§ 6-20-2305, 6-48-102	TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO USE CERTAIN CATEGORICAL FUNDS FOR PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO OFFER CONCURRENT COURSES OR OTHER TECHNICAL EDUCATION OPTIONS.	7/22/2015	The Act allows schools more flexibility on allowable expenditures with NSL funds. Specifically, it allows for concurrent courses or technical education options for students in grades 8-12.	Fiscal
995	§ 6-17-1117	TO REQUIRE A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO INCREASE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION TO EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE BY THE SAME AMOUNT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT INCREASES AN EMPLOYEE'S SALARY.	7/22/2015	The Act requires the minimum school district health insurance contribution to increase annually by the same percentage as the foundation funding amount increase. It also requires school districts to increase their local contribution rate (the amount the district pays above the minimum required) by the same percentage that the district increases the base salary for licensed employees under its salary schedule	Fiscal
1074	Not Codified	TO DELAY THE USE OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS (PARCC) ASSESSMENT.	4/6/2015	The Act requires the State Board of Education (SBE) not to renew its role as a governing state, its participation with PARCC, or to enter into any contract or agreement in excess of one (1) year related to statewide assessments. The SBE shall take into consideration any recommendations that are made by the Governor's Council on Common Core Review before entering into any contract or agreement related to statewide testing for the 2016-2017 school year. ADE may complete PARCC activities for the 2014-2015 school year. After June 1, 2015, the SBE may not provide access of any individually identifiable student data to the Federal Department of Education or its affiliates without written consent of the legal guardian of the student.	Education
1079	§§ 6-16-130, 6-16-132	TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO SCHOOL DISTRICT IN SCHEDULING ART, MUSIC, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION.	7/22/2015	The Act adjusts the instruction time requirement for art, music, and physical education to at least forty (40) minutes per week with no maximum.	Education
1087	§ 6-17-2403	TO AMEND THE MINIMUM TEACHER COMPENSATION SCHEDULE.	7/22/2015	The Act amends the minimum teacher compensation schedule and clarifies that it does not apply to part-time teachers or paraprofessionals employed by a district to work in an adult education program	Fiscal
1089	§§ 6-17-410, 6-17-411, 6-17-414, 6-17-417, 6-17-2604	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR LICENSED PERSONNEL AND CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.	7/22/2015	The Act amends various provisions of the Arkansas Code regarding background checks for public school licensed personnel and classified employees.	Licensure/Recruitment
1090	§§ 6-15-1004, 6-17-301, 6-17-402, 6-17-403, 6-17-409, 6-17-418, 6-17-419, 6-17-422, 6-17-428	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING TEACHER LICENSURE, TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS, AND EDUCATOR ETHICS VIOLATIONS.	7/22/2015	The Act amends various provisions of Arkansas Code regarding teacher licensure, including: professional development credit for graduate-level course work, restrictions on hiring an individual whose teaching license is suspended or revoked, waiver of exam requirements for those seeking an out-of-state teaching license under certain conditions, requirements for social studies or elementary licensure, and others. The Act also amends the audit cycle for teacher preparation programs and modifies certain provisions pertaining to educator ethical violations.	Licensure/Recruitment
1091	§§ 6-13-1305, 6-15-202, 6-15-1004, 6-17-705, 6-17-2803, 6-17-2805 <i>et seq.</i>	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE TEACHER EXCELLENCE AND SUPPORT SYSTEM.	7/22/2015	The Act amends several provisions of the Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS), including the frequency and requirements of summative evaluations and the method of using external artifacts and assessments	Licensure/Recruitment
1097	§§ 12-18-703, 12-18-909, 12-18-910	TO REQUIRE NOTICE OF A CHILD MALTREATMENT ALLEGATION BE GIVEN TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR A PARENT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND TO VERIFY HOW TO RESPOND TO A SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM.	7/22/2015	The Act clarifies terminology in existing legislation and extends the public school requirement to private schools	Legal

