

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

On June 12, 2014, during a regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board), a hearing was conducted pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the State Board by 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 (Standards for Accreditation). Before the State Board was the appeal of the Cross County School District challenging the Arkansas Department of Education's determination that the Cross County New Tech High School failed to meet the Standards for Accreditation.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. On May 1, 2014, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-203, the Arkansas Department of Education notified the Cross County School District that the Cross County New Tech High School had been determined by the Arkansas Department of Education as having failed to meet the Standards for Accreditation for the 2013-2014 school year.
2. The reason for the determination, according to the Arkansas Department of Education, was that the Cross County New Tech High School violated Standards for Accreditation Section 9.03.4.7, which requires a high school to teach four (4) units of Social Studies.
3. On May 8, 2014, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-203, the Cross County School District filed an appeal of the Arkansas Department of Education's determination.
4. According to the Cross County School District, a coding error resulted in the Arkansas Department of Education's determination that the Cross County New Tech High School did not teach the required four (4) units of Social Studies. The district contended that the correct courses were actually taught at the Cross County New Tech High School.

5. All public schools and school districts shall meet the Standards for Accreditation. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(b). Any school or school district which fails to meet current standards for accreditation shall be classified as probationary. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-206(a).

6. The State Board finds that the Cross County New Tech High School did not violate Standards for Accreditation Section 9.03.4.7, which requires a high school to teach four (4) units of Social Studies.

ORDER

7. The appeal of the Cross County School District is hereby granted.

Signed this 24th day of July, 2014


Sam Ledbetter, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education