

**ERZ Conceptual Framework
2014-2015**

The purpose of an Education Renewal Zone shall be to:

- Identify and implement education and management strategies designed specifically to improve public school performance and student academic achievement throughout the State of Arkansas, with special focus on the state’s most academically distressed public schools;
- Provide for collaboration among the state’s smaller schools and districts in order to achieve some of the advantages of economies of scale in providing educational and related activities;
- Maximize benefits and outcomes of public schooling by concentrating and coordinating the resources of Arkansas’ higher education institutions, the expertise of the regional education service cooperatives, and the technical assistance of other service providers to improve public school performance and student academic achievement; and
- Enable small, rural, and low-wealth schools to make the best use of the latest cost-effective distance learning technology to enhance curricula and professional development through two-way interactive learning environments.

Goals and Indicators
I. The ERZ will provide collaboration between and among the Higher Education Institution partners, Education Service Cooperatives, schools, and communities participating in the Education Renewal Zone, including within the academic departments within the Higher Education Institution partners.
1. The ERZ facilitates meaningful collaboration among the Institutions of Higher Education, Educational Service Cooperatives, schools, and communities participating in the ERZ to improve public school performance and student academic achievement.
2. The ERZ director leads representatives from ERZ stakeholders in a collaborative process to develop, review, and/or revise the vision and mission of the ERZ.
3. The ERZ serves as a resource to assist partners in assessing their needs in the areas of curriculum, instruction, professional development, leadership, and data management.
4. The ERZ operates as a resource of information for schools in meeting their needs to initiate and sustain capacity-building efforts in the areas of teaching and learning; culture and climate; leadership; and data management..
5. The ERZ facilitates ongoing communication among stakeholders utilizing a variety of techniques.
6. The ERZ supports the networking of partners in seeking multiple funding sources.
II The ERZ shall provide for a comprehensive program of professional development to assure the practical knowledge base of pre-service and in-service teachers with respect to pedagogical practice, content knowledge,

and competent use of distance learning technology.
1. The ERZ works with the Institutions of Higher Education and school partners to align pre-service Programs of Study to the needs of beginning teachers as measured by research-best practices and state and institutional standards.
2. The ERZ through networking assists schools in identifying professional development opportunities that will build capacity to positively impact teaching and learning, culture and climate, leadership, and data management.
3. The ERZ collaborates with schools to build an understanding that data-driven, research-based professional development opportunities must be aligned to the schools' learning goals for students and the individual professional growth needs of staff.
4. The ERZ supports schools in the development of professional development to deepen teachers' understanding of using real world contexts, integrating technology appropriately, and establishing the rigor needed for college and career readiness.
5. The ERZ serves as a resource to schools in developing a process for evaluating their professional development.
6. ERZ provides opportunities for partners to network and share research-based best practices.
III The ERZ will serve as a resource for schools to provide enhancement and expansion of local school curricula offerings through the use of two-way interactive television to include advanced placement, dual-credit, and advanced high school courses.
1. The ERZ serves as a resource of information to schools regarding the enhancement and expansion of local school curricula offerings available through electronic technology.
2. The ERZ facilitates discussions among partners on ways to use immerging technology to enhance and expand curricula offerings.
IV The ERZ supports the sharing of faculty for core course offerings when schools are unable to hire highly-qualified teachers in core subject areas required for college entrance or teachers necessary to meet state accreditation standards
1. The ERZ assists schools in identifying options for sharing faculty in core areas when highly qualified teachers are not available.
2. The ERZ distributes information regarding the Arkansas Traveling Teachers (ATT) initiative to schools.
3. The ERZ collaborates with partners to assist schools in sharing Institutions of Higher Education faculty to provide support to improve content knowledge and pedagogy.
V The ERZ collaborates with schools to develop strategies to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers with particular focus on hard-to-staff schools.
1. The ERZ serves as a resource to schools in developing an effective plan to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers.
2. The ERZ supports educators seeking professional recognition in their designated fields (i.e., National Board Certification; involvement and representation in professional organizations; attending and presenting at conferences and showcases).
3. The ERZ networks with partners to encourage the support and recognition of faculty demonstrating exemplary best practices.

VI The ERZ supports a system for mentoring teachers with three (3) or fewer years of professional service.
1. The ERZ provides resources to the schools to assist in their efforts to provide mentoring strategies that are ongoing, job-embedded, and designed to improve the structure and culture of the schools for beginning and career teachers.
2. The ERZ facilitates mentoring activities collaboratively conducted between Institutions of Higher Education, Educational Service Cooperatives, and K-12 schools as needed and/or requested.
VII The ERZ supports active participation of the community in the work of the school.
1. The ERZ serves as a resource to schools to initiate and implement ongoing and sustainable programs that promote academic and social interactions families and communities.
2. Parents and community members are recruited to serve on committees facilitated through the ERZ (including the advisory committee).
3. The ERZ serves as a resource to schools in developing a systemic process to identify family and community involvement needs based on formal and informal data.
VIII The ERZ supports active involvement of parents in the academic work of the student.
1. The ERZ facilitates discussions with schools in understanding the role of the school in improving student learning at home.
2. The ERZ provides opportunities for schools to share ideas on how to assist parents in the academic work of their students.
3. The ERZ provides opportunities for schools to share strategies to improve home/school communication.
4. The ERZ provides opportunities for partner schools to network and discuss the effective use of homework.
IX The ERZ and partners regularly analyze multiple data sources and use the results to plan and evaluate the work of the ERZX including
1. determine the professional development needs of the partners
2. review and evaluate professional development facilitated by the ERZ
3. identify faculty sharing opportunities for partner schools
4. identify access to electronic technology, advanced placement, concurrent credit, and advanced high school courses
5. identify the impact of distance learning technology on curricular offerings including advanced placement, dual credit, and advanced high school courses
6. evaluate the impact and emerging needs of faculty sharing.
7. to identify partner needs for highly qualified teachers
8. identify partner needs to improve home-school communication