

2014

**EXHIBIT E**

Division of Youth Services

State of Arkansas

# **2014-2015 DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT TO LEGISLATURE**

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## Executive Summary

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Act 972 of the regular session of 2009 provided for an establishment of a system of education within the Division of Youth Services. Educational guidelines were developed with input from the Arkansas Department of Education and were finalized and forwarded to the Department of Youth Services on July 1, 2009.

The Department of Education shall conduct an assessment of each facility to provide a baseline report of that assessment to the Director of Youth Services. With the assistance of the Department of Education, corrective action plans for each facility will be submitted and put into place with the Division of Youth Services Education Department. Act 972 shall provide for a triennial system of monitoring beginning March 2010.

This report shall provide general education and special education overviews of the Division of Youth Services. Included in this report are responses to the Arkansas Department of Education's baseline monitoring, statistical results from educational facilities, and indications of the cultural and academic conditions of the treatment facilities, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Progress Report.

## ACT 972

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In accordance with Act 972, Section 2.(1)(B)(i), Section 2.(c)(1)(B)(ii), and Section 2.(c)(B)(iii) the following information is presented on the Division of Youth Services Education System for FY 2010-2011.

# School Calendar

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## DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES ARKANSAS CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR 2014-2015

### FIRST QUARTER

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Monday, August 11	Professional Development
Monday, August 18	1 <sup>st</sup> day of school for students--begins 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
<b>Monday, September 1</b>	<b>LABOR DAY NO STUDENTS</b>
Wednesday, September 17	Mid-term progress reports issued
Wednesday, October 15	End 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter (42 school days)

### SECOND QUARTER

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Thursday, October 16	Begin 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester
Week of October 20	Rpt cards for 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter mailed to parents & DYS
Thursday, November 6&7	AEA Professional Development
Thursday, November 20	Mid-term progress reports issued
<b>November 26-28</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday--NO STUDENTS</b>
Friday, December, 19	End 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter (42 days) & 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester (84 days)
<b>Monday, December 22-January 2</b>	<b>Winter Break--NO STUDENTS</b>

### THIRD QUARTER

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Monday, January 5	Begin 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester
Week of January 5	Rpt cards for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr, 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester mailed to parents & DYS
<b>Monday, January 19</b>	<b>Dr. Martin Luther King Day--NO STUDENTS</b>
Friday, February 6	Mid-term progress reports issued
Friday, February 13	Professional Development
Friday, March 13	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter (47 days)

### FOURTH QUARTER

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Monday, March 16	Begin 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester
<b>Monday, March 23-27</b>	<b>Spring Break- NO STUDENTS</b>
Thursday, April 2	Rpt cards for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter mailed to parents & DYS
Friday, April 24	Professional development
Monday, April 27	Mid-term progress reports issued
Friday, June 1	Last Day of School
Friday, June 1	End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter (47 days) & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester (94 days)
Friday, May 27	Snow days May 30, 31 Jun 2, 3, 4
Week of June 6	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester (94 days) and Year (178 days)
	Rpt cards for 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sem. mailed to parents & DYS

## Summer School Schedule

Monday June 10 to Friday July 8  
Monday July 13 to August 7  
Week of August 17

Session 1 (20 days)  
Session 2 (20 days)  
Rpt cards for SS 1 & 2 mailed to parents &  
DYS

1. Under Act 1469 of 2009, school districts must adopt a calendar that includes 5 make-up days to allow for student interaction days that are unavoidably lost due to exceptional or emergency circumstances. If these days are not needed, the calendar will be shortened accordingly. If additional days are needed, the calendar will be lengthened. In either case, the school year will end when students have attended school for the required number of days under state law.
2. Seven (7) days are built into the school calendar for certified staff professional development. The Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction will coordinate those days with each provider according to ADE requirements.
3. Parent Teacher Conference Days may be scheduled on the same day as family day or as determined by each facility.
4. Final report cards for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters shall be signed by either the site principal, facilities director or their designee for accuracy.
5. All holidays are at the discretion of the provider.

## Student Records

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The Division of Youth Services Registrar collects records utilizing Triand and (a web-based data service for teachers and administrator that provides the official transcript system for Arkansas schools) APSCN for (the Arkansas Public School Computer Network) school districts, out of state school districts, community based providers, residential facilities, and superintendent's offices. While some of the process requires additional time to complete, all parties have cooperated and completed requests in a timely manner. All school records are treated in a confidential manner according to state and federal rules and regulations.

