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Study Update

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Today's Presentation

- Study Update and District Survey Questions
- Impact of Waivers in Act 1240 School Districts
- Impact of Vouchers
- Analyses of the Uniform Tax Rate (URT) and School Finance Equity
- Impact of Enrollment Changes

Study Update: Case Studies

- The study team has begun the case study interviews with administrators and teachers
 - Have interviewed (or have interviews scheduled with) school leadership teams at 12 of 15 schools
 - Have also interviewed teachers in 9 out of 12 schools, still scheduling teacher interviews with remaining schools
 - Will be selecting alternates for 2 schools (next best performance school in region by school type)

Study Update: Next Presentation

- Study team staff will present on several areas at the next meeting, including:
 - 3.0.B.1 Current School Size Policy
 - 3.0.B.2 School Size Best Practices
 - 3.0.B.3 Impacts of School District and Size
 - 3.0.B.4 Recommendations on Ideal Size of Schools
 - 3.0.B.5 Public Input on School Size Standards
 - 3.0.B.6 Addressing Small District Size and Remoteness
 - 3.0.B.8 Operation or Consolidation Criteria for Isolated Schools and/or Districts

Study Update: District Survey

- Study team will be surveying all districts in Arkansas to collect additional information on district practices to supplement existing data collected by the state
- Areas to be addressed in the survey:
 - School size and staffing polices
 - -Capital needs
 - -Use of poverty funds
 - Professional development and extra duty time
 - Educational opportunities (CTE, Extracurriculars)
 - -Support from Education Cooperatives

District Survey: School Size and Staffing Policies

- The study team has facilities information from ADE
- Additional district survey questions:
 - What is your current district policy related to school size by school type?
 - Does your district engage the public in determining school sizes? If so, how?
 - Does your district have class size guidelines? How are these determined? What are these guidelines by grade band?
 - Does your district have staffing ratio (caseload) guidelines? (given set of positions)

District Survey: Capital Needs

- Arkansas already tracks the facility condition of each school in the state and a report was delivered by the "Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities" in 2018
- Additional district survey questions:
 - Does your district have any unaddressed capital needs (long term maintenance, new construction or major improvements, capacity building?)
 - Does your district have the funding capacity to address these capital needs?

District Survey: Use of Poverty Funds

- Arkansas already collects information about state categorical revenues (Enhanced Student Achievement) and expenditures for low income students
- Additional district survey questions:
 - How does your district utilize funding provided by the state to serve low income students?
 - What do you believe are the most effective and efficient uses for these funds?

District Survey: Professional Development and Extra Duty Time

- Arkansas already collects information about Professional Development revenues and expenditures for Instructional Staff Support Services
- Additional district survey questions:
 - How is professional development delivered in your district?
 - Delivery methods/source, number of days
 - What percentage of PD is spent addressing particular topics?
 - Topics determined by state, topics determined by district, topics determined by school site
 - What is your district policy on planning and collaboration time for teachers?
 - What are your district policies regarding extra duty time (lunch, pick up/drop off, recess, outside of the school day, etc)?

District Survey: Educational Opportunities

 Arkansas already collects information about course offering (CTE, AP, IB, elective and computer science offerings, extended day (before/after school, summer) opportunities, expenditures for career education and extracurriculars

- Federal Perkins data also available on CTE student outcomes

- Additional district survey questions:
 - What extracurricular opportunities does your district offer? (number of sports/clubs, participation rates)
 - Are there any changes you would like to make to your CTE program? (ex: expanding offerings, offering courses in other industry areas, increasing certifications, increasing participation) Why has your district not made these changes?
 - Are there additional educational opportunities that you would like to provide to students? Why have you not been able to do so?

District Survey: Education Cooperatives

- Arkansas already collects information about education cooperatives in the state including the districts, schools and number of teachers and students they serve
- Additional survey questions:
 - What support or services offered by your Education Cooperative are used in your school district? (examples: professional development, specialists, etc)

Questions?