



**Opportunity to Learn Campaign
ARKANSAS**

+ Who We Are:



- A coalition of statewide organizations, community leaders, parents, students, educators, policymakers and others committed to public education in Arkansas
- Funded through the Schott Foundation for Public Education, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Charles Frueauff Foundation and affiliated with the National Opportunity to Learn Campaign.

+ WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT FROM OTHER COALITIONS?

- We are not just educators, not just education organizations, not just organizations interested in policy development...
- We are a campaign that blends advocacy organizations, policy-makers and grassroots groups..
- We are committed to bridging the gaps that too often separate educators and education groups from communities served by our public schools.

+ National Opportunity to Learn Campaign

- <http://www.otlcampaign.org/content/about-otl-campaign>

<http://www.facebook.com/OpportunityToLearn>



What we've been working on in Arkansas

- Over two years ago, the Arkansas Public Policy Panel began the work of building an Opportunity to Learn Campaign in Arkansas. We began with a series of meetings where a cross-section of Arkansans talked about public education in Arkansas – its strengths and weaknesses, where we are going and where we need to go – what works and what needs fixing.
- Other organizations and individuals joined with the Panel to build the Campaign – Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Rural Community Alliance, Arkansas Education Association, the South Arkansas Education Coalition and many others.



Our first big effort....

- We secured funding to hold an Opportunity to Learn Summit in November of 2010. Over 150 people came together to hear Schott Foundation CEO John H. Jackson talk about building an Opportunity to Learn Campaign in Arkansas...U.S. Department of Education Assistant Deputy Secretary Rosalinda Barrera talk about the importance of cultural competency...National Education Association Director Sheila Simmons share what educators are discovering about the key qualities of effective schools..and much more.

+ John Jackson in Arkansas...

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99j73PD3huo>

+ Building our state campaign..

- We heard other inspiring speakers like Linda Darling Hammond, who received an award from the Schott Foundation in 2010...
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ac7HLf9r23k>
- We grew our campaign step by step – adding organizations and individuals, debating issues, building a consensus on what our priority goals should be.

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7 Long-term Priority Areas for Reform

- High Quality Early Childhood Education
- Highly effective Teachers, Administrators, School Structure & Learning Time
- College Preparatory Curriculum
- Equitable Instructional Resources and Policies
- Effective Interventions
- Parent, Student, Community and School Partnerships
- Improved Access to Higher Education

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Our Specific Policy Goals for 2012 through 2014

- Increasing Access to High Quality Early Childhood Education
- Expanding Afterschool and Summer Programs
- Improving Teacher/Administrator Preparation and Professional Development
- Passing the Arkansas DREAM Act
- Increasing Parent, Student, Community and School Partnerships
- Modernizing Career and Technical Education



Our Next Steps



- <http://arpanel.org/coalitions/opportunity-to-learn>

- <http://www.facebook.com/#!/ArkansasOTL?fref=ts>



More About Our Next Steps



OUR VISION AND MISSION

We envision an Arkansas where the educational needs of each student are addressed and where every child enters school ready to learn, receives a high quality education and graduates from high school prepared for college, career and life as a productive member of a democratic society.

We are working to engage all public education stakeholders to improve educational opportunities and outcomes in Arkansas. We are striving for an education system that guarantees each child an equitable and excellent opportunity to learn.

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A Closing Thought



- John Goodlad in "What Schools Are For" (2006 edition)
- "More than a quarter-century has passed since I wrote..What schools Are For...Have we increased our understanding of the critically important relationships between education and democracy?...I am more hopeful regarding the course of the next quarter-century that I was of the one that is now behind us...Why? Our nation is marked by a characteristic that is both interesting and frightening: We are extraordinarily patient with human folly, sometimes not paying attention until it has brought us to the edge of a precipice. Then we look down and wake up..."

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- "The school crisis today is not the performance of students on achievement tests. It is the failure of education writ large to develop in our citizens the wisdom necessary to sustain in good health the delicate social and political ecology of the complex, moral community that is the United States of America."
- The Arkansas Opportunity to Learn Campaign challenges all of us to pursue a much more comprehensive agenda of renewal than one addressed to schooling alone. Providing every child with an equitable opportunity to learn will help move us toward that goal.





KEY PARTNERS IN THE OTL CAMPAIGN



- Arkansas Public Policy Panel
- Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
- Rural Community Alliance
- Arkansas Out-of-School Network
- Arkansas Education Assoc.
- Arkansas Coalition for DREAM
- Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
- Charles Frueauff Foundation
- Ark. Citizens First Congress
- Concerned citizens of Prescott
- Ark. Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap
- Concerned Citizens of Monticello
- Gould Citizens Advisory Council
- South Ark. Education Coalition
- Strong Community Leadership Alliance
- Desha Grassroots Coalition
- University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff and Little Rock Deans of Education
- Schott Foundation