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1103	§§ 21-1-603, 21-1-607, 21-1-608, 21-1-610, 25-1-123 et seq.	TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF FRAUD AND OTHER IMPROPER ACTIVITIES WITHIN STATE GOVERNMENT	7/22/2015	The Act specifies that a public school district, school, or office/department of a school district is a public employer. Public employers shall not take adverse action against a public employee because of a report of loss of funds. The Act amends Arkansas code regarding rewards when communications of waste or violations result in savings of state funds. Public employers must require a background check of any applicant for a position with supervisory fiduciary responsibility over all fiscal matters. Public employers must post a sign, which can be obtained from Arkansas Legislative Audit, to inform employees of their rights.	Fiscal
1104	§ 6-17-2207	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF TITLE 6 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING DUTY-FREE LUNCH PERIODS FOR CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES.	7/22/2015	The Act creates new code 6-17-2207 which requires a public school/district to provide at least one 30-minute uninterrupted duty-free lunch period during each student instructional day for each full-time classified employee (unless in an emergency). If the employee and school/district has negotiated a contract through the teacher's association and it addresses a duty-free lunch, the school/district is exempt from this section.	District Personnel
1115	§§ 5-4-323, 6-11-208, 6-16-118, 6-17-706, 6-18-201, 6-18-201, 6-18-1005, 6-56-101, 6-56-107, 6-58-101, 6-58-107, 6-59-101, 6-59-107, 6-82-1101, 6-82-1103, 6-82-1105, 6-82-1702, 6-85-207, 6-85-208, 9-14-233, 9-27-330, 9-27-332, 15-4-2901, 16-93-308, 17-86-303, 20-76-404, 20-76-443, 23-39-505, 23-64-607, 27-16-604	TO CHANGE REFERENCES TO GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARKANSAS CODE TO HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY.	7/22/2015	The Act removes "general educational development" (GED) and replaces it with "high school equivalency" in various sections of Arkansas Code. Regarding when a school district may waive the mandatory attendance requirement to students aged sixteen (16) or seventeen (17), the Act changes scores that students must receive to either "an appropriate score as determined by the Adult Education Division of the Department of Career Education" on a basic skills test or a passing score "on all areas of the official high school equivalency practice test."	Education
1121	§ 6-17-409	TO ADD AN OPTION FOR ISSUING A STANDARD TEACHING LICENSE FOR NONTRADITIONAL LICENSURE PROGRAMS.	7/22/2015	Regarding nontraditional licensure, the Act amends Arkansas Code to include completion of the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) program for eligibility of receiving a nontraditional license	Licensure/Recruitment
1131	§§ 6-60-105, 19-5-1255	TO ESTABLISH THE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2015.	7/22/2015	The Act establishes the Workforce Initiative Act of 2015. The intent of the legislation is to evaluate and address workforce training needs in the state by: creating state and regional industry-sector partnerships, using data to make decisions on development of workforce training and education programs, developing articulated education pathways from K-12 through baccalaureate, and increasing diversity and representation from all regions of the state. The Department of Higher Education, with input from the Governor and various other state agencies, shall establish a grant application and review process for all funds for the Workforce Initiative Act, and shall act as the disbursing entity.	Education
1136	§ 6-15-2804	TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SCHOOL OF INNOVATION.	7/22/2015	The Act requires schools of innovation to comply with state law and rule regarding the education of gifted and talented students	Education
1159	§ 6-47-305	TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 6 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING EDUCATION.	7/22/2015	The Act removes a duplicate reference to the Arkansas Department of Information Systems currently in Ark. Code Ann. 6-47-305(c), which concerns the Distance Learning Coordinating Council. The Act adds subsection (b) which states that for teachers employed in the C-Step Program or the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program, a basic contract is full-time employment for 190 days that includes 10 professional development days and all days in excess of 190 days paid at the daily rate under 6-17-2403 that are required for full-time annual employment subject to the policies and guidelines of the Arkansas National Guard.	Board/Commission
1177	§§ 6-17-2402, 6-17-2406	TO CLARIFY THAT THE TEACHER COMPENSATION SCHEDULE, NOT THE STATE GRADE CLASSIFICATION SCALE, AND LOW-INCOME SCHOOL STATUS ARE APPLICABLE TO THE C-STEP PROGRAM AND THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM.	7/22/2015	Code 6-17-2406 would be amended so that the section applied to low-income school status, and amends subsection(2)(A) to include administration and preparation requirements for instruction for calculating contracted time.	Fiscal
1178	§§ 6-41-701 et seq.	TO ESTABLISH THE SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.	7/22/2015	The Act establishes the "Succeed Scholarship Program" which, beginning in the 2016-17 school year, enables students with an IEP who meet all eligibility requirements outlined in the Act to attend a private school and receive a scholarship for the amount of tuition and fees for the private school or the foundation funding amount for that current school year, whichever is less.	Education

