GOOD THINGS ABOUT ARKANSAS EDUCATION!

ABERNATHY
Did You Know?

- Graduation rates are the highest they have ever been! (87% in 2014)
- College remediation rates are the lowest they have been since data has been kept! (1994)
- Over 15,000 AP exams were taken and scored over a 3! $11M in tuition savings!
Breaking the Curve Report 2015

- Report takes into account a state’s demographics and ranks states. Arkansas ranked 20\textsuperscript{th} on 2013 NAEP scores.
- Arkansas’ 2003-2013 increase in NAEP scores from what was expected ranked 8\textsuperscript{th} among the states!
• NAEP gains since 2003 in 8th grade math was the 5th highest in nation!
• 4th grade math was the 11th highest
• 4th grade reading was the 16th highest
• Every tested area (4th and 8th grade) the achievement gap decreased between black and white since early 2000’s
FISCAL SESSION
ABERNATHY
“Arkansas Works”

Appropriates funds to Department of Human Services

Line item veto used to gain enough votes to pass
Senate Bill 58 – ADE Appropriation

- Foundation funding was increased less than 1% to $6,646 ($63 increase)
- ALE funding 2% increase or $89
- ELL funding 2% increase or $7
- NSLA funding less than a 1% increase
- PD – No change
SPECIAL SESSION 2016
ABERNATHY
Highway Funding

- Highway funding to come from general revenue and other sources
- “Redirect” over the next five years $80.3M to the Highway Department
- Amount of general revenue transferred would be capped at $25M starting in FY22
- Alternative plans being discussed
EXPECTATIONS/CHALLENGES OF 2017 GENERAL SESSION
PROTHRO
General Topics

- School Funding – Supposed to not be based on available funds but ---------- Tax Cuts, Competing Entities, Lack of Funding from which to Pull

- Facility Funding – Adequacy Issue, Lessening Pool of Money, Districts in Need, New Revenue Sources?, etc.
General Topics (Continued)

- School Choice
- Charter School Expansion
- Scholarship (Voucher for Disabled, Poverty, etc...)
- Tax Credit – Reduces Available General Revenue
- Voucher
General Topics (Continued)

- School District Elections
- De-Regulations (School Annotated Code)
AAEA Legislative Packet

- Plan being developed by practicing administrators and educators
- Divided into three Focus areas
AAEA Focus Area #1

- Developing a student centered environment
AAEA Focus Area #2

- Attracting, developing, supporting, and retaining quality teachers and administrators
AAEA Focus Area #3

- Shared Accountability for Educators and Policy Makers
Time is ripe for proactive reform
Packet being formulated with conversations with stakeholders
ASBA Legislative Packet
(Items of Consideration)

- Lifetime teaching license upon drawing retirement - current age 62
- Extending Act 1240 (waivers) to all districts (not just districts with charter schools)
- Expand Act 143 (delay and early release for weather issues) to also allow for release for emergencies (gas main burst, water supply, etc)
- Allowing video of bus passing violations to be used in prosecution
ASBA Legislative Packet (Continued)

- County Clerk has responsibility for zone identification upon filing for candidacy
- Change school year requirement to hours instead of days
- Exclude board self-evaluations from FOI
- Objective, streamlined approach to hiring relative of board member w/o board member resigning
- Board member receiving penalty instead of school district when not acquiring PD hours
Other Topics of Discussion

- District coming out of takeover would have staggered board elections instead of whole board replacement in one election.
- Ineligibility of board members to run for election if sitting board member at time of takeover
Other Topics of Discussion (Continued)

- PLSB-like entity for school board accountability
- Board option to adopt teacher fair dismissal or multi-year contract for all employees.
“Those who choose to not take part in the political process are subsequently governed by those who do”
“In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.”

Theodore Roosevelt
Questions?

Dr. Richard Abernathy  
AAEA Executive Director  
r.abernathy@theaaea.org  
501-372-1691

Dr. Tony Prothro  
ASBA Executive Director  
tony@arsba.org  
501-372-1415