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ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*Arkansas Diamond Court Reporting*

*21043 Natalie Lane  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72206*

*[scheduling@arkdiamondcr.com](mailto:scheduling@arkdiamondcr.com)*

*PHONE: 501.319.4807*

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## A P P E A R A N C E S

## BOARD MEMBERS:

MS. KATHY McFERTRIDGE-ROLLINS, Chairman  
DR. SARAH MOORE  
MS. LISA HUNT  
MS. ADRIENNE WOODS  
MR. RANDY HENDERSON  
MS. LEIGH S. KEENER

## NON-VOTING PARTICIPANTS:

MR. JACOB OLIVA, ADE Secretary  
MS. STACY SMITH, Deputy Secretary of Education  
MR. ROSS WHITE, Director of the Division of Career and  
Technical Education

## LOCATION:

FIRST NATIONAL BANK ARENA  
ROOM A  
217 Olympic Drive  
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401

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**V.1 DISTRICT WAIVER REQUESTS FOR THE 2024-2025  
SCHOOL START DATE**

**V.1.a: GENOA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOL  
WAIVER REQUEST**

**P R O C E E D I N G S**

MS. SMITH: Good morning. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner with the Arkansas Department of Education.

All right. The first action agenda is a district waiver for Genoa Central. It is a school start date waiver. If you will notice in this waiver, it was one that the co-op put in for, like, as a group, and this is a district that's come in a little bit later.

They asked for five years. Your past waivers that you have approved for the state start date you've amended to one year, so I just wanted to bring that back up to you for past practices on that. But this is the same start date waiver that you've seen numerous school districts across the state request.

CHAIR ROLLINS: Board, do we have any questions on this item?

(NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR ROLLINS: We will need a motion then to

1           either approve or not approve this item for one  
2           year.

3           DR. MOORE:   So Stacy, the request is for five  
4           years?

5           MS. SMITH:   Yes.

6           DR. MOORE:   And --

7           MS. SMITH:   Yes, ma'am.

8           DR. MOORE:   -- so how --

9           MS. SMITH:   Yes, ma'am. The request is for  
10          five years, and that has been the same on all the  
11          other waivers.

12          If this Board chooses to amend the number of  
13          years, you would need to state that in your motion.  
14          So if you were going to approve it for the five  
15          years, you could say that we request as they  
16          requested, or you could amend it to the one year.

17          CHAIR ROLLINS: Thank you.

18          MS. KEENER:   So I make a motion that we  
19          approve the waiver for one year.

20          MS. WOODS:    Second.

21          CHAIR ROLLINS: It's moved and seconded. Is  
22          there any further discussion? All those in favor,  
23          say aye.

24          (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

25          CHAIR ROLLINS: Anyone opposed?

(NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. Thank you.

**V.1.b. SPRING HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

MS. SMITH: The second waiver is another school start-date waiver, and it's by Spring Hill School District. It was also requested for five years as well. So I would ask for a motion to approve the Spring Hill one.

CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay.

MR. HENDERSON: I'd like to make a motion to approve and amend to one year.

CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. We've got a motion.

MS. KEENER: Second.

CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. A second by Ms. Keener. All those in favor, say aye.

(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIR ROLLINS: Anyone opposed?

(NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. Thank you.

**V.2: SILOAM SPRINGS WAIVER REQUEST**

MS. SMITH: Okay. The next action item is for Siloam Springs School District for a waiver request upon class size.

I want to make a comment about that. We have frequently seen these class size ones come up each

1 month, and this is new because we created our  
2 system in which we can tell every single month when  
3 we're off on class size.

4 We're actually working on some rule amendments  
5 that will correct that so we're not having to have  
6 this every-single month come before the Board. So,  
7 hopefully, that will be something that will be  
8 corrected before we get into the next school year.

9 This is a request from Siloam Springs in  
10 second grade. They are one student over, and they  
11 are asking for a waiver to be able to go over and  
12 not have to hire an additional second grade teacher  
13 this late in the school year.

14 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay.

