

Joint Meeting of the House and Senate Education Committee

KIPP Delta Public Schools Campus

Helena, Arkansas

September 25, 2014





# KIPP DELTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The mission of KIPP Delta Public Schools is to create and support schools that empower students from underserved communities to develop the knowledge, skills, and character traits necessary to pursue a college education and a life of value, joy, and integrity.

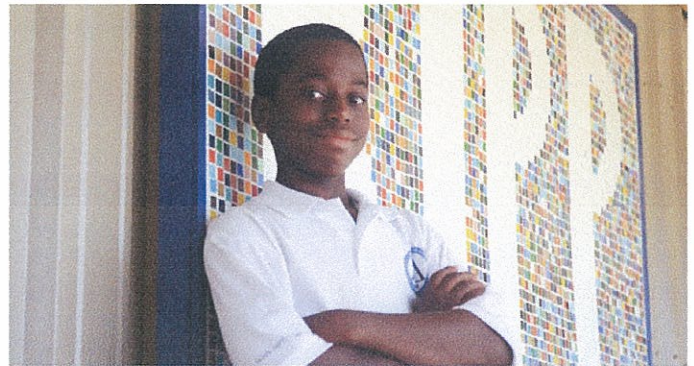
## KIPP DELTA BY THE NUMBERS

- 5 schools currently operating
- Over 1300 students in grades Pre K-12
- 92 % African-American
- 88 % qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 99% of our 5 graduating classes have been accepted by a college or university

## OUR JOURNEY

### A timeline of KIPP Delta Public Schools

- 1994** – First KIPP school opens in Houston, TX.
- 2002** – KIPP Delta College Preparatory School opens its doors to 65 fifth graders in Helena-West Helena.
- 2006** – KIPP Delta Collegiate High School opens. The class of 2010 finished eighth grade with scores on average at the 86th percentile in math. In fifth grade, these students were at the 18th percentile on average.
- 2008** – KIPP Delta College Preparatory School is one of only three schools in Arkansas to be named a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.
- 2009** – KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy opens its doors. KIPP Delta opens multi-purpose gym that provides a home for our competitive sports teams, physical education classes and school-wide events.
- 2010** – KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School opens. The first class of KIPPsters graduates from KIPP Delta Collegiate High with a 100% acceptance rate to a four year college or university. They have an average ACT score above the Arkansas and national average.
- 2012** – Executive Director, Scott Shirey, named to “World’s 7 Most Powerful Educators” list in *Forbes*. KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy begins offering Pre-Kindergarten.
- 2014** – KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High School opens. KIPP Delta Collegiate High School named #2 high school in state by *U.S. News and World Report*.



## SCHOOLS AT A GLANCE

- Part of the national network of KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) Public Schools.
- Our 5 graduating classes have earned over \$5 million in college scholarships.
- 99% of our students have been accepted by a 2 or 4-year college or university across the nation. 85% of our five graduating classes are currently enrolled in or have graduated from a 2 or 4-year college or university.

## WORK HARD. BE NICE.

- KIPP Delta students are held to the highest codes of conduct and academic standards. We work together as a team and family and believe “There Are No Shortcuts.”
- KIPP Delta strives to develop 7 specific character strengths in all students: grit, zest, optimism, self-control, social intelligence, curiosity, and gratitude.

## GROWTH AND EXPANSION

- **Where we started:** 1 school, 65 students.  
In 2002, KIPP Delta Public Schools began with 65 fifth graders and one promise: We would do whatever it takes to help our kids climb the mountain to and through college.
- **Where we are:** 5 schools, over 1300 students.  
Today, KIPP Delta Public Schools serve students in Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in five schools: KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy, KIPP Delta College Preparatory School, KIPP Delta Collegiate High School, KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School, KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High School.
- **Where we’re going:** In the coming years, KIPP Delta Public Schools will double the number of students attending our schools and increase the number of communities we serve throughout the Delta.