## Grading Scale

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The following scale is to be the Uniform Grading Scale and numeric values for secondary schools and the optional Uniform Grading Scale for elementary schools. Grades earned in college courses will be assigned the following numeric values when such courses are used to compute student grade point average.

- A: 90 – 100 = 4 points
- B: 80 – 89 = 3 points
- C: 70 – 79 = 2 points
- D: 60 – 69 = 1 point
- F: 0 - 59 = 0 points

# DYS Student Summary

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**Average Age:** 15.9

**Average Population: Male:** 84%

**Average Population: Female:** 16%

**Average Grade:** 9<sup>th</sup>

**Average Reading Comprehension Grade Level:** 7.5

**Average Math Comprehension Grade Level:** 7.8

**Percent of Population Retained in School at least once before Adjudication:** 45%

**Percent retained in school two or more grades before Adjudication:** 4%

The Division of Youth Services pre and post tested 493 students in 2014-2015 school years. During the post test, 35% or 173 students showed at least an increase of one grade level improvement during their stay in the Division of Youth Services School System. The primary goal of the DYS school system is to increase the grade level of the students prior to their return to the home district.

# DYS Student Data

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## DYS Youth Demographics Based Upon Facility Title 1 Student Information

### General Information:

Facility Population Below age 21	425
Avg. Age	16

### Gender:

Females	8.7
Males	91.2

### Race: male plus Female

Asian	.4 %
African American/Black	56 %
Hispanic	2.1%
Other	0
Whites	39%

### Education

Avg. Grade Equivalency	9.0
Reading Grade Equivalency	5.6
Math Grade Equivalency	7.0

# DYS Education Accomplishments

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The most significant success achieved during the 2014-2015 school year is the successful completion of the ADE audit process assuring the accreditation of the DYS school system.

1. THEA A+ Schools:
  - 1.1. **Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center:** The DYS facility at AJATC participates in using the arts to teach across the curriculum.
  - 1.2. **Prompt Education:** All students receive education instruction within two days of intake at a DYS facility.
  - 1.3. **Professional Development:** All teachers receive professional development to further their teaching skills.
  - 1.4. **Homework:** All facilities now issue homework to students.
  - 1.5. **DYS Diplomas:** DYS Education can issue diplomas to students completing the Smart Core curriculum.
  - 1.6. **DYS Transcripts:** DYS submits transcripts to school districts for students transitioning back to a home district.
  
2. **Increased Academic Participation:** The Division of Youth Services pre and post tested 493 students in 2014-2015 school year. During the post test, 35% or 173 students showed at least an increase of one grade level improvement during their stay in the Division of Youth Services School System. The primary goal of the DYS school system is to increase the grade level of the students prior to their return to the home district.
  
3. **Post-Secondary Education:** The Division of Youth Services partnered with Shorter College to offer post-secondary education to students having completed the GED program or holding a traditional high school diploma.
  
4. **Arkansas Department of Education Audits:** The Division of Youth Services school system successfully passed all ADE Audits during the 2014-2015 school year.
  
5. **Advisory Board:** The Division of Youth Services has collaborated with fellow professionals to create the first Advisory Board for the Division.
  
6. **TRIAND and E-School:** DYS education now has access to the Arkansas transcript network and E-School shared by all education institutions across the state.

7. **E-School:** DYS education now has access to, and provides data for, the Arkansas Department of Education so that other schools can access DYS student's records more efficiently. The DYS Registrar is the administrator for the program. All sites are being brought on-line and will use e-School for grades, lesson plans, transcripts, and attendance.
8. **Plato:** Plato is learning software that allows DYS to accurately test the student's capabilities and offer tailored credit recovery. All virtual classes are supervised by an accredited teacher in that particular area of study.
9. **IT infrastructure Upgrade:** DYS has added 10 megabit data lines at each DYS facility and will share the DHS administrative network and data lines added at each DYS campus.
  - 9.1. **Smart boards:** All facilities have classrooms equipped with smart boards that allow interactive displays and presentations.
  - 9.2. **Laptops:** All teachers and staff have laptops providing ease of access to information while away from the office and to facilitate record access while in meetings or professional development training. Laptops interact with the smart boards for classroom use.



