

## **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 Wynne School District challenging the Arkansas Department of Education's determination that the Wynne 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 Wynne School District that the Wynne 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 reasons for the determination, according to the Arkansas Department of Education, were that the Wynne High School violated Standards for Accreditation Section 9.03.4.11.8 and 9.03.4.3.
3. The Standards for Accreditation permit, under certain circumstances, a public school district to petition the Arkansas Department of Education to count an Advanced Placement (AP) course in the place of a course that is part of the 38 required units of instruction in the subject areas of mathematics, English, science and social studies. One condition for such approval requires a public school district to notify the Arkansas Department of Education in writing after registration in the spring prior to the beginning of the school year, and immediately after the school year begins, if no students enrolled in a required course and if the public school district

will seek to meet the requirements of the Standards for Accreditation through an AP course. (Standards for Accreditation Section 9.03.4.11.8). The Arkansas Department of Education determined that the Wynne School District failed to meet the notice requirement.

4. Standards for Accreditation Section 9.03.4.3 requires a high school to teach six (6) units of mathematics.

5. On May 13, 2014, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-203, the Wynne School District filed an appeal of the Arkansas Department of Education's determination.

6. According to the Wynne School District, the Wynne High School is on a "4x4 block schedule" and made corrections to its master schedule for the second semester of the 2013-2014 school year.

7. 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).

8. The State Board finds that the Wynne High School did violate Standards for Accreditation Section 9.03.4.11.8 and 9.03.4.3.

**ORDER**

9. The appeal of the Wynne School District is hereby denied.

Signed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014

  
Sam Ledbetter, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education