15 MS. SMITH: And we have seen these before, and  
16 the Department does not have a concern.

17 CHAIR ROLLINS: So it is just for the '23-'24  
18 school year?

19 MS. SMITH: Yes, ma'am. This -- yes, this  
20 year.

21 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay.

22 MS. SMITH: That way they don't get an  
23 accreditation violation because they are not  
24 meeting the standard of having the right class  
25 size.

1           So now they are asking for a waiver for that  
2           so they will not be cited and come before the Board  
3           in May because they violated the standards for  
4           accreditation. So we're going to, hopefully, be  
5           able to correct that in the way our standards are  
6           written, and this won't be something you will have  
7           to see over and over again.

8           CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay.

9           MS. WOODS: So they want the next six weeks?

10          MS. SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

11          MS. WOODS: Okay. And just out of curiosity  
12          on the dates, how come we didn't see this last  
13          month? Because it looks like they submitted it on  
14          February 19th.

15          MS. SMITH: It might have been in review  
16          process, and it took a number of days to get onto  
17          your agenda.

18          CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. We will need a motion  
19          then to either approve or deny this request when  
20          you're ready.

21          MS. WOODS: There's so few of us. So many of  
22          us are going to be talking today. I'll move to  
23          approve.

24          MS. KEENER: Second.

25          CHAIR ROLLINS: It's been moved and seconded.



1 Any further discussion?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 CHAIR ROLLINS: All right. All those in  
4 favor, say aye.

5 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

6 CHAIR ROLLINS: Anyone opposed?

7 (NO RESPONSE)

8 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. Thank you.

9 **V.3: SMACKOVER-NORPHLET WAIVER REQUEST**

10 MS. SMITH: The next waiver request is for  
11 Smackover-Norphlet. This waiver request is  
12 actually for the licensure of a superintendent.

13 In the letter, it states that their  
14 superintendent resigned in February. I don't know  
15 the details of the resignation. It looks like the  
16 district has asked this person to step in for the  
17 remainder of this year only.

18 She has put in here her credentials that  
19 she's been with the district for 22 years. She's  
20 in her 28th year of education. She has served as  
21 an elementary principal and a classroom teacher,  
22 and is currently a part of their district  
23 administrative staff. So the Department does not  
24 have a concern at this time for this being asked  
25 for only the remainder of this year while they look

1 for a superintendent.

2 MS. KEENER: Now, for the remainder of the  
3 school year with a superintendent it's different  
4 than a classroom teacher because their contract  
5 would go through June 30th; is that right?

6 MS. SMITH: So this contract is through June  
7 30th, but, most likely, they will be on the search  
8 for a superintendent, and they will probably put a  
9 superintendent on a contract July 1.

10 MS. KEENER: Okay.

11 CHAIR ROLLINS: And we just -- we assume that  
12 their board is okay with this as well?

13 MS. SMITH: Yes. This was a request from  
14 their employees and their board.

15 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. All right.

16 Are there any further questions? Do we have a  
17 motion?

18 MR. HENDERSON: I'd like to make a motion to  
19 approve.

20 MS. KEENER: Second.

21 CHAIR ROLLINS: All right. It's been moved  
22 and seconded. Any further discussion?

23 (NO RESPONSE)

24 CHAIR ROLLINS: All those in favor, say aye.

25 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

1 CHAIR ROLLINS: Anyone opposed?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. Thank you.

4 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

5 **V.4: REQUEST FOR FINAL APPROVAL: DESE RULES**

6 **GOVERNING THE ADULT DIPLOMA PROGRAM**

7 **(EMERGENCY RULE)**

8 **V.5 REQUEST TO RELEASE DESE RULES FOR PUBLIC**

9 **COMMENT**

10 **V.5.a DESE RULE GOVERNING THE ADULT DIPLOMA ACT**

11 MR. WHITE: Good morning. Ross White,  
12 Director of the Division of Career and Technical  
13 Education.

14 So today we have Act 546, the Arkansas Adult  
15 Diploma Act, back in front of you for some rule  
16 pieces. So with those rules -- you've previously  
17 seen them. We've had some updates so we are  
18 bringing them back to you.

