February 25, 2010

From the OEP
Today we have posted a new policy brief – Algebra for All? In this article, we have briefly described Arkansas’ requirements for algebra, the debate – tracking vs. algebra for all, the concerns for early algebra, and what the research says. For additional reading, we have listed a few sources at the bottom of the policy brief.

Have a great afternoon!

News from Around the Natural State

House, Senate OK Lottery Bill
The House and Senate passed identical versions of legislation to set state lottery-funded college scholarships at $5,000 for students attending four-year schools and $2,500 for students attending two-year institutions.

Program to Link Art, Curriculum
Staff at the museum, under construction on 100 wooded acres north of downtown Bentonville, have met with educators to develop a collaborative curriculum for kindergarten through college students, using a growing, multimillion-dollar art collection financed by Wal-Mart heiress Alice Walton.

PB School to Teach 7 Habits Program
The Pine Bluff School District will become the second in the state and one of more than 150 across the globe to teach students leadership principles based on best-selling author Stephen Covey’s book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

News from Around the Nation

Central Falls to Fire Every High School Teacher
Under threat of losing their jobs if they didn’t go along with extra work for not a lot of extra pay, the Central Falls Teachers’ Union refused Friday morning to accept a reform plan for one of the worst-performing high schools in the state of Rhode Island.
In Utah, a Plan to cut 12th Grade
The sudden buzz over the relative value of senior year stems from a recent proposal by state Sen. Chris Buttars that Utah make a dent in its budget gap by eliminating the 12th grade.

Computerized State Assessments to Save Time, Money
All students statewide will take math, reading, and writing tests on the computer this year in Kansas. Students will be testing for a longer period of time to make sure all students have access to a computer. Kansas now has one of the largest assessment windows in the nation - starting last week and running through April 13.

Site Seeing

U.S. Committee on Education and Labor has a website updated with recent news headlines, legislation, and a blog related to the latest happenings. For example, an article was posted yesterday after a meeting about charter schools and the rewriting of No Child Left Behind.

Mark Your Calendar

February 26: Lecture Series: Babbette Gutmann, Westat – “Design and Results from an Intervention Study of Preschool and Parenting Curricula Using an RCT” at the Graduate Education Building room 343, 12:00pm
February 26: 2nd Annual ESL Symposium at the Clarion Inn, Fayetteville
March 2: Joint Adequacy Evaluation Oversight Subcommittee Meeting at the State Capitol Building Room 171, 10:00am
March 3 and 4: 3rd Annual ASD Symposium at the Fayetteville Continuing Education Center. March 3 from 7:00 – 8:30pm is a free community meeting on “Meeting the Needs of Persons with ASD.” Contact Barbara Gartin (bgartin@uark.edu) or Tom Smith (tecsmith@uark.edu) for more information.
March 12: Lecture Series: Sandy Kress – “The Movement Toward Common Standards – The Possibilities and Challenges Ahead” at Graduate Education Building room 343, 12:00pm
April 16: OEP Conference – “Preparing Effective School Leaders for Arkansas” at the DoubleTree in Little Rock. Send your RSVP to oep@uark.edu

More information is available on the OEP Calendar.

Final Thought

“The result of the educative process is the capacity for further education.” – John Dewey
Thanks for reading! See you next week!
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