

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

002 - Ashley County: Hamburg Junior High School

- ◆ After School Programs Where Needed.
- ◆ Also, More Needs To Be Done To Be Able To Identify Children With Learning Disabilities Earlier, Not Wait Until Fourth Or Fifth Grade- Time Is Of The Essence With These Types Of Problems.
- ◆ Before/After-School Programs Statewide With Transportation Provided.
- ◆ Boost Teacher Morale/Appreciation
- ◆ Competitive Teacher Salaries
- ◆ Encourage And Reward Further Education And Development Of Staff. Pay For A Master's.
- ◆ Fund, Fully Fund, All Mandates Above And Beyond The Normal Level.
- ◆ I Believe The Teacher Salaries Should Be Raised In Order That We Have A Sufficient Amount Of Teachers Rather Than The Shortage That We Currently Have.
- ◆ I Would Like To See More Involvement Between The Businesses In The Area And The School. Not Just Financially But With Mentor Programs Or After School Go To Work Program.
- ◆ Keep Small Rural Schools That Are Doing A Good Job Open.
- ◆ Model Recruiting Of Teachers After The Process In The Medical Profession. Example, Districts Pay For Teacher's Education- Teachers Agree To Stay In That District For A Certain Number Of Years.
- ◆ Offer Parenting Classes
- ◆ Parenting/Child Development Classes.
- ◆ Pattern Curriculum After The Needs Of Society, Business, And Industry.
- ◆ Structure Instructional Delivery To Meet The Demands And Needs Of The Average, Special Needs, And Handicapped Students Without Compromising The Quality Of Instruction For Any Of These Groups.
- ◆ Students And Parents Must Be Held Accountable For Behavior. Teachers Can't Teach If Student Behavior Is A Problem.
- ◆ Students Should Be Accountable For Test Scores. Teacher's Scores Should Not Be Used To Reflect Their Ability To Teach. We Teach The Children We Get To The Best Of Our Ability. Parents And Home Life Must Play A Part.
- ◆ Study Hall Should Be Emphasized In The Schools, With Tutors To Work With Students.
- ◆ Teach Teachers To Teach To The Individual, Not The Subject.
- ◆ Teacher Salaries Must Be Uniform Across The State Of AR, And Must Be Competitive With The States Surrounding AR.
- ◆ Utilize Professionals In The Areas To Let Students Know Something About The Professions That They Might Follow.
- ◆ Utilize Public Educational Television In Areas That May Not Have The Personnel For Special Programs.
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SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

003 - Baxter County: Hurd Student Center

- ◆ Get The Drugs Out Of School. If You Have To Bring In Drug Dogs Everyday To Do It, Do So. Simply Removing Drugs And Eliminating Them From Teachers, Coaches, And Students.
- ◆ Legalize Drugs, Tax Them And Use The Profits For Education.
- ◆ State Should Also Have More Health Education Taught By Certified Health Educators.
- ◆ State Should Require Physical Education For K Through 12 Taught By Certified PE Teachers. Athletics Does Not Count- It's A Separate Course.



