

A.C.A. § 6-16-124 (2016)

6-16-124. Arkansas history -- Required social studies course.

(a) Beginning with the 1997-1998 school year:

(1) A unit of Arkansas history shall be taught as a social studies subject at each elementary grade level in every public elementary school in this state, with greater emphasis at the fourth and fifth grade levels; and

(2) At least one (1) full semester of Arkansas history shall be taught to all students at the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade level in every public secondary school in this state.

(b) (1) Course guidelines shall ensure that the courses represent the most accurate and historically sound account of the prehistory, history, and culture of Arkansas, including the significant contributions and achievements of all segments of the population.

(2) Any revisions in the Arkansas history course content guidelines shall be reported to the public schools and the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education no later than July 1 of the year the course guidelines are to be implemented.

HISTORY: Acts 1997, No. 787, §§ 1, 2, 5; 2007, No. 1573, § 52.

A.C.A. § 6-17-418 (2016)

6-17-418. Teacher licensure -- Arkansas history requirement.

(a) A person shall not be licensed as a social studies teacher or as an elementary school teacher unless the person has successfully completed:

(1) For a person seeking a traditional first-time license, at least three (3) college-credit hours in Arkansas history at an accredited institution of higher education; or

(2) For a person seeking licensure through a nontraditional program, by reciprocity, or by adding an endorsement, documentation of the successful completion of:

(A) Three (3) college credit hours in Arkansas history at an accredited institution of higher education; or

(B) Forty-five-hour professional development piece in Arkansas history offered through ArkansasIDEAS.

(b) However, social studies teachers and elementary school teachers entering Arkansas from another state shall receive a one-year nonrenewable provisional license to teach in Arkansas schools as authorized by § 6-17-403, during which time the person shall complete the Arkansas history requirement under this section.

(c) The provisions of this section are not applicable to the renewal of a license for a teacher who was licensed before March 24, 1997.

HISTORY: Acts 1997, No. 787, § 3; 2011, No. 989, § 40; 2015, No. 1090, § 7.

A.C.A. § 6-17-703 (2016)

6-17-703. Arkansas history professional development.

(a) A school district shall provide two (2) hours 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.

(b) The school district may provide the professional development:

(1) By contracting with an education service cooperative; or

(2) By using the Arkansas Online Professional Development Initiative under § 6-17-707.

(c) The professional development under this section shall count toward satisfaction of requirements for professional development in the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

HISTORY: Acts 1997, No. 787, § 4; 2005, No. 2095, § 1; 2013, No. 969, § 3.

A.C.A. § 6-17-709 (2016)

6-17-709. Professional development schedule.

(a) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, a school district or an open-enrollment public charter school shall make available to the appropriate licensed personnel the following professional development:

(1) In the 2013-2014 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, the professional development for mandated reporters and licensed elementary and secondary public school personnel required under § 6-61-133;

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

(3) In the 2015-2016 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, the teen suicide awareness and prevention professional development required under § 6-17-708; and

(4) In the 2016-2017 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, the Arkansas history professional development required under § 6-17-703.

(b) (1) Two (2) hours of the professional development 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 are obtained by a licensed educator, the school district may count those hours as part of the minimum number of hours of professional development required for licensed educators under the Department of Education Rules Governing Professional Development.

(c) Annually, the State Board of Education may require up to six (6) hours of integrated professional development for licensed educators in educational technology.

(d) The Department of Education shall establish the curriculum under this section in collaboration

with educational agencies and associations, including without limitation the:

- (1) Department of Higher Education;
- (2) Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;
- (3) Arkansas Education Association;
- (4) Arkansas School Boards Association;
- (5) Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development;
- (6) Arkansas State Teachers Association; and
- (7) Arkansas Rural Education Association.

(e) (1) The professional development under this subsection shall not be provided by a school district but shall be provided by:

- (A) The Department of Education;
- (B) An institution of higher education; or
- (C) Providers approved by the Department of Education.

(2) (A) Before a person receives a building level administrator's license, the person shall successfully complete the teacher evaluation professional development program.

(B) A person who receives an initial building level administrator's license shall complete the certification assessment for the teacher evaluation professional development program before or after receiving the initial building level administrator's license.

(3) (A) The Department of Education 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 under § 6-15-1703;
- (iii) Teen suicide awareness and prevention under § 6-17-708; and
- (iv) Arkansas history under § 6-17-703.

(B) For a teaching license issued under the state's reciprocity provisions to an out-of-state teacher, the Department of Education shall issue a provisional license until the licensee obtains the professional development identified in subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section.

HISTORY: Acts 2013, No. 969, § 8.