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 222 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H1/30/09 H2/4/09 H2/6/09 S2/12/09

A Bill

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL 1034

By: Representatives Cook, Abernathy, M. Burris, George, Rainey, J. Roebuck, Betts, Dale, Perry, G. Smith, Wagner, Blount, Breedlove, J. Brown, Cheatham, J. Dickinson, Nix, Pennartz, Tyler

By: Senator Broadway

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM OF ARKANSAS EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN ARKANSAS EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER 4 - SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COORDINATING COUNCIL

6-1-401. Title.
There is established the "School Leadership Coordinating Council".

6-1-402. Findings.
The General Assembly finds that:

(1) A statewide performance and results based system of leadership development to ensure high levels of collaborative leadership and continuous improvement must have all educators work collaboratively with community stakeholders to apply effective, evidence-based strategies and practices that increase student and adult learning and close the achievement
gap;

(2) High quality classroom teaching and administrative leadership are strong predictors of student success, all educators in the state must possess the skills and knowledge to increase student and adult learning and close the achievement gap;

(3) High quality leadership capacity building and training is required to align the public education system from kindergarten through postsecondary and workforce readiness, with an objective of universal proficiency for all students.

(4) High quality learning experiences focus on both individual and organizational improvement and provide educational leaders with a variety of support systems as they progress on the career continuum from aspiring to retiring; and

(5) An effective statewide leadership development system will result in increased graduation rates, reduced remediation rates, closing of achievement gaps, increased student and adult performance, increased recruitment of effective leaders, and increased capacity for instructional leaders, thus will increase the number of Arkansas citizens with bachelors degrees.

6-1-403. Purpose.

The purpose of the School Leadership Coordinating Council is to:

(1) Serve as a central body to coordinate the leadership development system efforts across the state including:

(A) Encouraging school districts to work with, the Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Workforce Education, the Arkansas Leadership Academy, and other leadership groups;

(B) Recommending a state leadership development system to coordinate all aspects of leadership development based on educational leadership standards adopted by the Department of Education; and

(C) Devise a system of gathering data which includes input from practitioners, educational and community leaders, university leadership and faculty, and other interested parties;

(2) Assist the Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Workforce Education, the Arkansas Leadership
Academy, school districts, and other leadership groups in enhancing school leadership and school support efforts; and

(3) Aid in the development of model evaluation tools for use in the evaluation of school administrators.

6-1-404. Creation.
(a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of thirteen members as follows:
(1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Council of Deans;
(2) The Commissioner of Education;
(3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;
(4) The Director of the Department of Higher Education;
(5) The Director of the Department of Workforce Education;
(6) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;
(7) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Education Association;
(8) The Executive Director of the Arkansas School Boards Association;
(9) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development;
(10) The President of the Arkansas Rural Education Association;
(11) A representative from the Arkansas Professors of Educational Administration;
(12) A representative from the Arkansas Center for Executive Leadership; and
(13) A representative from an Educational Service Cooperatives.
(b) Any member may appoint a designee to serve in his or her place if necessary.
(c)(1) The Chair of the School Leadership Coordinating Council is elected by majority vote at the first meeting of the council.
(2) All changes in council chairmanship are decided by majority vote of the council.
(d)(1) The council shall meet at the times and places that the chair deems necessary but no less than four (4) times per year.
(2) Seven (7) members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

(3) All actions of the council are by quorum.

(e) The Department of Education, with the assistance of the Department of Higher Education and the Department of Workforce Education, shall staff the council.

(f) All members of the council may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with § 25-16-902 paid by the Department of Education if funds are available.


(a) The Chair of the School Leadership Coordinating Council shall provide a report to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education no later than September 1, 2010, and each year thereafter.

(b) The report shall identify:

(1) Deficient areas of school leadership;

(2) Innovative programs to address deficient areas of school leadership;

(3) Progress made to improve school leadership;

(4) Plans to improve the quality of school leadership throughout the state;

(5) Development and activities of school leadership cohorts; and

(6) Efforts made to address school leadership recommendations expressed in the 2008 Educational Adequacy report or subsequent reports submitted by the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-440 is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) There is created the Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support Program through which the Arkansas Leadership Academy in collaboration with the Department of Education and other leadership groups shall provide support to schools or school districts designated by the department as being in school improvement and other school districts who opt to participate.

(2) The program shall be designed, developed, and administered by the academy created under § 6-15-1007.
(b) The program shall:

1. Build the leadership capacity of the school and school district personnel;
2. Train a diverse school leadership team, including, but not limited to, the superintendents, school principals and teachers;
3. Provide a cadre of highly experienced, trained performance coaches to work in the school or school district on a regular basis; and
4. Work with the school and school district staff, school board members, parents, community members, and other stakeholders as necessary to provide a comprehensive support network that can continue the school’s progress and improvement after completion of the academy’s formal intervention and support.
5. Ensure access to training programs and leadership skills development;
6. Develop incentive programs for institutions and program participants;
7. Assist in the development of partnerships between university leadership programs and school districts; and
8. Work closely with the School Leadership Coordinating Council, the Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education, and the Department of Workforce Education to coordinate cohesive leadership goals.

(c)(1) The department and the academy shall develop criteria for selection of schools or school districts to participate in the program.
2. Any school district that is in school improvement may be invited, strongly encouraged, or required to shall be eligible to participate in the program as provided in the rules of the State Board of Education.
3. The academy and participating schools shall commit to continue participation in the school support program for no fewer than three (3) consecutive school years.

(d)(1) The number of schools participating in the program shall be determined by the amount of funding available for the program.
2. The state board or the department may require a school district to fund a portion of the cost of the school’s or school district’s participation in the school support program if the Commissioner of Education
determines that such participation is in the best interest of the students served by the participating school or school district.

(3) Subject to the approval of the state board, the commissioner shall determine the portion of the school district's financial obligation for participation in the program, if any.

(e) The state board shall promulgate rules as necessary to implement the requirements of this section.

(f)(1) The State Board of Education shall have the authority to issue requests for proposals if the state board should determine to change the operator or the location of the Arkansas Leadership Academy.

(2) The academy shall maintain one (1) main office and, as needed, satellite offices partnered with institutions of higher education that have approved leadership programs and are strategically located in areas of the state identified by the Department of Education as having the greatest need for school leadership support.

SECTION 3. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The document attached hereto titled "Prologue" contains the Leadership Taskforce recommendations as submitted to the Adequacy Study Oversight Subcommittee, the House Interim Committee on Education, and the Senate Interim Committee on Education. The document, "Prologue", shall be filed in the journals of the House and Senate.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is the constitutional obligation of the state to ensure that the state's public school children receive an equal opportunity for an adequate education; that to ensure that opportunity, it is essential to have strong and effective school leaders; and that this act is immediately necessary to allow the Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Workforce Education, and the Arkansas Leadership Academy to address deficiencies in the Arkansas's educational leadership system. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/ Cook

APPROVED: 2/25/2009