

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 Drew Central School District challenging the Arkansas Department of Education’s determination that the Drew Central 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 Drew Central School District that the Drew Central 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 Drew Central High School violated Standards for Accreditation Section 9.03.4.4, which requires a high school to teach two (2) units of the same foreign language.
3. On May 13, 2014, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-203, the Drew Central School District filed an appeal of the Arkansas Department of Education’s determination.
4. According to the Drew Central School District, a scheduling error resulted in the high school not teaching two (2) units of the same foreign language during the first semester. However, the district contended that it corrected the scheduling error in the second semester and “double blocked” a Spanish II course so that students could achieve the proper credits.

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 Drew Central High School violated Standards for Accreditation Section 9.03.4.4, which requires a high school to teach two (2) units of the same foreign language.

ORDER

7. The appeal of the Drew Central School District is hereby denied.

Signed this 24th day of July, 2014



Sam Ledbetter, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education