# Special Education

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The Special Education Program within the Division of Youth Services Education System provides a continuum of services to students who have an active Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students attend one of the following treatment centers: Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center, Colt Juvenile Treatment Center, Dermott Juvenile Treatment Center, Harrisburg Juvenile Treatment Center, Lewisville Juvenile Treatment Center, or Mansfield Juvenile Treatment Center. Each student's IEP is developed and implemented following state and Federal regulations in accordance with §34CFR 300.320-300.324.

Each special education teacher uses Arkansas Department of Education-approved textbooks and supplemental materials aligned to the Common Core Standards. Teachers follow Arkansas frameworks to craft lesson plans that are designed to provide opportunities for the students to master skills previously not acquired while scaffolding new skills for mastery. Each student's specific needs are tailored into each lesson to provide daily optimum learning opportunities.

Subject to the requirements of §34CFR300.156 (related to personnel qualifications) and section 2122 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), each teacher hired is appropriately and adequately prepared to carry out Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and possesses a valid Arkansas teaching license. Additionally, each teacher meets the highly qualified status per section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and 34 CFR 200.56, 34.CFR 300.18.

Pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Arkansas Code Annotated §6-11-05 and Arkansas Code Annotated §6-15-902 and Act 2152 of 2005, the Uniform Grading Policy is used in the calculation of grades. All special education teachers are provided continual professional development on a quarterly basis. Such topics include:

- The requirement and purpose of completing the Existing Data Review for students entering the program
- Autism and how to treat
- The assessment of adaptive behavior as an essential component
- Developing a strategic professional development plan for special education staff
- Due process and research-based strategies
- Intervention and transition services
- Positive behavioral supports, and co-teaching
- New rules and regulations for IEPs
- Prior Written Notice and Parent Participation

Each training session is not limited to the above but continues to encompass a variety of Due Process topics and issues. Training is provided by various subject matter experts from the Arkansas Department of Education and surrounding communities. In 2014 both Dr. Janna Jennings, M.D. and Dr. Howie Knoff, Ph.D. provided excellent insight to a variety of topics for DYS special education teaching staff. Dr. Knoff is a national consultant and Director of Project ACHIEVE--a national, evidence-based school improvement program, and the original and current Director of the Arkansas Department of Education's State Improvement/Personnel Development Grant. He has been assisting the education team in evaluating the current special education program at various sites. Dr. Jennings is a Pediatrician who specializes in treating children of all ages, providing comprehensive medical care for infants, children and adolescents. Dr. Jennings is trained to provide well-rounded medical care for children of all ages, working closely with the patient's parents and family to ensure that the child is developing and maturing properly.

Finally, DYS Education team members provide monthly site visitations to observe and discuss student and teacher needs. This ongoing collaboration and assistance provides a base of discussion for self-improvement and ensures that DYS is meeting the needs of the students served in the Division's education facilities.

In addition, ADE a Special Education monitoring team conducted a special education record audit of the DYS central office in November 2014. ADE declared that all records were in order and no deficiencies were found.

# College and Career Education

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## Career Technical Education

The Division of Youth Services Vocational Education vision is to provide Career Technical Education programs to assist students in apprentice work/study programs in their areas of interest and obtain gainful employment as students' transition from the Division of Youth Services.

The Division of Youth Services utilizes technology in the College and Career Readiness programs to promote advanced studies. Adjudicated students are offered opportunities to successfully transition back into the community through employment skills, post-secondary education, life skills training and industry recognized certification programs.

The Division of Youth services has been authorized to administer the ACT Work-keys Assessment test through the Arkansas Department of Workforce and to administer ACT Compass testing through Shorter College at the Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center. The DYS initiative is for all juvenile facilities to administer the ACT Work-keys Assessment and ACT Compass testing in the future.

Career education programs within DYS have increased and include the following:

**Career Ready 101-** This program provides students' workplace skills in the area of Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. Students reaching proficiency in the Career Ready 101 tutorials take the Work Keys assessments to earn a Career Readiness Certificate indicating to employers they have the core employability skills needed for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. DYS partnered with Arkansas Department of Workforce to offer students the Arkansas Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) Program. The Division of Youth Services has successfully tested (18) eighteen students. The outcomes of the Career Readiness Testing include 1 Gold Certificate, 13 Silver Certificates, and 4 Bronze Certificates.

