

## **BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

On March 9, 2017, during a regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Education, pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the Board by the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-401 *et seq.*, and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program and Academic Distress Program, the Board considered whether to classify the Mineral Springs High School as being in academic distress.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

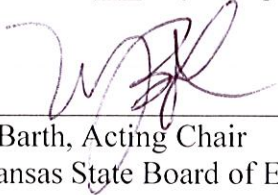
1. In a letter dated January 27, 2017, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) notified the Helena-West Helena School District that 49.5% or less of the students at its Central High School had scored proficient or advanced in math and literacy on the state-mandated assessments administered for the most recent three year period, and that the high school consequently would remain in academic distress.
2. In April of 2016, the State Board had classified Central High School as being in academic distress.
3. In its January 27 letter, the ADE also notified the District that it may appeal its determination to the State Board by filing an appeal within 30 days. The District filed a timely appeal.
4. The State Board heard the District's appeal during its March 9, 2017 meeting, during which the State Board considered documents and arguments presented to it by both the ADE and the District, including evidence that only 49.426% of students at Central High School scored

proficient or advanced in math and literacy on the state-mandated assessments administered for the most recent three year period.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER**

Upon consideration of the evidence and argument presented by the parties, the state Board concludes that due to the fact that only 49.426% of students at Central High School scored proficient or advanced in math and literacy on the state-mandated assessments administered for the most recent three year period, Central High School should remain classified as being in academic distress. Consequently, the State Board denies the District's appeal.

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.



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Jay Barth, Acting Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education