



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: Arkansas Education Commissioner Tom W. Kimbrell announced Monday the appointment of Tommy Arant to serve as superintendent of the Twin Rivers School District for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. Arant has worked in Arkansas as an education administrator at the school, educational service cooperative and state levels.

"I believe Mr. Arant is the right person to ensure that the children of Twin Rivers receive the education they deserve and that will prepare them to be college- and career-ready," Kimbrell said. He made the announcement in the school district's Williford campus gymnasium during a meeting with about 500 community members.

The state assumed control of the district on February 8, 2010, when the Arkansas State Board of Education voted to remove the Twin Rivers School District superintendent and the school board and to reconstitute the school district under Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-15-207. The State Board action was in response to the fact that the Twin Rivers School District violated the state's standards of accreditation for two consecutive years. The most recent report points to six of the 18 standards of accreditation being violated: Curriculum, Instruction, Teacher Licensure and Professional Development, Attendance and Enrollment, Graduation Requirements and Accreditation Status.

"It is never easy for a community to lose a school district, yet this action was taken because the state is obligated to ensure an adequate education for all public school students wherever they live," Kimbrell said. The accreditation standards, which provide a blueprint for schools to follow regarding such things as instruction time, teacher qualifications, curriculum and class size, help the state to ensure adequacy is reached in each district.

The Arkansas State Board of Education also directed the Arkansas Department of Education to develop a plan for annexation of the Twin Rivers School District into one or more contiguous districts as of July 1, 2010. The six contiguous districts are Highland, Hillcrest, Mammoth Springs, Maynard, Pocahontas and Sloan-Hendrix school districts.

Attached is a fact sheet that was distributed at the meeting Monday.

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.