19 I believe there are two pieces that you are  
20 looking at today. One is the emergency rules, and  
21 it's already in motion, and then the rules that  
22 will go out for public comment.

23 So the last time we presented this we had a  
24 lot of questions, so I've got a little bit of a  
25 presentation to go through. And what this is,

1 based off of legislation, I'm bringing it to you  
2 just so you know kind of where we're at.

3 So Act 546 was passed, obviously, in the  
4 session last spring. So what it has done is,  
5 obviously, allocated 750,000 dollars out of the  
6 Department of Commerce through the Office of Skills  
7 Development for us to be able to do the Adult  
8 Diploma Act. It gave the Department of Ed,  
9 obviously, the oversight and rule making process  
10 for this. So then that's where it's going with us  
11 in regards to it actually happening, but with our  
12 partners there at the Department of Commerce for  
13 the dollars.

14 So it is designed for adults since it's the  
15 Adult Diploma Act. So it's for individuals that  
16 are over the age of 21 that, obviously, do not have  
17 a high school diploma. The goal there is to obtain  
18 a high school diploma and so that it can,  
19 obviously, give them a skill set -- an employee-  
20 ability skill set for the next piece. And then to  
21 align well with a lot of the work we are doing in  
22 LEARNS. And all things is, obviously, to prepare  
23 them for a high wage and then a high-end demand or  
24 high-end growth career here in the State of  
25 Arkansas.

1           So with that, currently, we rank 42nd in the  
2           U.S. for high school diplomas for adults and so,  
3           obviously, right there is a concern. We know we  
4           see concerns, too, in the state with people  
5           attempting to obtain their GED. And so this is  
6           where that gives them that other path so that they  
7           can actually earn their high school diploma. And  
8           so that is an additional pathway. We, obviously,  
9           have a great Adult Ed Program through the  
10          Department of Commerce already. So this is just an  
11          additional pathway for adults in Arkansas to be  
12          able to get that high school diploma because we  
13          know, not necessarily every pathway works for every  
14          person so this is an additional path there. And as  
15          I mentioned, it's already kind of a compliment to  
16          the work we are doing in LEARNS, especially to  
17          align that with demand careers and with careers  
18          that are growing within our state.

19          And then, of course, that family-sustaining  
20          wage becomes a really important part that we are  
21          giving them skill sets and trainings to get their  
22          high school diploma, but also skills that we put  
23          within them can help them achieve one of those  
24          careers with a family-sustaining wage.

25          So through that, we had to go through an RFQ

1 process for this for vendors because this is the  
2 way the legislation was written is that vendors  
3 will be the ones providing it.

4 And so through that RFQ process that occurred  
5 this past fall, those are our four vendors that  
6 were -- the four that submitted -- the four that  
7 met the qualifications.

8 And then what they are qualified to do is the  
9 five bullet items there at the bottom. That's what  
10 they can receive reimbursement for. So they can be  
11 reimbursed for helping that individual earn high  
12 school credit, of course, the completion of a  
13 certification that is applying to a skill, the  
14 obtainment of a workforce credential that requires  
15 that 50 to 100 hours of training, or an additional  
16 workforce credential over 100 hours of training.

17 So we broke those two up because, obviously,  
18 there are many workforce credentials that go well  
19 over 100 hours so there's a little bit of a cost  
20 difference there.

21 Then the last one is then, of course,  
22 obtaining a high school diploma. And that's the  
23 ultimate goal of the Program, but we know that  
24 being able to do any of those are a piece of it.  
25 So in the rules that you have, obviously, it spells

1 out what that reimbursement process looks like as  
2 it was set and if we rolled those rules forward  
3 what it would be.

4 So the students are cohorted and then there's  
5 a maximum expense per student of \$7000 that could  
6 occur in an academic year.

7 So some of those students could complete  
8 within -- I said academic -- one fiscal year. And  
9 so some students might carry on to multiple fiscal  
10 years just depending on where they come to these  
11 providers with. Some come with quite a bit of high  
12 school credit and just be a few credits shy of it;  
13 and some will come with almost none.

