



Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

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12 Public Schools Named Schools of Innovation

LITTLE ROCK — Twelve Arkansas public schools have been designated as Schools of Innovation for the 2016-17 school year. These schools join 11 schools that received the designation in 2014-15 and four that were recognized in 2015-16.

“As the 2016-17 school year begins, I am pleased to designate 12 additional Schools of Innovation,” ADE Commissioner Johnny Key said. “High schools comprise the majority of the new Schools of Innovation, and they are focused not only on improving student performance and graduation rates, but also on providing students with purposeful connections to careers and higher education.”

The 2016-17 Schools of Innovation are as follows:

- Greenwood Junior High School – Greenwood School District
- Kirby High School – Kirby School District
- Lake Hamilton High School – Lake Hamilton School District
- Lakeside Middle School – Lakeside School District
- Newport High School – Newport School District
- Pangburn High School – Pangburn School District
- Prescott High School – Prescott School District
- Stuttgart High School – Stuttgart School District
- West Fork High School – West Fork School District
- West Fork Middle School – West Fork School District
- White County Central High School – White County Central School District
- Wynne Intermediate School – Wynne School District

Schools of Innovation receive waivers from traditional rules and regulations. The waivers allow them the flexibility to make improvements through innovative educational practices, such as modified class time schedules, blended courses that result in additional course options and licensure flexibility.

Schools interested in becoming a School of Innovation this school year submitted an initial application in December. The Arkansas Department of Education and the Office of Innovation for Education

provided technical assistance. After final applications were received in March, ADE and OIE staff reviewed the applications and provided recommendations to the commissioner.

A school that is named a School of Innovation receives the designation for four years. The school's progress is then reviewed and may receive the designation for four additional years.

To learn more about each of the schools, as well as prior designees, go to <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/schools-of-innovation>.

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