





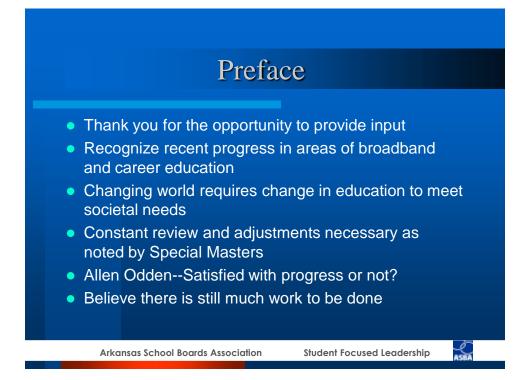
Thoughts, Concerns and Recommendations Regarding Funding Public Education in Arkansas

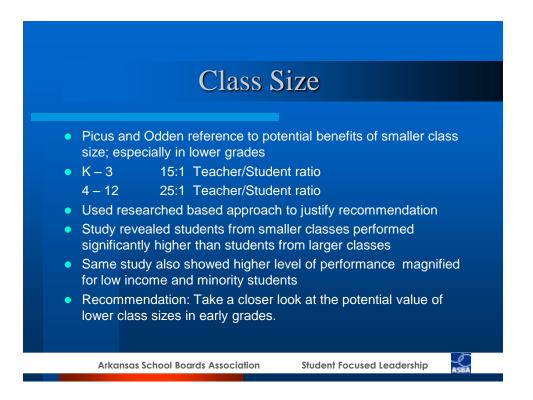
> A Report for the Interim House and Senate Education Committees

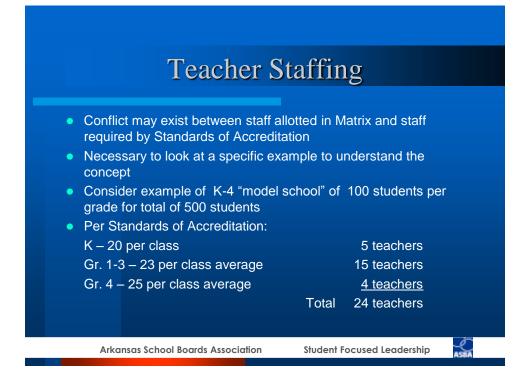
> > January 12, 2016

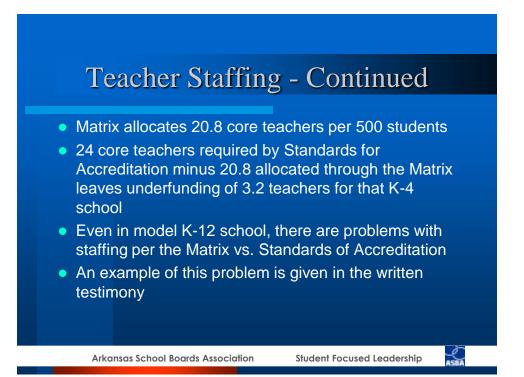
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Teacher Staffing - Continued

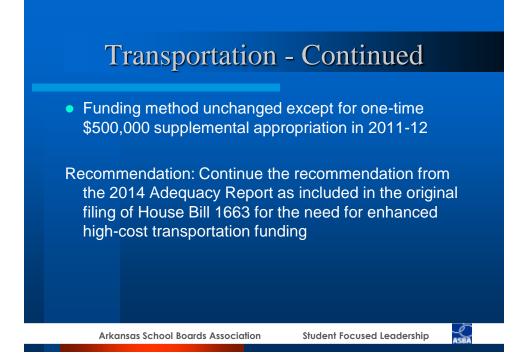
- Another issue is whether or not it is realistic that all the necessary certifications to teach the required coursework can be met with the Matrix allocation
- Small districts seem to have a disadvantage staffing within the Matrix allocations

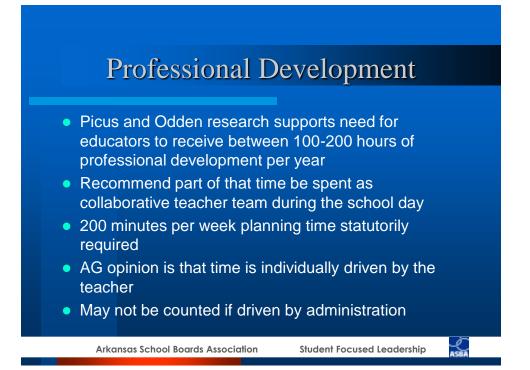
Recommendation: Use education professionals to conduct a study of actual staffing needs per requirements of the Standards of Accreditation compared to staffing through the Matrix

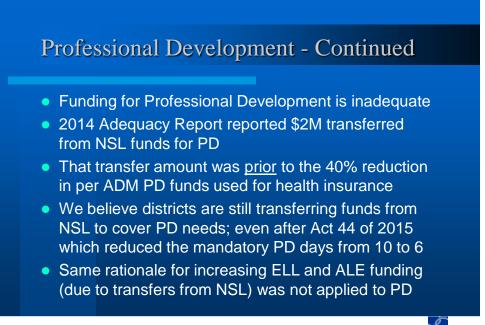
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Professional Development - Continued

Recommendations:

1. Amend A.C.A. 6-17-114 to allow for the administration to assign a portion of the weekly planning period and

2. Either restore both the mandatory number of PD hours along with the associated funding or provide enough additional funding that districts don't need to transfer NSL funds to cover PD costs

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National School Lunch Act

- Many successful programs supported by NSL funds are currently interwoven into school improvement plans
- A.C.A. 6-20-2305 lists 18 allowable uses for these funds and ADE Rules and Regs further clarifies 32 allowable uses
- ASBA recognizes that as very broad allowable use but also recognizes the need for flexibility

Recommendation: If narrowing the allowable use of NSL funds is considered by the General Assembly, districts that have those funds committed to programs that are successful should be able to continue those programs

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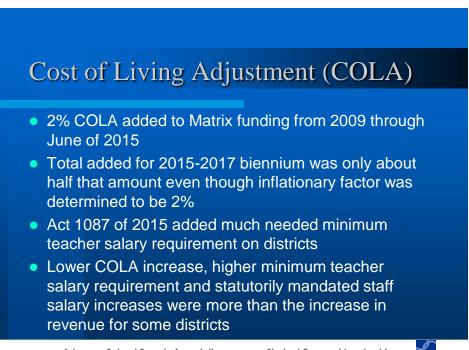
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Facilities - Continued

Recommendations:

- 1) Conduct full assessment of public school facilities
- 2) The cost per square foot Funding Factor needs to be revised to match current construction costs
- An adequate funding stream to meet demand should be developed
- Reasonable guidelines should be developed to allow open enrollment charter schools access to Partnership Program funding

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