14 And so every adult that's going to come in  
15 front of this is going to be uniquely different,  
16 and so there is no set one model that we could say  
17 or time frame that it will take because each person  
18 is a little different in what that will look like.

19 And so from that, again, we will kind of have  
20 two requests. The one I believe I'm on right now  
21 is the emergency rules, and, of course, they are  
22 aligned to the legislation and they allow us to  
23 operate currently.

24 The legislation did have this begin in  
25 January. So we have students needing services

1 since January, and those providers have already  
2 been submitting to us what they've been achieving  
3 on a monthly basis. And so we already have some of  
4 those in so that will allow us to begin to  
5 reimburse them for what's already being served to  
6 these adults.

7 And then, of course, the rules that will go  
8 up for public comment will be what carries us  
9 through the future with this Program as it  
10 continues to move forward. And that's where we're  
11 at.

12 So those are our two requests, and with that I  
13 will take any questions you all might have.

14 MS. KEENER: What's our current numbers that  
15 we have enrolled across the state for adults in  
16 this program?

17 MR. WHITE: So through Adult Education with  
18 the Department of Commerce, I do not have those  
19 numbers, but I can get them for you.

20 MS. KEENER: No. I was just curious if you  
21 knew.

22 CHAIR ROLLINS: So we need to take these in  
23 two votes?

24 MR. WHITE: Yes. I believe they are listed as  
25 two separate items on the agenda.



1 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. So the one -- the  
2 emergency rules --

3 MR. WHITE: Well, two sets of rules should  
4 appear the exact same. It's just that the  
5 emergency rules allow us to operate with where  
6 we're currently at because -- I mean, the  
7 legislation was occurring the beginning of January,  
8 and so we have students who are already enrolled in  
9 these programs by those providers. And so the  
10 providers have been submitting reimbursement, but,  
11 obviously, we can't do any reimbursements with them  
12 until we have approved rules. So we have emergency  
13 rules to carry forward once we go through public  
14 comment. We do have -- of those four providers --  
15 two that are already actively with students and  
16 enrolled.

17 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. I guess I thought we  
18 had already passed the emergency rules.

19 (INAUDIBLE CHORUS OF CHATTER)

20 MR. WHITE: No. We haven't had any payments  
21 that's gone out at this point. I mean, we've just  
22 kind of been holding back.

23 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay.

24 MR. WHITE: We do have two providers that have  
25 submitted quite a bit to us in the process.

1 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. That's great.

2 So are there any further questions on these?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

4 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. We will go ahead and do  
5 the first one then, rules governing the Adult  
6 Diploma Program, the emergency rules. So we will  
7 need a motion on that one.

8 MS. KEENER: So I move that we approve the  
9 Adult Diploma Program emergency rules.

10 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.  
11 Keener.

12 MR. HENDERSON: Second.

13 CHAIR ROLLINS: A second by Mr. Henderson.  
14 Any further discussion?

15 (NO RESPONSE)

16 CHAIR ROLLINS: All those in favor, say aye.

17 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

18 CHAIR ROLLINS: Anyone opposed?

19 (NO RESPONSE)

20 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. The second one is rule  
21 governing the Adult Diploma Program, and this would  
22 be approval to be released for public comment.  
23 Okay.

24 MS. KEENER: I move that we approve the  
25 Arkansas Adult Diploma Program rules to be released

1 for public comment.

2 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. Motion by Ms. Keener.

3 MS. WOODS: Second.

4 CHAIR ROLLINS: Second by Ms. Woods. Is there  
5 any further discussion?

6 (NO RESPONSE)

7 CHAIR ROLLINS: All those in favor, say aye.

8 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

9 CHAIR ROLLINS: Anyone opposed?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. Thank you.

12 **V.5.b: DESE RULE GOVERNING SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION**  
13 **CONTRACTS**

14 MS. SMITH: Me?

15 CHAIR ROLLINS: Yes.

16 MS. SMITH: The next item on the agenda is  
17 rules governing the school transformation  
18 contracts, and I don't have a fancy presentation,  
19 but Randy said he would dance if we needed him to.

