



Bryant School District Report to Legislative Committee

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January 10, 2012

Alexander Youth Services Center
Concerns, Recommendations & Questions

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Concerns:

- **Concern: Awarding course credit to juveniles will be challenging. Because of the transient nature of Alexander juveniles, awarding a unit of credit may be inconsistent or challenging.** One credit requires 120 clock hours or 131 days of instruction on the current 55 minute schedule. Students with less than 6.5 months sentence are not likely to complete credits.
- **Concern: A split in services between the district offering educational services and the company offering housing/security services will negatively impact student services.** The break in services will be a disservice to students; the fluid process currently utilized will be disrupted while one entity attempts to run the educational setting and the other runs institution settings.
- **Concern: BSD is not permitted by standards to offer multiple courses during same period and without this provision, the district cannot afford to offer the credits necessary.** Will the district be allowed flexibility with scheduling such as doubling courses offered the same period? If treated as an alternative learning environment, students can be appropriately scheduled into the courses they need.
- **Concern: BSD does not have sufficient Distance Learning Equipment to support Alexander educational services.** Distance Learning Equipment will have to be provided for both BSD and the Alexander facility in order to offer the courses necessary to meet standards.
- **Concern: Providing substitute teachers will be difficult.** How will the district approach substitute teachers?
- **Concern: Current Funding will not support educational program.** 2011-2012 allocation (6B & Title 1D) for all Arkansas institutions was \$261,693. Total current educational funding for Alexander is \$1,016,714. DYS distributes the funds based upon the bed provided at each institution. How will Bryant School District be paid for educational services?
- **Concern: Assuming Alexander staff on BSD's salary schedule would consume more than half of the current funding level .** Current funding is not sufficient.

- **Concern:** Providing HQT and Certified teachers will be difficult. Highly Qualified & Certified teachers for highly needed areas will be difficult to find due to the extended year long contract and the other inequities required of Alexander teachers as compared to current Bryant Certified teachers:
 - 4 hour Family Day on Saturdays (One per month)
 - 120 hours required professional development
 - Struggling Learners

- **Concern:** Assuming Alexander will negatively impact BSD's Arkansas Special Education District Performance Report in terms of:
 - Indicator 1: Graduation Rate
 - Indicator 2: Drop Out Rate
 - Indicator 3A: Annual Yearly Progress for State Assessments
 - Indicator 3B: Participation Rate for State Assessments
 - Indicator 3C: Proficiency Rate for State Assessments
 - Indicator 5A: Percentage of students spending less than 80% of time in regular ed settings.
 - Indicator 5B: Percentage of students spending less of 40% of time in regular ed settings.
 - Indicator 5C: Number of students served outside the regular classroom setting
 - Indicator 8: Parental Involvement as indicated by return of surveys.

- **Concern:** Assuming Alexander will negatively impact BSD's Special Education School Age Profile in terms of:
 - Percentage of students that are identified as Special Education
 - Disproportionally by race
 - Disproportionally by disabling condition
 - Disproportionally by gender

- **Concern:** Will have limited ability to provide transition opportunities for secondary students.
- **Concern:** District will have increased exposure to special education due process hearings and associated costs.
- **Concern:** Significant clerical work to request, maintain and store special education records for a highly mobile population.

Recommendations:

- **Recommendation:** Bryant School District will not assume employees of G4S. If the district assumes the education of Alexander, the district would post and hire as per board policy.
- **Recommendation:** Alexander youth should be provided a growth measure assessment rather than the Arkansas Benchmark Exam. Students should be tested on a growth measure assessment such as NWEA rather than the Arkansas Benchmark, EOC or National Benchmark assessment such as Common Core due to their temporary and inconsistent educational setting. 12.01
- **Recommendation:** Add 1 FTE Principal
- **Recommendation:** Add 1 FTE Guidance Counselor
- **Recommendation:** Add 16 FTE Certified Teachers
- **Recommendation:** Add 2 Part time Certified Teachers
- **Recommendation:** Add 2 FTE Para-professional Non Certified
- **Recommendation:** Add 1 FTE Registrar
- **Recommendation:** Add Assistant Special Education Supervisor to meet needs of students at Center.
- **Recommendation:** Add School Psychology Specialist to conduct initial and re-evaluation of special education students
- **Recommendation:** Add 5 Special Education Teachers
- **Recommendation:** Provide classroom technology for 5 sped rooms
- **Recommendation:** Provide textbooks for 5 Special Education Rooms
- **Recommendation:** Provide furniture as needed for 5 Special Education Rooms
- **Recommendation:** Provide staff development for general education/curriculum, special education.

