For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR IMPROVED PROCESSES TO ENSURE THE QUALITY, SECURITY, VALIDATION, AND TIMELINESS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL DATA IN THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO ENSURE THE QUALITY, SECURITY, VALIDATION, AND TIMELINESS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL DATA IN THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-11-128, concerning the Arkansas Public School Computer Network, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

(a)(1) As used in this section, "Arkansas Public School Computer Network" or "APSCN" means the Department of Education’s computer network system for public school district reporting of financial management data and student management data to the Department of Education.

(2) Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, all school districts and educational cooperatives shall, as a minimum, use the following financial management systems applications of the Arkansas Public School Computer Network:

(A) Fund accounting, including all activity funds;
(2)(B) Budget preparation;
(3)(C) Human resources; and
(4)(D) Fixed assets.

(b) After approval by the Department of Education, a school district may use a different software system at the district level if:

(1) The department determines that the district’s software meets the minimum reporting requirements provided by the network; and

(2) The district supplies all district transaction information to the network in a compatible format and in sufficient detail as required by the department.

(c) The department shall implement the use of policies, procedures, and personnel to provide for data quality and security with the Arkansas Public School Computer Network, including without limitation the following:

(1) Periodically conducting a thorough security review and security risk assessment for all information, including without limitation personally identifiable employee and student information, that originates in the school districts and terminates on Department of Information Systems and Arkansas Public School Computer Network servers;

(2) The department shall:

(A) Create security plans, policies, procedures;

(B) Monitor the mechanism for the network’s end-to-end, enterprise-wide financial and student information systems;

(C) Create and maintain a process for documenting and monitoring the quality of data from its source of entry into the network to any educational data repository in the department; and

(D) Establish standards and monitor compliance with standards for all software and data testing in the network.

(3)(A) Developing a certification program to certify:

(i) At least one (1) person in each school district as a certified APSCN financials user and trainer; and

(ii) At least one (1) person in each school district as a certified APSCN student management user and trainer.

(B) The certification process shall require an applicant for certification to successfully complete the following components, including without limitation:

(i) Courses in the application area;
(ii) Training in using the network’s reporting tools; and

(iii) An examination that tests the applicant’s knowledge and skills in the application area and the network’s reporting tools.

(C) In a school district of five hundred (500) or fewer students, one (1) person may be certified in both financials and student management; and

(4) Developing a data quality metrics program designed to:

(A) Significantly reduce the number of data errors within the network’s applications and data warehouse and provide reports on code changes and time availability of information, including without limitation:

(i) The number of code changes made in mid-year;

(ii) The percent of prime time availability of all applications that feed data into the network and data warehouse;

(iii) The percent of time availability of each school district server and local area network for use with the network’s availability;

(iv) Corrective actions taken on the network’s applications and data warehouse;

(v) Preventive actions taken to avoid downtime and data errors;

(vi) Cycle data tardiness; and

(vii) Number of data corrections made during each cycle submission.

/s/ Argue

APPROVED: 3/30/2007