

Arkansas Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap

The Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap was established by the Arkansas State Legislature, under Act 33 during the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003.

Minutes
April 16, 2015

Members in Attendance: Dr. Dawn Tirado Simpson, Kathy Powers, Nathaniel Todd, Senator Jack Crumbly, Dr. Luis Restrepo*, Cassandra Barnett
*via conference call

Guests in Attendance: Dr. Debbie Jones, Stacy Smith

Meeting Location: Arkansas Department of Education, Room 303B, Little Rock, Arkansas

Welcome/Call to Order:

Dr. Simpson, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Discussion of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The minutes were reviewed. Kathy Powers moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Senator Crumbly. The motion passed.

Presentation:

Dr. Debbie Jones, Assistant Commissioner Learning Services, and Stacy Smith, Director Curriculum and Instruction Unit, presented information about Response to Intervention (RTI). RTI is a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning needs. The process includes screening all students to identify learning needs, constant monitoring of struggling students, and high-quality instruction in the classroom. Struggling learners are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to help them improve their learning. The ADE is developing this RTI model for schools needing a systematic support system for helping students who are struggling.

Dr. Jones and Ms. Smith will provide a simplified version of their slide presentation to the Commission. It was suggested that it be posted to the Commission's website.

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Bridging the Gap Annual Educational Symposium – the tentative date is June 18 and will be held at ACTI. Dr. Simpson will be contact the sub-committee members to continue planning.
- b. Common Core and its Impact on Achievement – Kathy Power will be presenting to the Arkansas Common Core State Standards Commission on May 6.

Future Meeting Date(s):

Dr. Simpson requested that the next meeting be rescheduled for May 14. The attending commission members agreed to the change. Location to be determined.

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:15.