Questions:

1. Will Alexander have its own ACSIP? Is it considered its own LEA?

2. Bryant has a required 28 units to graduate as opposed to the state requirement of (22). Will Alexander follow our plan for graduation? Bryant requires more credits for graduation than most schools. This would be difficult for students who are already behind on credits.
3. Will Bryant assume ownership of the current technology, textbooks, desks, etc.?
4. Who will pay for the extensive medical and counseling services currently provided by Alexander?
5. Must these students have year round schooling?
6. Will BSD be provided waivers for the following:
 - 10.04.1, 10.04.2, 10.04.3, 10.04.5, Guidelines for student behavior
 - 10.06 Extra-curricular activities
 - 12.01 Performance Testing (ACTAAP)
 - 15.05 Highly Qualified
7. Could Bryant bill Medicaid for eligible services such as OT, PT, Speech, Hearing and Vision?
8. Would Special Education programs and regular On-Site Review Standards visits be monitored and approved on the current Bryant schedule/manner? or Would they remain on a more frequent review schedule?
9. Would students continue to be tracked through the Jedi system? Triand?
10. Would there be some type of uniformity between school districts with juvenile detention centers so that when students complete assessment at Alexander and are assigned to other centers there will be continuity of records and programming.
11. Will the legislature continue to allocate the same proportion of the annual budget towards educational staff and services for the centers even though the educational operations would be transferred to districts?
12. Will additional money be provided through ADE for the educational program?
13. Depending on the treatment of those students for ADM purposes, would the district be able to qualify those students for ALE funding?
14. Could the district establish a unique salary schedule for the staff at Alexander?
15. If the district had to keep Alexander staff on the BSD salary schedule based on current staffing, the largest part of the current allocation would be expended for salary. Would the legislature appropriate additional funding for equipment, materials, professional development, etc.
16. Would the current \$737,584 that is allocated to DYS be redistributed to the school districts for administrative or would other administrators be retained in some supervisory role?

17. For services such as OT / PT, Speech, etc., which BSD provides as services through SPED, are those services included in the Youth Center's "Medical" category of expenditures, or through the "Educational" program?

ARKANSAS JUVENILE ASSESSMENT & TREATMENT CENTER (AJATC)

Alexander, Arkansas

CURRENT FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

(Based on 100-resident capacity -- Approx. \$10,167 ave. funding per student*)

Annual Revenues Allocated for Educational Program:	
6% of Compensation (General) DYS Funding	\$ 546,264
Education Allotment DYS	400,400
Title I allocation (through ADE)	70,051
TOTAL	<u>\$ 1,016,715</u>

Central Office Educational Allocation (State-wide) \$ 737,585

Expenditures:

Educational Staff (88% of General)	\$ 833,064
Educational Equipemnt, materials & supplies not provided by Central Office Funds (12%)	113,600
Title I Expenditures	70,051
	<u>\$ 1,016,715</u>

PROPOSED FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR BRYANT SCHOOLS

Annual Revenues Assumed:

Continuation of Current DYS & Title I Funding	1,016,715
Portion of Central Office Education Funding	221,276
Possible ALE Funding (100 @ \$4,000 max)	400,000
	<u>1,637,991</u>

Anticipated Expenditures:

Educational Staff (Based on BSD Salary Schedules)	2,200,000
Educational Equipment, materials & supplies, PD, etc.	150,000
Title I	70,051
	<u>2,420,051</u>

NET SHORTAGE OF ADEQUATE FUNDING:

(782,060)

(Without ALE or other ADE supplemental funding:

(1,182,060))

* Compare to ADE Foundation Funding of \$6,144 per student per year