20 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF LAUGHTER)

21 MS. SMITH: So these are the transformation  
22 contract rules. We actually discussed these in a  
23 work session a while back, and, really, throughout  
24 that discussion in the work session, we have  
25 actually made some changes based on some of the

1 feedback in the discussions and questions that were  
2 asked during that.

3 We have a little bit of experience with this  
4 Board with the transformation contract in the work  
5 that we have done with Marvell-Elaine.

6 This really is supposed to be an opportunity  
7 for districts to take ownership and action prior to  
8 getting in trouble with the state authority. So  
9 when you have a district that's on level four  
10 support or schools in a district that are  
11 struggling, it's the opportunity for the districts  
12 to create contracts for transformation to turn  
13 their schools around. They can do it for their  
14 district; they can do it for individual schools.  
15 It allows schools to have a two-year accountability  
16 -- a different accountability system in letter  
17 grade while the process is happening.

18 School districts who seek a transformation  
19 contract with that alternative accountability have  
20 to have those transformational contracts approved  
21 by the State Board. Okay. Districts -- and some  
22 of the questions we were being asked were can  
23 districts have contracts without -- yes. Districts  
24 can have contracts all the time that are not  
25 approved by this Board. But when you get into a

1 transformation contract, you're looking for a  
2 district to make a -- do something different to do  
3 something to make something work in their schools  
4 that hasn't been working. All right? So that's  
5 kind of the goal and the vision for this.

6 Some of the other questions that were asked  
7 were about schools that were under State authority  
8 and how long you could have a transformation  
9 contract. So on page six of the rules on 5.04, we  
10 amended that to make sure that folks know that it  
11 cannot be on the authority of what we have. We  
12 can't extend the transformation contract longer  
13 than the State is under authority. So we noted  
14 that in here. We moved exact years and just put  
15 the authority of -- the State authority piece.

16 A district, again -- we also noted in here  
17 just to clarify, a school district does not, under  
18 State authority, if it's working for them, they can  
19 continue to contract with that provider afterwards.  
20 The transformation piece and the approval of this  
21 Board is for involvement in the accountability  
22 system. Okay. I'll take any questions if you have  
23 any.

24 CHAIR ROLLINS: Who pays for this?

25 MS. SMITH: So it's funded by the school

1 district.

2 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay.

3 MS. SMITH: So the contract -- this is a  
4 contract between the school district and the  
5 provider. There has been some mention of possible  
6 incentive funding, or funds in the future so those  
7 are things we will -- if there's funding available.

8 MS. KEENER: And tell me how this affects  
9 representation within the area. So is there a  
10 school board set up? Is that --

11 MS. SMITH: So here's what we would like to  
12 see. We would like to see school districts before  
13 they ever get to this level. We would like their  
14 local school boards taking action.

15 So let's say they have a very, very large  
16 district and you only have one or two schools that  
17 are struggling so that school maybe wants to do a  
18 transformation contract with a single school.  
19 Bring in some type of educational operator to come  
20 in and do something different with that school.  
21 Operate it in a different manner. That local  
22 school board would go and contract with that  
23 outside educational organization to run that  
24 school. And they then can come here and ask this  
25 Board for a two-year alternative accountability

1 while they are doing the work in that school.

2 MS. KEENER: And are these retroactive? Is it  
3 Lee County that's --

4 MS. SMITH: Yes. So Marvell-Elaine --

5 MS. KEENER: Marvel-Elaine. Sorry.

6 MS. SMITH: -- is the school district right  
7 now that we have a -- that's under State's  
8 authority.

9 So this was a decision made by the Secretary  
10 -- the Commissioner, acting in lieu of the Board  
11 because we dissolved the board there and we created  
12 a transformation contract.

13 One thing, though, that I think we did well  
14 with Marvell-Elaine is we had Marvell-Elaine  
15 community people involved in interviewing,  
16 reviewing the applicants, making a recommendation  
17 about who they wanted. It wasn't the Commissioner  
18 or myself conducting all the interviews. It was  
19 community people that had a voice in it.

