

HB439 INTRODUCED



1 HB439
2 B7AP4JQ-1
3 By Representatives Baker, Garrett, Collins
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 09-Apr-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would rename technology coordinators who serve public K-12 schools as technology directors and would provide for the minimum qualifications of those technology directors, and would provide a waiver process under certain circumstances.

This bill would also require individuals serving in the role of technology directors to complete a training program and continuing education instruction provided by the Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to rename the position of technology coordinator to technology director; to provide for the minimum qualifications of technology directors for each school system; to provide a waiver process for certain school systems; and to require each individual serving in the role of technology director to complete a training program and continuing education instruction by the Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology.



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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

30 Section 1. (a) The position of technology coordinator
31 in public K-12 schools is renamed technology director and must
32 be filled by an employee of the local board of education on a
33 12-month contract. Any reference to the term technology
34 coordinator in this code or other document shall be
35 interpreted as a reference to a technology director. The
36 position may not be filled by a contractor nor the local
37 superintendent of education.

38 (b) The minimum qualifications for an individual hired
39 or assigned to serve as a technology director after October 1,
40 2024, shall include professional training and work experience
41 commensurate with the position's responsibilities, including:

42 (1) A degree in a technology-related curriculum from a
43 regionally accredited two-year or four-year institution of
44 higher education; or

45 (2) A degree in another field from a regionally
46 accredited two-year or four-year institution of higher
47 education and full-time work experience in a technology
48 support or management position; or

49 (3) A diploma from a regionally accredited high school
50 with at least one current certification in industry recognized
51 technologies including, but not limited to, networking,
52 cybersecurity or data management, and full-time work
53 experience in a technology support or management position.

54 (c) School systems unable to fill the position with a
55 candidate meeting the minimum qualifications may request a
56 waiver from the State Superintendent of Education.



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57 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Leaders in Educational
58 Technology, a professional organization, shall establish and
59 administer a professional development program for technology
60 directors in public K-12 school systems.

61 (b) The professional development program shall provide
62 a mandatory orientation with the Chief Technology Officer
63 Academy and Continuing Education Units program established by
64 the Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology and shall
65 address all of the following:

- 66 (1) Roles and responsibilities;
- 67 (2) Laws, ethics, and policies;
- 68 (3) Data management and governance;
- 69 (4) Teaching and learning;
- 70 (5) Information technology management and
71 cybersecurity; and
- 72 (6) Technology planning and budgeting.

73 (c) The Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology shall
74 routinely review and update the program.

75 Section 3. (a) Technology directors shall
76 satisfactorily complete an orientation program and annual
77 continuing education units as follows:

78 (1) Newly hired or appointed technology directors shall
79 complete the chief technology officer academy training program
80 within 24 months of beginning service in the position.

81 (2) All other technology directors shall complete 12
82 in-person contact hours of continuing education unit credits
83 for each fiscal year.

84 (b) Continuing education unit hours shall be offered or



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85 preapproved by the Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology
86 program.

87 (c) The Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology shall
88 maintain records for the professional development program and
89 verify completion annually to the State Department of
90 Education.

91 Section 4. This act shall become effective on July 1,
92 2024.