“Being a KIPPster is tremendous.  
KIPP makes me strive to be the best that I can be.”

- Austin Lester, KIPP Blytheville, Class of 2022





# **KIPP DELTA**

## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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Helena-West Helena  
Arkansas, 7234

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[www.kippdelta.or](http://www.kippdelta.or)

### **Joint Meeting of the House and Senate Education Committees**

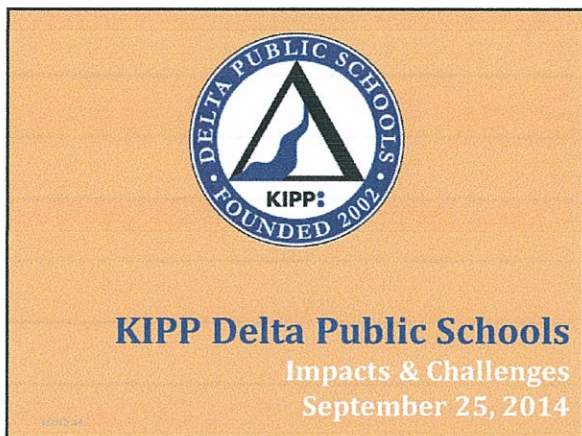
Delta Cultural Center Conference Room

September 25, 2014

#### **AGENDA**

- I. Welcome/Remarks from Committee Chairmen**
- II. Welcome and presentation by Scott Shirey**
- III. Campus Tour**
- III. Student/Teacher Panel**
  - Staff: Todd Dixon, Megan Graul, Hal Harris
  - Students: Summer Farris, Kevin Harris, Kennedy Sharp, and Justus Smith
- IV. Q & A**





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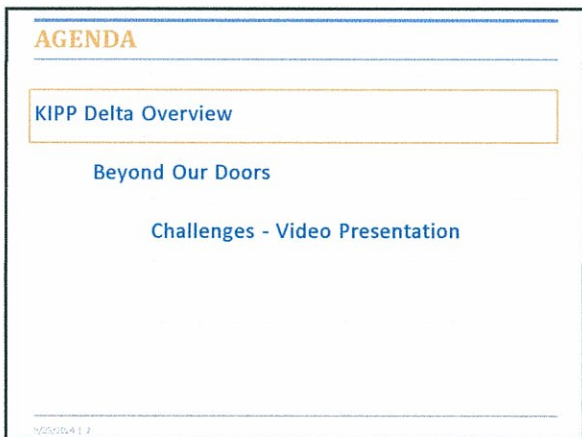
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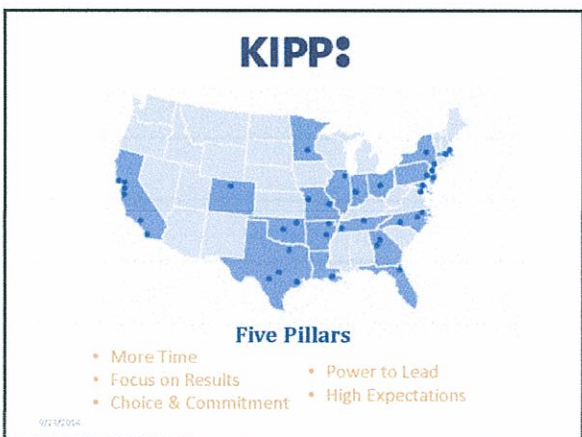
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### KIPP Delta Mission & Demographics

MISSION: To create and support schools that empower students from underserved communities to develop the knowledge, skills, and character traits necessary to pursue a college education and a life of value, joy, and integrity.



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-  88%  
Eligible for free/reduced lunch
-  92%  
African American, 5% Caucasian,  
3% other
-  8%  
Receive Special Education  
Services

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### KIPP Delta History & Achievements

1994 – First KIPP school opens in Houston, TX.