20 MS. KEENER: So will these affect that  
21 contract, or is that contract --

22 MS. SMITH: So that contract is falling under  
23 these rules.

24 MS. KEENER: Okay.

25 MS. SMITH: So we have operated under what the

1 law has allowed us to operate.

2 These rules are now giving us more clarity as  
3 we move forward with future transformation  
4 contracts. Because if you will remember, even with  
5 our transformation contract with Marvell, we were  
6 trying to figure stuff out. "Can we do this?"  
7 "Can we not do this?" This helps give us the rules  
8 and the playground that we can play in.

9 MS. KEENER: One thing I remember hearing from  
10 the superintendent there -- I'm not sure if that's  
11 the correct title, but he said, "Give me three  
12 years.", "Give me three years." And so this being  
13 two, is that --

14 MS. SMITH: It's only two for the alternate  
15 accountability.

16 MS. KEENER: Okay.

17 MS. SMITH: They could have that  
18 transformation contract for several years, but they  
19 will go back under the regular accountability  
20 system in year three.

21 MS. KEENER: In year three?

22 MS. SMITH: Uh-huh. So they can continue on  
23 with the contract.

24 Transformation, when we are talking about  
25 something like this -- and we recognize that



1 transforming or turning around schools takes a long  
2 time. But this is like a shot in the arm.

3 This is something -- we're doing something  
4 drastic and major to get this going because we are  
5 not -- we're failing kids, and we have to do  
6 something drastic.

7 So transformation contracts are the  
8 opportunities for people to roll up their sleeves,  
9 try something different because what they have been  
10 doing hasn't been working -- and try something and  
11 not be penalized with the accountability system.

12 CHAIR ROLLINS: Ms. Hunter, I'm glad you could  
13 join us today. Do you have any questions?

14 MS. HUNTER: I do not. Thank you.

15 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. Ms. Woods?

16 MS. WOODS: No.

17 CHAIR ROLLINS: Mr. Henderson?

18 MR. HENDERSON: Do not.

19 CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. Okay.

20 Are you good?

21 MS. KEENER: Yeah. I've already asked mine.

22 MR. OLIVA: Dr. Moore may have questions.

23 CHAIR ROLLINS: Dr. Moore?

24 DR. MOORE: Thank you. Good morning, all. I  
25 have talked a little bit about the timeline for

1 this. As we're thinking about if this were done in  
2 the future for a school district, would a school  
3 district be able to enter into the contract --  
4 well, let me rephrase this. A school district can  
5 enter into this contract without the State and the  
6 rules apply for that; correct, Stacy?

7 MS. SMITH: Yes, ma'am. Yes.

8 DR. MOORE: Okay. So if there was a scenario  
9 where they had contracted and then the state was  
10 seeing that they were in the bottom percent of all  
11 schools, the State would come in a reassess that  
12 contract?

13 MS. SMITH: Yes, ma'am. So on page six, those  
14 were some of the points we made different after  
15 having conversations with you.

16 We actually put in there that if the State  
17 Board assumes authority of a district in which  
18 they've already started a transformation contract,  
19 that that contract should become void. So if we --  
20 if the school district comes and asks for a  
21 transformation contract, we -- you guys allow them  
22 to continue to do so but we don't see the progress  
23 because there's quarterly reports coming to this  
24 Board, if the progress is not being made, and this  
25 Board determines that they want to take an action,

1 then that contract would be void if you took State  
2 authority. So that was --

3 DR. MOORE: And then I --

4 MS. SMITH: Yeah. Section 5 --

5 DR. MOORE: I appreciate the piece about  
6 providing reports. Right now with Marvell, how  
7 many -- I think they've only provided us one report  
8 this year?

9 MS. SMITH: So they are providing quarterly  
10 reports.

11 DR. MOORE: Okay. They are doing quarterly  
12 reports?

13 MS. SMITH: Yes. They are doing quarterly  
14 reports, and Ms. Whitlow is the one keeping up with  
15 those and making sure those get to the Board.

