

Arkansas Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap

The Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap was established by the Arkansas State Legislature, under Act 33 during the Secondary Extraordinary Session of 2003.

Minutes
November 16, 2017
Arkansas Department of Education
Room 304-A
1:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Dr. Mary Brentley
Lillian Williams
Mattie P. Collins
Valeria Tatum
Kristin Whitsett

Members Absent:

On the Phone:

Darin Beckwith, Chair
Colonel Nate Todd

Meeting Location:

Arkansas Department of Education
#4 Capitol Mall, Room 303-A
Little Rock, AR 72201

Welcome/Call to Order:

Darin Beck called the meeting to order at 1:40

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from Approved motion made by Mattie Collins, seconded by Dr. Mary Brentley.
Motion carried

Update of Commission Vacancies

Colonel Nate Todd suggested having Calvin Johnson to apply for the Commission vacancies. Dr. Tatum suggested petition the Commission to give suggestion for people to fill the vacancies.

Discussion 2017 Report:

Dr. Mary Brentley suggested pulling data to show the closing the gap using the data.
Dr. Tatum informed the Commission due to ESSA that school would not be identified in distress.

Mr. Beckwith suggested having Dr. Mike Hernandez working with the Commission. Mr. Beckwith also suggested checking with Mrs. Smith and see if any of the PLC schools are identified.

Mr. Doug Bradbery, ADE Staff Representative suggested putting together a Google Doc for the Commission members to upload ideas.

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Col. Todd suggested:

1. Schools Gap increase their ACT taking in 2019-2020 and offer \$20,000 incentives
2. Grant for 3rd 2019-2022 to identify best practices

Jamie Scott, Youth Services holds meeting introducing ACT Prep classes and might have data for ACT.

Col. Nate suggested hold a press conference identifying the Commission incentives.

Mrs. Collins suggested getting information to the coaches to inform students the need to get a good score on the ACT.

Dr. Brentley suggested prep courses around the State on our website.

Dr. Beckwith suggested getting Arkansas ACT representative Brad? to come to one of our meetings.

Dr. Tatum suggested contacting the local school districts to see about their ACT Prep Workshops.

Col. Todd suggested making recommendations to the SBE in the next report the following:

1. Website a resource center
2. Focus on ACT improvement by educating students and parents
3. Target Athletes
4. Improve 3rd grade
5. Suggested school have active GAP Commissions

Discussion of Board Member:

Setting up a phone conversion to identify the top 3-5 items to include in the next 2017 report.

Upcoming meetings:

January 18, 2018 – 1:00

February 15, 2018 – 1:00

March 15, 2018 – 1:00

April 19, 2018 – 1:00

May 17, 2018 – 1:00

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.


Dain Beckwith, Chair