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### KIPP Delta History & Achievements

2010 – KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School opens. The first class of KIPPsters graduates from KIPP Delta Collegiate High with a 100% acceptance rate to a four year college or university. They have an average ACT score above the Arkansas and national average.

2012 – KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy begins offering Pre-Kindergarten.

2014 – KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High School opens. KIPP Delta Collegiate High School named #2 high school in state by *U.S. News and World Report*.

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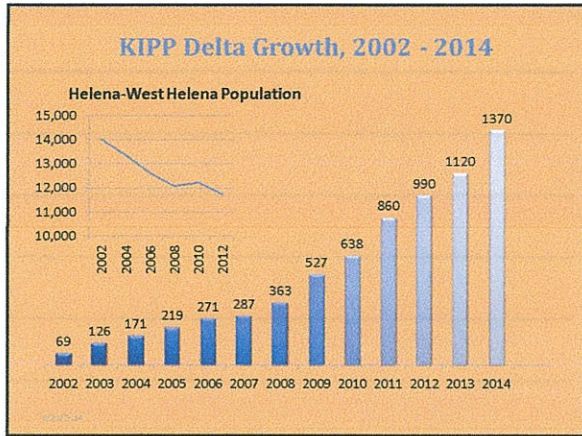
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### AGENDA

KIPP Delta Overview

Beyond Our Doors

Challenges - Video Presentation

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### College Graduation Rates

**~10%**  
of students from low income families graduate from college by their mid-20s.

**6%**  
of African-American Arkansas college students graduate in four years.

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### KIPP Through College

KTC is a comprehensive approach to supporting KIPPsters from middle school through college graduation. Our goal is to eventually graduate students at the same rate as their high-income peers throughout the country.

KTC has secured 3 college partners who will provide over \$2.6 million in the next three years to help support students in high school and college.



In the last 4 years, KIPP Delta graduates have been offered \$5.2 million in scholarships (from non-partner sources).

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### KIPP Through College -Impact

2010 – 2014

- 74% Persisting or Graduated (4-year, 2-year, and ACTI)
- 3% Military or National Service (Full-time only)
- 13% of 2010 have graduated with a 4-year degree



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### 60 KIPP College Partners Across the Country



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**AGENDA**

KIPP Delta Overview

Beyond Our Doors

Challenges - Video Presentation

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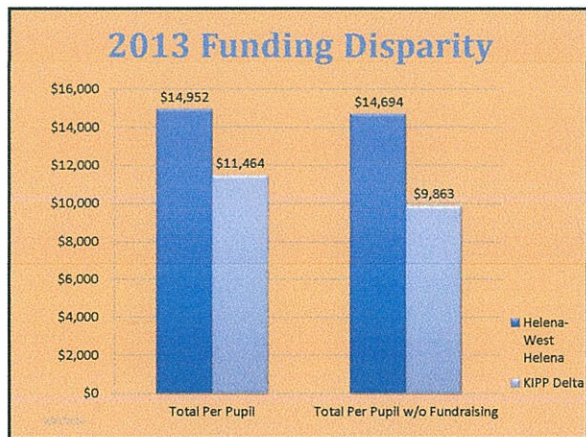
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**KIPP Delta Public Schools**  
Impacts & Challenges  
September 25, 2014

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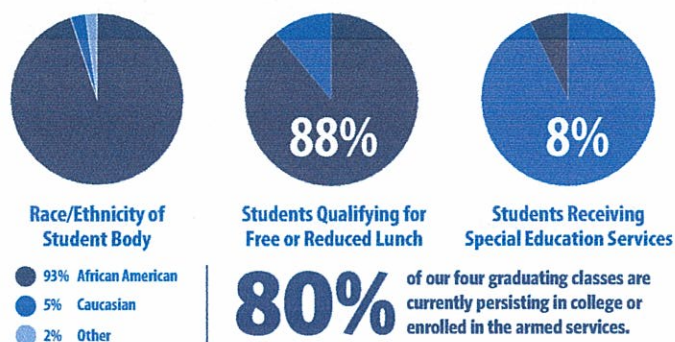
## About KIPP Delta