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1179	§§ 6-10-126, 16-10-205, 16-81-118	TO AMEND THE LAWS PERTAINING TO A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER; TO AMEND THE LAWS PERTAINING TO JURISDICTION TO MAKE AN ARREST OR ISSUE A CITATION; TO PERMIT THE ISSUANCE OF A CITATION BY A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER ON A SCHOOL TRIP.	7/22/2015	The Act adds a new code section (6-10-126) that allows a school district board of directors to employ school resource officers to assist with school security, safety, emergency preparedness, emergency response, and other responsibilities as assigned. The school resource officer shall be a certified law enforcement officer and have statewide jurisdiction under 16-181-118. The Act also creates a new code (16-81-118) that allows a school resource officer to issue a citation for the person to appear in the local jurisdiction where the violation occurred.	District Personnel
1180	§ 6-17-1206	TO REQUIRE SICK LEAVE THAT IS TRANSFERRED WHEN AN EMPLOYEE CHANGES SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO BE USED FIRST.	7/22/2015	The Act requires school employees to deplete leave transferred from a former school district to a current school district before the employee would be able to use leave granted by the current school district.	District Personnel
1181	§ 6-10-126	TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN REPORTING BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL.	7/22/2015	The legislative intent of the Act (uncodified) is to reduce duplicative reporting by districts to the Department of Education and the Department of Career Education. Districts may be required to submit any data that ADE and/or ACE deem necessary to assure that a district is in compliance with federal and state laws. Employees of ADE, ACE, or contractors acting on behalf of these, may only access data necessary to perform their duties. Districts should not have to resubmit data to these entities except in certain circumstances.	Education
1183	§ 6-17-115	TO PRESERVE COMPETITION IN SELLING GROUP INSURANCE POLICIES TO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.	7/22/2015	The Act allows for a school district to procure its own group insurance policies, including: life insurance/annuities, accident insurance, or health insurance.	Fiscal
1187	§§ 6-5-201, 6-5-202	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF TITLE 6 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING HAZING.	7/22/2015	With regard to hazing, the Act modifies the code to include a willful act by "an alumni, volunteer, or employee of a fraternal organization, " in addition to a student.	Legal
1196	§ 6-18-109	TO ADOPT THE STUDENT ONLINE PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT.	7/22/2015	The Act creates new code 6-18-109, known as the Student Online Personal Information Protection Act. This Act prevents the unauthorized use and disclosure of information created by the student or parent in the course of their use of a website, service, or application of the school, district, local agency, or ADE. Covered information includes, but is not limited to, name, email address, home address, telephone number, discipline records, test results, social security number, medical records, socioeconomic/political/religious information or affiliation, and search activity/photos/voice recordings.	Education
1200	§§ 6-23-103, 6-23-1001 <i>et seq.</i>	TO ESTABLISH ADULT EDUCATION CHARTER SCHOOLS.	7/22/2015	The Act authorizes the Department of Education to approve adult education charter schools for students at least 19 years old to receive a high school diploma and an industry certification. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for overseeing adult education charter schools.	Education
1204	§ 6-15-438	TO ALLOW LICENSED TEACHERS, INCLUDING LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS AND RETIRED TEACHERS ACTING AS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS, TO SERVE AS PROCTORS DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF STATEWIDE TESTS OR ASSESSMENTS.	7/22/2015	The Act allows licensed teachers, including a long-term substitute teacher or retired teacher acting as a substitute teacher, to proctor the administration of tests and assessments if the licensed teacher receives the required training. The State Board of Education (SBE) shall not adopt a statewide assessment that prohibits the use of a licensed teacher, long-term substitute, or retired teacher acting as a substitute teacher to serve as proctor during test administration.	Licensure/Recruitment
1215	§§ 12-18-304, 12-18-601	TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ACCEPT EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT REPORTS AND TO ASSESS THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN REGARDING ACCEPTED MALTREATMENT REPORTS.	7/22/2015	The Act states that the Child Abuse Hotline shall accept calls regarding educational neglect.	Legal