16 DR. MOORE: Okay. And then this will allow  
17 us, like I said, the initial two years. After  
18 those two years, if the Board still wanted some  
19 kind of reports, accountability mechanism that  
20 could be put in place?

21 MS. SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

22 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you. Sorry. It took  
23 me a good minute to get my questions out.

24 MR. OLIVA: And if I could also add, I think  
25 one of the things that's exciting as we're going

1 through implementation with Arkansas LEARNS and  
2 kind of re-imagining the space and how we assess  
3 teaching and learning in K-12.

4 We're getting ready to start our pilot in our  
5 unified coordinated progress learning system in the  
6 K-2 space, which we haven't had. So we have some  
7 districts that are going to participate in that.

8 But when school starts next fall, we're going  
9 to have one system statewide in ELA and reading K-  
10 10 where we're going to get that snapshot in time  
11 on how our students are doing, and we can be able  
12 to compare districts to districts or see different  
13 regions of the state, maybe different co-ops,  
14 and be able to pivot and target resources as we've  
15 deployed over 100 literacy coaches.

16 We're going to have real-time data that may  
17 identify areas that need additional attention, so  
18 we're not going to wait till the end of the year  
19 for some of the assessment results. We're going to  
20 be nimble and provide reports to the Board like Dr.  
21 Moore said, and I think it would be great as we  
22 provide those reports to talk about the actions  
23 that our agency is taking to support students.

24 So we're going to not wait until the end of  
25 the year to realize that children had a problem.

1 We're going to know all the way through the year  
2 and be right there providing interventions and  
3 supports and working with the families and schools  
4 as that's happening. So --

5 MS. SMITH: Did you have a question?

6 MS. WOODS: I did. Something that -

7 MS. SMITH: Maybe I said something wrong.

8 MS. KEENER: No, no. Dr. Moore said something  
9 that made me --

10 MS. SMITH: Okay.

11 MS. WOODS: So in the contracts between the  
12 district and whoever they are entering into a  
13 contract with, are there provisions for when it  
14 goes void?

15 MS. SMITH: That's established within the  
16 contract between the district and the provider.

17 MS. KEENER: And so they just know that if  
18 this ends up failing mid-year, the State gets to  
19 come in and it doesn't matter what expenditures  
20 you've made?

21 MS. SMITH: If the State assumes authority  
22 over a district, that contract would be voided.

23 MS. WOODS: Okay. Thank you.

24 MS. SMITH: Now, that doesn't mean that there  
25 are probably -- I would think that the district

1           probably -- with the outside provider, probably has  
2           metrics in there of progress that needs to be met,  
3           and as those quarterly reports and as  
4           transformation contracts are being created,  
5           quarterly reports are being reviewed. The State --  
6           if you approved the transformation contract, the  
7           expectation is progress is going to be made.

8           MS. WOODS: Sure.

9           MS. SMITH: If progress is not being made, and  
10          they have failed to meet the obligations in the  
11          contract, the State can assume authority thus then  
12          voiding the contract.

13          MS. WOODS: Okay. I just needed someone to  
14          walk me through that.

15          CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. Do we have any other  
16          questions?

17                               (NO RESPONSE)

18          CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. This would be to  
19          approve or not approve the rule governing school  
20          transformation contracts, and this is approval to  
21          be released for public comment.

22          MS. WOODS: I'll move to approve and to submit  
23          for public comment.

24          CHAIR ROLLINS: Okay. Motion by Ms. Woods.

25          MR. HENDERSON: Second.

1 CHAIR ROLLINS: Second by Mr. Henderson. Any  
2 further discussion? All those in favor, say aye.

3 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

4 CHAIR ROLLINS: Any -- anyone opposed?

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 CHAIR ROLLINS: All right, thank you.

7 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

8 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were concluded in  
9 the matter at 10:40 a.m. on April 11, 2024.)  
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## C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS )

) ss

COUNTY OF PULASKI )

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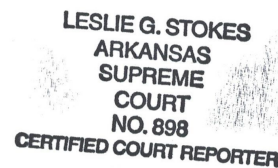
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