



# ARKANSAS

## DIVISION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

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### Arkansas

#### Senate Committee on Education and House Committee on Education

Joint Meeting, October 29, 2012

#### Status Report – Rules Governing the Academic Facilities Partnership Program and Rules Governing the Facilities Master Plan

- On October 15, 2012, Mr. Tony Wood, Deputy Commissioner of Education and Dr. Charles Stein, Director, Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, presented to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Education Committees an overview of proposed changes to the Partnership Program and Master Plan rules that the Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation had released for public comment under the Administrative Procedures Act. In summary the rule changes –
  - More prudently use projected facilities program budgets to address enrollment growth, suitability (space), and facility replacement needs for all school districts.
  - Redefine warm, safe, and dry projects from system replacements to total facility replacement or total renovation. School districts would no longer be able to apply for single-system replacements, but could apply for facility replacements or total renovations.
  - Focus Partnership Program funding to new construction or total facility renovation as was the intent of the Task Force to Joint Committee on Educational Facilities.
- On October 26, 2012, the Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, upon reviewing public comments, made additional changes to the proposed rules and released them for another 30-day comment period. The additional proposed rule changes –
  - Provide funding cycle transition for the 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 funding cycles to transition to the proposed warm, safe, and dry project definition of facility replacement or total facility renovation.
  - Provide \$10 million state financial participation per year (\$20 million per funding cycle) to continue warm, safe, and dry system replacements during the transition period. These funds would be prioritized with lowest enrollment districts (“smaller”) and lowest wealth index (“poorer”) school districts receiving the highest priority.

Commissioners:

Tom W. Kimbrell, Ed. D., Chair  
AR Department of Education

Mac Dodson  
AR Development Finance Authority

Richard Weiss  
AR Dept. of Finance and Administration