1216	§ 6-15-441	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PROGRAM.	7/22/2015	The Act eliminates the Explore at grade 8 and the Plan at grade 10 because ACT is eliminating these assessments after the 2015-2016 school year. The bill still requires the administration of a college and career readiness assessment approved by the State Board of Education in grade 8 and grades 10-12.	Education

2015 Education Acts

Act Number	Arkansas Code Citation	Short Title	Effective Date	Explanation	Type
1217	§§ 6-15-102, 6-15-404, 6-15-406, 6-15-419, 6-15-421, 6-15-424, 6-15-426, 6-15-433, 6-15-2006, 6-15-2009	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING NORM-REFERENCED ASSESSMENTS.	7/22/2015	The Act This bill removes the specific identification of augmented, criterion-referenced, or norm-referenced assessment to comply with the future assessment changes that may occur, identifying the assessment as only state-mandated assessment.	Education
1240	§ 6-15-103	TO ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BE GRANTED THE SAME WAIVERS THAT ARE GRANTED TO AN OPEN ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL THAT DRAWS STUDENTS FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.	7/22/2015	The Act allows a school district to petition the State Board for all or some of the waivers granted to open-enrollment charter schools that draw students from its district. The petition to the State Board must include a list of waivers of the open-enrollment charter school and a list of requested waivers.	Education
1248	§ 6-20-2305, portions are uncodified	AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING AMOUNTS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	4/8/2015	The Act amends state foundation funding aid, alternative learning environment funding, English-language learner funding, national school lunch funding, and professional development funding to match the recommendations of the Adequacy Subcommittee and to match ADE's budget request for those line items. The uncodified portion of the Act states that the House and Senate Education Committees will work with the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) to review the transportation funding model developed by BLR in order to make recommendations to the General Assembly in the 2016 fiscal session	Fiscal
1260	§§ 6-16-1501 <i>et seq.</i>	TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE REENGAGEMENT PROGRAM; TO INCREASE HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION THROUGH THE DIFFERENTIATED PATHWAY TO A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM.	7/22/2015	The Act creates code 6-16-1501 <i>et seq.</i> which establishes the Reengagement System and Alternative Pathway to a High School Diploma program. The State Board shall develop and adopt a model contract and model interlocal agreement that a school district can tailor to its needs for adopting a participating program in the Reengagement System and Alternative Pathway to a High School Diploma program.	Education
1268	§§ 6-41-601 <i>et seq.</i>	TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING SCREENING FOR DYSLEXIA; AND TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SCREEN STUDENTS FOR DYSLEXIA.	7/22/2015	The Act modifies the requirements for dyslexia screening	Education
1272	§§ 6-15-431, 6-15-2106	AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF TITLE 6 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC EDUCATION.	7/22/2015	The Act allows the State Board of Education to adopt by rule, criteria that permit (1) public schools designated solely as an ALE, (2) an open-enrollment public charter school whose mission and enrollment are primarily focused on students who have dropped out of high school or are identified as high-risk, and (3) a conversion public charter school whose mission and enrollment are primarily focused on students who have dropped out of high school or are identified as high-risk, to be exempt from the identification and classification of academic distress.	Education
1276	§ 6-12-315	TO REPEAL THE POSITION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT COORDINATOR.	7/22/2015	The Act repeals the executive council and county school district coordinator currently allowed in counties that contain all or part of six (6) or more school districts.	District Personnel
1279	§§ 6-5-1002, 6-5-1003	TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS STANDARDS FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.	7/22/2015	The Act states that the Department of Career Education will collaborate with ADE and Department of Higher Education when (1) establishing common course numbering, and (2) when developing comprehensive guidance counseling and academic advisory which enables students to make informed decisions about which program of study to pursue.	Education
1286	Not Codified	TO CREATE A PILOT PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE (K-12) AGRICULTURE SCHOOLS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.	4/9/2015	The Act creates a pilot program for kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) to promote college and career readiness for a variety of careers in agriculture	Education