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Successful Schools Case Studies

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and the House Committee on Education

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Presentation Overview

- Case Study School Selection and Characteristics of the Schools
- Key Takeaways from Case Studies in Specific areas

Case Study School Identification

- **Ranked schools based on performance**
 - The highest ranked schools outperformed expectations
- **Filtered list by selection criteria**
 - A letter grade of A, B, or C (if they improved between 2018 and 2019)
 - A higher than average low-income student percentage (63%); *or*
 - A higher than average English learner (EL) student percentage (8%)
 - Only schools that outperformed expectations*
 - 181 schools were eligible for selection
- **Grouped schools by region**
 - Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southwest, Southeast
 - Identified an elementary, middle, and high school for each region

* One selected school did not outperform expectations (predicted values) but was the highest performing school in the region.

Case Study Schools: By Region

Northwest Region

Lamar Elementary

Helen Tyson Middle School

Jasper High

Northeast Region

Weiner Elementary

Paragould Junior High

Riverview High

Central Region

Theodore Jones Elementary

Lisa Academy North Middle School

Lisa Academy North High School

Southwest Region

Oscar Hamilton Elementary

Mena Middle School

Lafayette County High

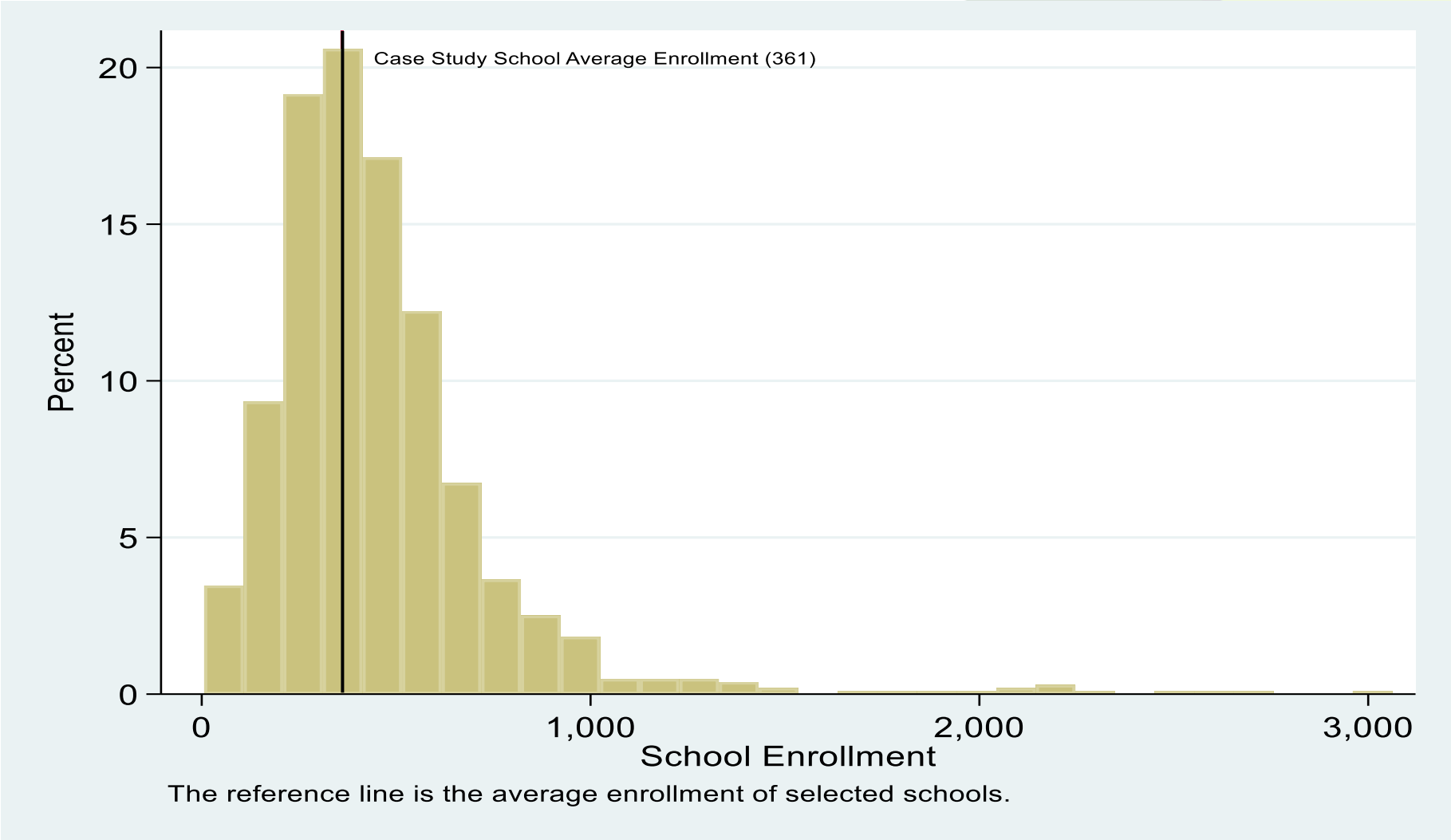
Southeast Region

Des Ark Elementary

Crossett Middle School*

Lakeside High

2019 Arkansas School Enrollment



Case Study Schools: Elementary Demographics

	Free/Reduced/ Direct Certification (Economically Disadvantaged)	Free/Direct Certification	Free/DC as Percentage of ED	English Learners
Theodore Jones	66%	60%	92%	8.0%
Lamar	69%	57%	84%	3.0%
Oscar Hamilton	70%	54%	78%	3.8%
Weiner	72%	64%	89%	1.9%
Des Arc	71%	56%	78%	0.0%

Case Study Schools: Middle School Demographics

	Free/Reduced/ Direct Certification (Economically Disadvantaged)	Free/Direct Certification	Free/DC as Percentage of ED	English Learners
Crossett	68%	59%	86%	1.6%
Paragould	72%	60%	85%	6.4%
Mena	71%	55%	78%	0.7%
Lisa Academy North	64%	49%	78%	9.2%
Helen Tyson	78%	66%	85%	29.0%

Case Study Schools: High School Demographics

	Free/Reduced/ Direct Certification (Economically Disadvantaged)	Free/Direct Certification	Free/DC as Percentage of ED	English Learners
Lafayette County	88%	76%	86%	0.4%
Jasper	75%	64%	84%	0.0%
Riverview	74%	61%	83%	9.9%
Lakeside	80%	72%	90%	5.8%
Lisa Academy North	61%	46%	76%	7.2%

Additional Information on Schools

- Two of the fifteen schools selected are Innovation Schools
 - Weiner Elementary (2014-15)
 - Jasper High School (2018-19)
- Two of the fifteen schools selected are charter schools

School Staffing

- Many schools report a low turnover of key staff, but this not true of all the schools
- Many schools are small and tend to have smaller class sizes
- There does not appear to be one “best” way to staff a school
- Some schools rely on instructional facilitators