**Growing Up Ready Life's Skill Program** - The Division of Youth Services received a Carl Perkins grant and implemented Growing Up Ready at the Dermott Juvenile Treatment Center. Growing Up Ready provides integrated instructional units which reinforce core academic skills while exposing students to future career opportunities including course work in Banking and Credit Services, Care Giving, Hospitality, Nutrition and Wellness.

**C-Tech Industry Recognized Certification Program**- The Division of Youth Services received a Carl Perkins grant and implemented the C-Tech Industry Recognized Certification Program which will be piloted at the at the Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center and Dermott

Correctional 18-21 Facility. C-tech provides juveniles with a career industry recognized certification opportunity in the area of Telecommunications and Fiber Optics.

**Post-Secondary Education-** The Division of Youth Services partnered with Shorter College to offer Post-Secondary Education to students completing the traditional high school diploma program and the GED program.

The Division of Youth Services continues to offer software and web-based programs to meet the transitional needs of students through Kuder Career Interest Assessments, Plato Learning Environments, and Renaissance Learning NEO2 computer labs.

DYS hosted the Annual “Youth-On-The-Rise: Job Fair in January and April 2014. The primary purpose of the Career Fair is to expose students to opportunities that exist in the local business community.

### **Integration with Curriculum and Instruction**

The DYS Education System faces unique challenges in implementing technology. There are many legal restrictions placed on student access to the Internet. Most of the DYS schools are in remote locations which causes connectivity issues. Safety and student behavior are also a concern in terms of hardware and equipment. Despite these hurdles, DYS has made strides to increase access for both teachers and students and to improve the quality of available resources.

DYS uses e-School for communication between ADE and DYS. DYS sites will transition to use of the ADE E-School network for all educational purposes. The DYS Education team has a staff member dedicated to APSCN and E-School for all cycle reports.

There are approximately 300 education computers distributed to the schools. Each classroom has student computers available. Students do not have access to email. There are web based educational programs being used through secure shortcuts and portals. Students currently do not have the ability to save any work on external devices or on a server. All teachers are provided laptops that have greater freedom than the student computers.

Teachers are able to access the school/DYS network. Teachers have email access and Internet access. Teachers have a Renaissance NEO2 mobile learning lab available for student use. Classrooms have additional learning tools available including digital reading pens to assist low level readers, electronic probes that are used in science classes, and calculators for math classes. Each school has a Scantron reader available for use in grading assessments.

Computer Aided Instruction is utilized to provide differentiation and remediation for students. Currently, the PLATO Learning Environment by Edmentum is used at all of the facilities for student remediation and assessment. The mission of the program is to engage the

student and teacher in a one on one learning environment by providing credit recovery and remediation. Computer Aided Instruction also provides content and technology to the students. The program offers state standard common core programs and pre- and post-assessment of students. Plato is commonly used by teachers to meet differentiation needs when students are working on multiple assignments.

### **Equitable use of Technology**

The Division of Youth Services recognizes the importance of providing educators with access to technology required to support curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development. These tools include:

- **Individual laptop computers**
- **Classroom Internet connectivity**
- **Presentation devices**
- **Learner-centered training**
- **Access to web-based resources**

Equally important is providing students with technology applications that will promote engagement and improve student achievement. Teachers often use the applications and learning games available for the Smart Board to allow students to engage in an active role in learning. These activities increase student engagement as well as collaborative learning.

Students with special needs are accommodated according to their IEPs. Those with reading difficulties use reading pens; those with vision or hearing difficulties utilize the Windows accessibility tools; those with learning difficulties use programmed instruction according to their unique abilities.

### **Policies and Procedures**

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The Division of Youth Services strives to assure effective, equitable, and successful utilization of technology to improve student achievement and to gain higher levels of productivity. DYS must provide the youth in its care with controlled access to technology for participation in educational, rehabilitative, industrial and job-skills programs. Faculty and staff have additional access as appropriate for performing their job responsibilities. Computer and Internet safety policies address cyber-ethics, cyber-bullying, Internet dangers, electronic communications, and hacking, copyright, and intellectual property as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). In addition to the DYS Education System policies, personnel are bound to the Department of Human Services and Arkansas Office of Systems & Technology security agreement, confidentiality statement, and access policy.