KIPP Delta Public Schools is a growing network of KIPP charter schools offering a free, college-preparatory education to children in the Arkansas Delta. After being asked by the state to come to Arkansas, we opened our first school in Helena in 2002. We now serve more than 1,200 students across four schools in Helena and Blytheville, Arkansas. KIPP Delta Public Schools are providing a choice to families in the Delta seeking an excellent public education for their children. Our mission is to create and support schools that empower students from underserved communities to develop the knowledge, skills, and character traits necessary to pursue a college education and a life of value, joy, and integrity.

## Results

- KIPP Delta College Preparatory School named "Blue Ribbon School" by US Department of Education in 2007.
- KIPP Delta Collegiate High School named the #2 high school in Arkansas by U.S. News & World Report in 2011 and #4 in 2012 and 2013. School also named one of five "exemplary" schools by Arkansas Department of Education in 2012.
- KIPP Delta Public Schools received the APSRC District MAP Growth Award in 2013.

## KIPP Delta By the Numbers

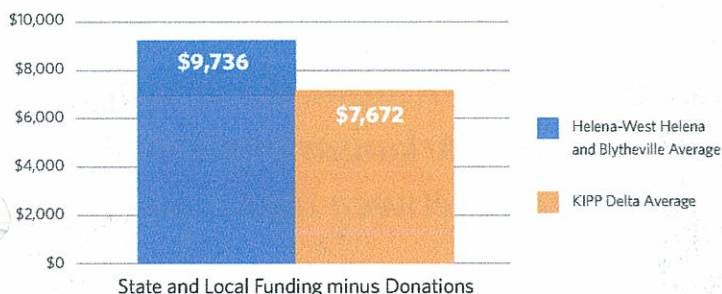


## Barrier to Growth: Inadequate Funding for Facilities

The lack of facilities funding is the largest barrier to financial sustainability for KIPP Delta. Like traditional Arkansas public schools, charters receive foundation, or per-pupil funding from the state (though KIPP Delta is funded at a lower level than the local district, as referenced in the chart below). However, unlike traditional public schools, charters do not have access to the local tax base (millage) for facility needs. We are also not allowed to receive funding from the state's Academic Facilities Partnership Program, which helps traditional public schools build, renovate, and maintain their facilities. In addition, KIPP Delta has not been able to take advantage of unused, vacant local district facilities. Therefore, we must raise funds or take on debt to ensure our students have the facilities they need. Either way we still come up short.

### Funding Disparity 4-Year Average \* (2009-2013)

\*Office for Education Policy Brief, Vol. 11, Issue 1  [HTTP://BIT.LY/TPSCHARTER\\_FUNDING](http://bit.ly/TPSCHARTER_FUNDING)



*Our ability to expand is hindered, while our student waiting list grows by the day.*



*Despite our best efforts, financial constraints have prevented us from providing adequate facilities for all of our students.*

## Stretched Thin

Since 2002, KIPP Delta has stretched all we can from available resources to lease, build, and renovate existing facilities. We have had to take on **\$7 million in debt**, and that is just to help with basics. No KIPP Delta school has a dedicated gymnasium; only two schools have a cafeteria, and our elementary school has no playground. (By comparison, Helena-West Helena School District received more than \$6 million in dedicated facilities funding from the state and \$1.1 million in local tax dollars last year alone.) Meanwhile, we are forced to spend nearly **8% of our per pupil state allocation funding to pay back our debt** – money that should be spent educating our students.



## The Solution

*For KIPP Delta to continue serving our students, and to facilitate the kind of growth that will benefit our communities, it is vital that Arkansas implement education policies that bridge the facilities funding gap between traditional public schools and charters, like KIPP.*