

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

On March 25, 2019, during a special meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Education, pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the State Board by The Quality Education Act of 2003, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-201 *et seq.*, and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts (effective July 2018), the State Board considered the status of the Lee County School District and Lee High School under the Standards for Accreditation.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. In a letter dated March 6, 2019, the Arkansas Department of Education notified the Lee County School District that ADE found both the District and Lee High School to be in probationary violation of the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts for the following reasons:

- Lee County School District: Violation of 1-C.2.1 (probationary)—Each school district shall maintain accurate student records including graduation requirements. Specifically, the District did not maintain accurate, up-to-date transcripts, and parents/students were not notified of issues/significant changes such as students waiving Smart Core.
- Lee High School: Violation of 1-C.2.2 (probationary)—For graduation, students must have acquired a minimum of twenty-two (22) units of credit as determined by the State Board of Education. Specifically, students expecting to graduate did not have appropriate guidance to schedule a minimum of twenty-two units of approved credit, and student transcripts did not reflect the appropriate courses aligned with Smart Core or Core.

2. In its March 6 letter, the ADE notified the District that it would recommend to the State Board that the Board place both the District and Lee High School on probation for these violations.

3. On March 20, 2019, the District appealed the ADE's findings concerning both the District and Lee High School.

4. This matter was heard by the State Board on March 25, 2019, at which time the Board considered evidence and argument presented by the ADE and the District.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

5. The State Board finds that the District and Lee High School violated the Standards of Accreditation as set forth above.

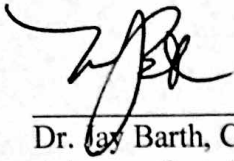
6. The State Board denies the District's appeal, and places the District and Lee High School in probationary status for violations of Standards for Accreditation 1-C.2.1 and 1-C.2.2.

ORDER

7. The State Board exercises its authority under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-207(c) to take the following steps, effective immediately, to address the Standards for Accreditation violations by both the District and Lee High School:

- (a) The superintendent of the Lee County School District is removed;
- (b) All members of the Lee County School District Board of Directors are removed; and
- (c) The State Board delegates authority to the Commissioner of Education to appoint a superintendent to operate the school district under the supervision of the Commissioner.

Signed this 25th day of March, 2019



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education