# Funding and Organization

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## Residential Educational Allotment by Facility

Includes Title I allocation and ADE Serious Offender allocation\*\*

AJATC	\$ 600,991.97
Colt	\$ 193,018.49
Dermott (JTC)	\$ 220,529.39
Dermott (18-21 JCF)	\$ 175,669.71 (*does not receive Title 1 funds)
Harrisburg	\$ 264,568.23
Lewisville	\$ 222,723.87
Mansfield Boys	\$ 204,211.96
Mansfield Girls	\$ 119,998.70
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2,001,712.32</b>

\*\*Allotments change according to quarterly attendance. Figures represent 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

## DYS Central Office Education - General Revenue

### DYS Central Office Education - General Revenue

Salary and Fringe		428,878.00
Operating Cost	(includes textbooks and computers)	383,605.00
Total		837,408.00

Conferences & ADE Audits (including travel, registration fees, and lodging)	11,068.88
Membership Dues	800.00
Total	11,868.88

**DYS Central Office – Special Education Funding Title VI- B**

Operating (includes resource room materials, trade & industrial supplies, improvement of instructional services, instructional staff training & professional development, and instructional technology)	72,804.04
Total	72,804.04

**Total Central Office Educational Cost**

**Total Amount DYS paid for Education:      \$ 2,923,793.24**

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**Education General Revenue** - funding set aside for education activities

- 88% Educational Personnel
- 12% Educational administrative overhead and extemporaneous education costs not covered by DYS Central Office

**Title I Funding** - DYS receives Title I funding and passes through funding to each provider based upon number of contracted beds. (Excludes Dermott JCF 18-21)

- 85% Title I services
- 15% Transitional Services

## **DYS Education Department's Procedures**

### **Serious Offender Program Funds**

#### **School Year 2014 - 2015**

##### **First Quarter School Days**

Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

##### **Second Quarter School Days**

Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

##### **Third Quarter School Days**

Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

##### **Fourth Quarter School Days**

Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup>

It is the responsibility of each residential juvenile treatment center Provider to report the attendance of its students in the education program by providing quarterly attendance reports to the Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services (DYS). DYS will provide the quarterly attendance information to the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). The quarterly funding distribution is determined by the ADE. See the following:

- 1) The DYS Education Department (DYSED) will send reminder emails to each Provider within two school days of the ending of each quarter. Providers will return quarterly attendance numbers to the DYSED within eight (8) business days. Note: All three vendors' information is jointly submitted to ADE.
- 2) DYSED reconciles Providers' quarterly reports within three (3) business days.
- 3) ADE will compute distribution within five (5) business days. ADE will deposit funds. ADE will provide distribution information via an Excel worksheet to DYSED. DYSED will provide information to the DYS Financial Section.
- 4) Within four (4) business days, the DYS Financial Section will secure the DHS CFO's approval for direct pay and notify facilities invoicing information.

Note: Effective July 1, 2015, this procedure will be amended to comply with the new residential juvenile treatment center contracts.



# Education Initiatives

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The Division of Youth Services Education Team believes that families are critical to student’s learning and that all students can succeed academically and socially. The Education Initiatives of the DYS Education Team include but are not limited to the following:

- 1. **DYS Transition Team:** DYS Education Team members will seek to follow students from initial staffing to release including 15, 30, 45, and 90 days from release.
- 2. **DYS Comprehensive Testing:** DYS utilizes PLATO, TABE 9, and KUDER Career Inventory for assessments of students. However, the quest remains for a research based standardized testing model for this student population.
- 3. **Vocation Education:** The Division of Youth Services continues to improve and expand the vocational offerings in the schools. This expansion plan is designed to improve student transition and help to improve and develop a job market for students returning home.
- 4. **Highly Qualified Teachers:** All Division of Youth Services instructors are certified by the ADE in their teaching field.
- 5. **Arkansas Department of Education Audits:** The Division of Youth Services Education Department has completed another successful audit of all schools within the Division. This represents the third occasion that the Division has successfully completed this process. All official education documents from the Division will transfer to any accredited education entity due to the successful completion of the audits by the department.

# CONCLUSION

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The Arkansas Division of Youth Services Education Team continues to improve upon the educational and technological services offered to the students in the schools of the Division. Although much of the educational efforts provided in the schools of DYS centers on remediation, the desire of all educators is for each youth to return to his/her school at the appropriate grade level and graduate, and/or attend college or technical school, or find a vocation and become a productive member of the community.

# APPENDICES

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Division of Youth Services, Arkansas Consolidated High School Policy Handbook.