From the OEP

On Saturday, a blueprint for revising the Elementary and Secondary and Education Act was released. You can find the blueprint document here. We have also included some news stories below.

The OEP conference is in less than a month! If you are interested in attending the school leadership conference on Friday, April 16 in Little Rock, be sure to e-mail us at oep@uark.edu. (For more information about the conference, see the attached flyer.)

Have a great afternoon!

News from Around the Natural State

Program to Boost Enrollment, Scores in AP Classes Expands
Eight Arkansas high schools have been chosen to join a program that seeks to increase participation and scores in Advanced Placement classes, Gov. Mike Beebe announced.

Compton to Leave District After Decade of Growth
School Superintendent Gary Compton announced Monday he would not seek renewal of his contract past 2012.

News from Around the Nation

Administration Unveils ESEA Renewal Blueprint
U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has released broad principles for renewing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that seek to address perennial complaints that the law’s current version—the No Child Left Behind Act—is inflexible and doesn’t set a high enough bar for academic achievement.
Also, Interest Turns to ESEA Plan’s Chances of Passing: Now that the Obama administration has unveiled its blueprint for reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, attention is shifting to whether the proposal will win sufficient support from lawmakers, policymakers, and education advocates to assure passage.
State, District Leaders Press School Transformations
Spurred both by fiscal realities and momentum from the U.S. Department of Education’s agenda for school improvement, local and state education leaders are moving forcefully and quickly to make big changes to districts and schools that have long struggled with low test scores and graduation rates.

Boys Trail Girls in Reading Across States
A new study on gender differences in academic achievement, offering what it calls “good news for girls and bad news for boys,” finds that, overall, male students in every state where data were available lag behind females in reading, based on an analysis of recent state test results. At the same time, in mathematics, a subject in which girls have historically trailed, the percentages of both genders scoring “proficient” or higher were roughly the same, with boys edging out girls slightly in some states and girls posting somewhat stronger scores in others.

40,000 Teachers Give Their Views on Education Reform in “Primary Sources”
Scholastic Inc. and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation today released Primary Sources: America's Teachers on America's Schools, a landmark report presenting the results of a national survey of more than 40,000 public school teachers in grades pre-K to 12.

Site Seeing
Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: “On Saturday, March 13, the Obama administration released its blueprint for revising the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which would ask states to adopt college- and career-ready standards and reward schools for producing dramatic gains in student achievement. The proposal challenges the nation to embrace educational standards that would put America on a path to global leadership.” To view more information about the blueprint, visit http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/index.html

Mark Your Calendar
March 31: Joint Subcommittee on Grade Inflation at the Arkansas State Capitol Building Room 171, 10:00am
April 6: Joint Adequacy Evaluation Oversight Subcommittee meeting at the Arkansas State Capitol Building Room 171, 10:00am
April 16: OEP Conference – “Preparing Effective School Leaders for Arkansas” at the DoubleTree in Little Rock. Send your RSVP to oep@uark.edu
June 15: “Common Standards, Common Sense: What the Common Core State Standards Mean for Arkansas” hosted by The Learning Institute at Bryant Middle School, 9am – 3:30pm. Contact Quentin.suffren@tli.net for more information.

More information is available on the OEP Calendar.
Final Thought

“Through this plan, we are setting an ambitious goal: all students should graduate from high school prepared for college and a career – no matter who you are or where you come from.” – President Barack Obama

Thanks for reading! See you next week!
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