From the OEP

Once again, the OWL is coming to you this week from Little Rock, as we will do often during the legislative session, as OEP staff members presented to the joint education committee this afternoon concerning reforms in teacher pay. You may view the presentation on our website by clicking here.

We are excited for the upcoming release of the first newsletter of 2009, with a focus on relevant education issues of this legislative session. We’ll describe the status of Arkansas’ school choice law (see news article below), teacher pay and certification, and a summary of Arkansas charter schools, among other topics. If you are interested in receiving your own copy of the newsletter, send your name and address to oep@uark.edu and we will add you to the snail mail list.

News from Around the Natural State

Ark. School Experiments with Same-Gender Classes
Farmington, a public school district in northwest Arkansas, is experimenting with teaching boys and girls separately, beginning with fourth graders.

School-Choice Challenge Gets Date for Trial
The constitutional challenge to a state enrollment law that bans any transfer that would lead to more racially segregated schools is headed to trial after a federal judge on Wednesday set a November court date.

News from Around the Nation

Stimulus Gives Schools $142B – With Strings
The USA’s public schools stand to be the biggest winners in Congress’ $825 billion economic stimulus plan unveiled last week. Schools are scheduled to receive nearly $142 billion over the next two years.
Site Seeing

The Office for Education Policy aims to serve as a resource to aid lawmakers and educators in education related issues. The OEP recently became partners with the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC), a research unit of the U.S. Department of Education, which reviews K-12 curricula and interventions. We think the WWC site can be a very useful resource to educators in Arkansas. The OEP will also be releasing a policy brief in the future that draws attention to some of the specific products available by the WWC, so be looking for this in the next OWL!

Mark Your Calendar

The next State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for February 9th. For more details about other events, visit the OEP calendar.

Final Thoughts

“Providing adequate funding for education and modernizing schools is a key part of the solution to this economic crisis.” – Edward R. Kealy, executive director of the Committee for Education Funding

Thanks for reading! See you next week!

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If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please send an e-mail to oep@uark.edu.