

State of Arkansas
88th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2011

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1620

By: Representative Cheatham

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND CAREER
READINESS STANDARDS; TO DEVELOP CRITERIA TO EVALUATE,
SUPPORT, PROMOTE, AND FUND ARKANSAS CAREER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND CAREER
READINESS STANDARDS; TO DEVELOP CRITERIA
TO EVALUATE, SUPPORT, PROMOTE, AND FUND
ARKANSAS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
PROGRAMS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 5, is amended to add an
additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 9 - College and Career Readiness Standards for Career and
Technical Education Programs

6-5-901. Findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Many Arkansas high school students are unprepared for the
academic rigor of college or to enter the career world of work upon
graduation from high school;

(2) A student who is academically prepared for college or to
enter the career world upon graduation from high school is more likely to



1 have greater economic success in his or her lifetime;

2 (3) Rigorous college and career readiness program standards that
 3 define what a student is expected to know and be able to do to achieve
 4 success in college or a career are consistent with the goals of Arkansas
 5 educational agencies and are critical to Arkansas's economy; and

6 (4)(A) Innovative and creative instructional approaches that
 7 enable teachers to integrate academic, career, and technical instruction are
 8 necessary to ensure effectiveness.

9 (B) A career and technical education program of study
 10 shall provide sustained, intensive, and focused professional development
 11 opportunities that ensure that teachers have the necessary content knowledge
 12 to align and integrate curriculum and instruction.

13
 14 6-5-902. Career and technical education program of study.

15 (a) As used in this subchapter, "career and technical education
 16 program of study" means a planned program of courses and learning experiences
 17 that:

18 (1) Begins with the exploration of career options;

19 (2) Supports basic academic and life skills; and

20 (3) Enables achievement of:

21 (A) High academic standards;

22 (B) Leadership; and

23 (C) High skill, high wage employment preparation, and
 24 advanced continuing education.

25 (b)(1) All public school students shall be provided a rigorous career
 26 and technical education program of study that links secondary education and
 27 postsecondary education and combines academic and technical education in a
 28 structured sequence of courses that progresses from broad foundation skills
 29 to occupationally specific courses.

30 (2) A student may earn postsecondary credits for career and
 31 technical education program of study courses that lead to a postsecondary
 32 credential, certificate, or degree.

33
 34 6-5-903. College and career readiness program standards.

35 (a)(1) The Department of Career Education shall work in collaboration
 36 with the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education to

1 develop college and career readiness program standards for career and
2 technical education program of study courses.

3 (2) College and career readiness program standards shall address
4 the importance of rigorous academic standards and the role rigorous academic
5 standards have in higher education.

6 (b) The college and career readiness program standards for career and
7 technical education program of study courses shall incorporate consistent
8 framework to promote sustainability of career and technical education
9 programs of study, including:

10 (1) Legislation, local resources, and administrative policies
11 that promote career and technical education program of study development and
12 implementation within a school district;

13 (2) Partnerships with educators, businesses, and other community
14 stakeholders that support career and technical education program of study
15 design, implementation, and maintenance;

16 (3) Sustained, intensive, and focused professional development
17 opportunities for administrators, teachers, and faculty that foster career
18 and technical education program of study design, implementation, and
19 maintenance;

20 (4) Accountability and evaluation systems and strategies that
21 gather quantitative and qualitative data on both career and technical
22 education program of study components and student outcomes to determine the
23 effectiveness of each program;

24 (5) Clear content standards that:

25 (A) Define what a student is expected to know and what the
26 student should be able to do to achieve success in college or in a career;
27 and

28 (B) Align and integrate curriculum and instruction;

29 (6)(A) Sequences of secondary and postsecondary career and
30 technical education program of study courses that help students transition to
31 postsecondary education without requiring duplicate classes or remedial
32 education.

33 (B) The Department of Career Education shall work with the
34 Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education to establish a
35 common course numbering system that incorporates career and technical
36 education program of study courses at both the secondary and postsecondary

1 level;

2 (7) Formal credit transfer agreements between secondary schools
3 and postsecondary institutions of higher education;

4 (8) Comprehensive guidance counseling and academic advisory
5 systems that:

6 (A) Enable students to make informed decisions about which
7 program of study to pursue;

8 (B) Are based on state or local guidance and counseling
9 standards, for example, the National Career Development Guidelines;

10 (C) Ensure that guidance counselors and academic advisors
11 have current information about career and technical education programs of
12 study;

13 (D) Offer information and tools to help students learn
14 about postsecondary education and career options, including prerequisites
15 that may be required;

16 (E) Provide resources for students to identify career
17 interests and aptitudes and to select an appropriate career and technical
18 education program of study based on the results;

19 (F) Provide information for parents, including workshops
20 on college financial aid and applications, preparing students for college and
21 college applications, and preparing students for careers; and

22 (G) Provide web-based resources and tools for obtaining
23 student financial assistance;

24 (9) Innovative and creative instructional approaches that enable
25 teachers to integrate academic, career, and technical instruction; and

26 (10) Valid and reliable technical skills assessments that
27 provide ongoing information on whether or not a student is attaining the
28 necessary knowledge and skills needed for entry into postsecondary education
29 or a career in his or her selected career and technical education program of
30 study.

31
32 6-5-904. Technical skills assessments.

33 (a) The Department of Career Education shall provide valid and
34 reliable technical skills assessments that provide information on whether or
35 not a student is attaining the necessary knowledge and skills needed for
36 entry into postsecondary education or a career in his or her selected career

1 and technical education program of study.

2 (b) The technical skills assessment shall:

3 (1) Be a third-party assessment recognized by industry or an
4 assessment developed or approved by the Department of Career Education that
5 is based on industry standards;

6 (2) Measure student attainment of technical skill proficiencies
7 at multiple points during a student's career and technical education program
8 of study;

9 (3)(A) Incorporate performance-based assessment items where a
10 student demonstrates the application of his or her knowledge and skills, to
11 the extent possible.

12 (B) A student who successfully completes a performance-
13 based assessment may receive a secondary credit, postsecondary credit, or
14 special designation on his or her high school diploma; and

15 (4)(A) Be used as a tool to evaluate the quality of career and
16 technical education programs of study in secondary schools.

17 (B) The Department of Career Education may provide
18 technical assistance on career and technical education programs of study to
19 secondary schools.

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22 **APPROVED: 03/25/2011**
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