

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 307 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H2/23/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1521

5 By: Representative Walters
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING
10 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLANS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO
11 ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP PARENTAL
12 INVOLVEMENT PLANS THAT FACILITATE BETTER
13 COMMUNICATION, SUPPORT FOR PARENTING SKILLS,
14 INTEGRATION OF PARENTS INTO STUDENT LEARNING,
15 VOLUNTEERING, AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS
16 AND COMMUNITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
17

Subtitle

18 AN ACT TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS
19 CONCERNING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLANS
20 FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
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23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25

26 Arkansas Code § 6-15-1702 is amended to read as follows:

27 6-15-1702. Parental involvement plan.

28 (a) ~~By September 1, 2003, each~~ Each public school district and each
29 public school within its boundaries, in collaboration with parents, shall
30 establish a parental involvement plan, including programs and practices that
31 enhance parental involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and
32 their families.

33 (b) The parental involvement program in each school shall:

34 (1) Involve parents of students at all grade levels in a variety
35 of roles;



1 (2) Be comprehensive and coordinated in nature;

2 (3)(A) Recognize that communication between home and school
3 should be regular, two-way, and meaningful.

4 (B) To encourage communication with parents, the school
5 shall prepare ~~family kits~~ an informational packet to be distributed annually
6 to the parent of each child in the school, appropriate for the age and grade
7 of the child, describing:

8 (i) The school's parental involvement program;

9 (ii) The recommended role of the parent, student,
10 teacher, and school;

11 (iii) Ways for the parent to become involved in the
12 school and his or her child's education;

13 (iv) A survey for the parent regarding his or her
14 interests concerning volunteering at the school;

15 ~~(iv)(v)~~ Activities planned throughout the school
16 year to encourage parental involvement; and

17 ~~(v)(vi)~~ A system to allow the parents and teachers to
18 communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner with the child's
19 teacher and the school principal.

20 ~~(C) To encourage communication with parents, the school~~
21 ~~shall schedule no fewer than two (2) parent teacher conferences per school~~
22 ~~year.~~

23 ~~(D)(C)~~ The school may plan and engage in other activities
24 determined by the school to be beneficial to encourage communication with
25 parents;

26 (4)(A) Promote and support responsible parenting.

27 (B) To promote and support responsible parenting, the
28 school shall, as funds are available:

29 (i) Purchase parenting books, magazines, and other
30 informative material regarding responsible parenting through the school
31 library, advertise the current selection, and give parents an opportunity to
32 borrow the materials for review;

33 ~~(iii)(ii)~~ Create parent centers; and

34 ~~(iv)(iii)~~ Plan and engage in other activities
35 determined by the school to be beneficial to promoting and supporting
36 responsible parenting;

1 (5)(A) Acknowledge that parents play an integral role in
2 assisting student learning.

3 (B) To help parents in assisting students, the school
4 shall:

5 (i) Schedule regular ~~Parents Make the Difference~~
6 ~~evenings where parent involvement meetings at which~~ parents are given a
7 report on the state of the school and an overview of:

8 (a) What students will be learning;

9 (b) How students will be assessed;

10 (c) What parents should expect for their
11 child's education; and

12 (d) How a parent can assist and make a
13 difference in his or her child's education; and

14 (ii) Engage in other activities determined by the
15 school to help a parent assist in his or her child's learning;

16 (6)(A) Welcome parents into the school and seek parental support
17 and assistance.

18 (B) To welcome parents into the school, the school shall:

19 (i) Not have any school policies or procedures that
20 would discourage a parent from visiting the school, ~~specifically including:~~

21 ~~(a) Policies requiring a parent to pick up his~~
22 ~~or her child outside the school building each day; and~~

23 ~~(b) Policies prohibiting the parents or from~~
24 ~~visiting a child's classrooms during school events;~~

25 (ii) ~~Publish~~ Encourage school staff to use the
26 volunteer surveys to compile a volunteer resource book, listing the interests
27 and availability of volunteers ~~for school staff members' use, specifically~~
28 ~~including so that school staff may:~~

29 ~~(a) Survey parents regarding their interests,~~
30 ~~so that volunteer work will be meaningful;~~

31 ~~(b)(a)~~ Determine how frequently a volunteer
32 would like to participate, including the option of just one (1) time per
33 year;

34 ~~(e)(b)~~ Include options for those who are
35 available to help at home; and

36 ~~(d)(c)~~ Use the resource book to help Help

1 match school needs with volunteer interests; and

2 ~~(iii) Print statements attesting to the school~~
3 ~~district's commitment to parental involvement and distribute the statements~~
4 ~~to parents of students; and~~

5 ~~(iv)~~(iii) Engage in other activities determined by
6 the school to welcome parents into the school;

7 (7)(A) Recognize that a parent is a full partner in the
8 decisions that affect his or her child and family.

9 (B) To encourage a parent to participate as a full partner
10 in the decisions that affect his or her child and family, the school shall:

11 (i) ~~Frequently publish~~ Include in the school's
12 policy handbook the school's process for resolving parental concerns,
13 including how to define ~~the~~ a problem, whom to approach first, and how to
14 develop solutions;

15 (ii) Sponsor seminars to inform the parents of high
16 school students about how to be involved in the decisions affecting course
17 selection, career planning, and preparation for postsecondary opportunities;
18 and

19 (iii) Engage in other activities that the school
20 determines will encourage a parent to participate as a full partner in the
21 decisions that affect his or her child and family;

22 (8)(A) Recognize that community resources strengthen school
23 programs, family practices, and student learning;

24 (B) To take advantage of community resources, the school
25 shall:

26 (i) ~~Contact~~ Consider recruiting alumni from the
27 school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance
28 for school improvement;

29 (ii)(a) Enable the formation of a Parent Teacher
30 Association or organization that will foster parental and community
31 involvement within the school.

32 (b) Leaders of this organization shall be
33 utilized in appropriate decisions affecting the children and families.

34 ~~(ii) Develop paycheck-size cards with tips for how~~
35 ~~parents can foster their child's success and contact employers about~~
36 ~~including the cards with employee paychecks; and~~

1 (iii) Engage in other activities that the school
2 determines will use community resources to strengthen school programs, family
3 practices, and student learning; and

4 (9) Support the development, implementation, and regular
5 evaluation of the program to involve parents in the decisions and practices
6 of the school district, using, to the degree possible, the components listed
7 in this section.

8 (c)~~(1)~~ The principal of each school in a district shall designate one
9 (1) *certified* staff member who is willing to serve as a parent facilitator
10 to:

11 (1) Help organize meaningful training for staff and parents;

12 (2) ~~promoting~~ Promote and ~~encouraging~~ encourage a welcoming atmosphere
13 to foster parental involvement in the school; and

14 (3) ~~to undertake~~ Undertake efforts to ensure that parental
15 participation is recognized as an asset to the school.

16 (2) *The certified staff member serving as a parental facilitator*
17 *shall receive supplemental pay for the assigned duties as required by law.*

21 /s/ Walters

23 APPROVED: 3/16/2007