 - Some schools utilize paraprofessionals
 - Some schools utilized their specials teachers as interventionist

School Schedule

- All the schools had embedded time for intervention and enrichment with a large focus on Response to Intervention (RTI)
 - Three days per week for core instruction, with two days a week for a flex schedule
 - Middle and high schools started each day with intervention work
- Daily blocks of core instruction up to 90 minutes or more
- Common planning time built into the schedule
 - Elementary tends to be by grade
 - Secondary tends to be by content area

Curriculum and Instruction Program

Virtual Arkansas to provide courses that would not be offered in smaller settings

Use of Community Colleges and CTE courses to provide career and college coursework

Focus on soft skills and character development across all grades and schools

Whole child and student-centered learning

Assessments and Data

- Interim assessments and data rooms/walls
 - Used for monitoring, targeting and adjusting instruction
- All of the schools use data to identify struggling students
 - Adjust instruction to address the student's deficiency
 - Focus on skill deficiency versus content gaps

Extra Help Strategies for Struggling Students

- **Many schools use before/after school education**
 - Try to make it convenient for families
 - Some schools are unable to because of transportation
- **Strong RTI support**
 - Tier 1 – general classroom
 - Tier 2 – small group/push in
 - Tier 3 – pull out
- **Personal Relationships**
 - Each teacher picks 4 to 5 students a year to track or mentor
 - Advisory periods in 7-12 grades
- **High expectations of all students**
 - Zeros Aren't Possible (ZAP)

Professional Development

- R.I.S.E. Training
- Collaboration
 - Lower grade level teachers help set class rosters for next year to ensure a mix of students by level
 - Culture of learning – teachers view and learn from other classrooms
- Professional Learning Communities
- Teacher led decisions on Professional Development

Student Support Services

- Many schools have instituted social emotional supports
 - A room where students can go to decompress
 - Capturing Kids' Hearts Curriculum
 - Counselors meets every kid, every week in small groups
- Mental health support from community partners through Medicaid
- Health clinic helping increase student attendance

Additional Monetary and Non-Monetary Support

- Most schools have strong community support
 - Close knit communities, multi-generational staff and students
- Volunteer
 - More hours in elementary schools
- Donations
 - Food programs, backpack program from local churches, clubs, families, and businesses
- Partnerships with businesses and local colleges

School Culture and Leadership

- Schools are like a family
 - Everyone is willing to pitch in and wears multiple hats
- Distributed leadership
 - Principals treat teachers as professionals and give them autonomy; seek input on decisions affecting the school
- Many smaller schools have very visible superintendents
- Strong relationships with students, families, and staff
- Schools have a culture of data



Questions