004 - Benton County: New Rogers High School

- ◆ Better System Of Integrating Non-English Speaking Children So That Educational Goals Are Not Lowered For Above Average Students.
- ◆ Fine Arts To Be Considered As Much A Priority As Sports.
- ◆ All Schools, If A Sign Language Interpreter Is Required, These Interpreters Should Be Qualified, Certified And Paid To Reflect Their Certification. Standardized Pay To Reflect Their Level Of Certification. When Interpreters Are Required To Go To Meetings, Let Them Be Educated On Their Field, Not Be In A Meeting That Does Not Help Them Grow.
- ◆ Allow Children A Period Of Adjustment To Daylight Savings Time Before Conducting State Tests.
- ◆ Allow Children Enough Time To Adjust Daylight Savings Time Beforehand.
- ◆ Alternate Classroom Situations For Students With Behavior Problems. Too Much Class Time Is Wasted While Teachers Take Time Out From Teaching Academics For A Few Children Who Are Disruptive And Disrespectful To The Teacher And Their Classmates.
- ◆ Alternative Learning Environments For Middle School Students Rather Than Suspension Or Expulsion.
- ◆ Alternative Programs For Behavior Problems.
- ◆ Alternatives To Suspending Children
- ◆ Another Issue That Was Not Addressed At All Was The Inability To Get Rid Of Non Or Low-Performing Teachers. Compensation Is Based Solely On Length Of Service And Education Level, Not On Quality Of Services The Teacher Provides. We Must Free Up Our Building Principals To Build The Best Teams Possible.
- ◆ As A Classroom Teacher I Am Convinced That A Smaller Classroom Is Key. No Matter How Wonderful Our Curriculum Is; No Matter How Many Options To Deal With Behavior: No Matter How Qualified The Teacher You Can Not Meet The Individual Needs Of 28 Children As Well As You Can The Needs Of 18-20 Children.
- ◆ Challenging All Students; The High Ability Students Are Not Being Challenged, Consistently, With A More Complex And Rigorous Curriculum.
- ◆ Class Size
- ◆ Consolidation Of SD.
- ◆ Continue And Expand Reading Recovery Programs.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Continued Education/ Training For Teachers Done In A Structured Manner That Is Appropriate For The Needs Of The Teachers At The Various Levels Of Experience. First Your Teachers Need To Manage Their Classroom, Organize, Etc. A More Experienced Teacher Needs Training In Learning Styles, Learning Strategies, Etc.
- ◆ Creative Teaching Tools-Team Teaching, Projects, Not Just Memorization
- ◆ Curriculum Expansion And Changes.
- ◆ Early Literacy Needs To Be A Focus- Educate Teachers In How To Truly Teach Reading.
- ◆ Educate The Governor And Other Law Makers On Best Practice. They Are Making Laws But Do Not Understand What Is Best Practice. Politics Is Driving Education.
- ◆ Explore Sound Field Systems In Classrooms, Especially K,1,2.
- ◆ Explore Year Round School For State.
- ◆ Grouping Kids For Learning.
- ◆ Have An Education System That Is Stable- Not Subject To Major Changes With Change Of Governorship.
- ◆ I Am In Favor Of Half Day Kindergarten. I Think Afternoon In Kindergarten Is Mostly Baby-Sitting Paid For With Taxes.
- ◆ I Am Not In Favor Of Taxpayer Funded Preschool. I Think It Enables People To Work At Paying Jobs And Not Spend Time With Their Children. I Think It Demeans The Role Of "At-Home Parents." I Think It Is Very Sad That The Filmstrip Mentioned Something Like -We Have To Educate Parents That They Are Their Children's First Educators. Expect More Of People And You Will Get It.
- ◆ I'd Like The School District To Be Perceived As Less Legalistic And More User Friendly, Making Decisions Based On Individual Circumstances Whenever Possible.
- ◆ I'd Like To See Lower Teacher To Student Ratios. Teacher Aides Would Be Nice. Our Teachers Ask Parents To Come In And Teach The Slow Students. Teachers Should Not Have To Rely On Volunteer Parent Aides And Parents Should Not Be Expected To Do This. It Can Work If All Your Children Are In School And Have No At-Home Preschoolers.
- ◆ If Teacher Pay Is To Be Tied To Performance, Let's Ensure That The Performance Is Fairly Measured- Taking Into Account The Population The Teacher Serves And Measuring Progress She Helps A Student Achieve. Performance Measured By "Test Scores" Is Too Limited A Vision.
- ◆ Incentives For Nonteachers To Become Teachers.
- ◆ Increase Teacher Salaries- Pay Teachers As "Professionals." A Teacher That Is A Head Of A Household With 2,3,Or 4 Children Has A Salary That Qualifies For Free/Reduced Lunch Assistance!
- ◆ Less Paperwork And Documentation For Special Ed.
- ◆ Less Paperwork For Teachers. Give Them More Time To Be Creative And Work One On One With The Children. Less Pressure On Students And Parents.
- ◆ Life Skill Applications, The Time For Which Doesn't Exist While Preparing For Standardized Tests.
- ◆ Mandate Smaller Classes: K-15, First-18, Second-20.
- ◆ More Discipline Given Back To Our Students.
- ◆ More Economics Taught To Our Students.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ More Emphasis On Gifted/Talented/Reach Programs.
- ◆ More Focus On Counseling For Our Students Concerning Their Continued Education Or Career.
- ◆ Need For Vocational Assessment.
- ◆ Options Of Year-Round Schools.
- ◆ Parent Involvement And Accountability. There Is Parent/Student Apathy With Education.
- ◆ Personal Computers Given To Every Eighth Grade Child.
- ◆ Problem Solving, Critical Thinking
- ◆ Public Library Cards Given Free To Every Student In The First Grade, Field Trips To The Library.
- ◆ Public Relations. The Education Section Of The Newspaper Just Like A Sports Section. Showcase The Work Our Kids Are Expending So Much Effort To Produce! Parents Love To See Their Children's Work, And Students Would Be Proud.
- ◆ Publicly Emphasize Education- Newspapers, Television, Etc. Promote Education The Way We Do Sports.
- ◆ Require A Foreign Language To Graduate- Start In The Early Grades.
- ◆ Respect For Education And Educators Must Be Voiced Actively And All The Time By Political And Business Leaders. Our Educators Have A Challenging, Difficult Job Meeting The Needs Of A Diverse Population.
- ◆ Seek Ways To Enhance Students Respect For Authority Figures.
- ◆ Smaller Class Size In Lower Elementary.
- ◆ Smaller Class Sizes
- ◆ Smaller Class Sizes To Better Individualize Instruction For At-Risk Students As Well As Advanced Students.
- ◆ Smaller Class Sizes Would Allow Teachers More Time To Teach. I Feel That Grouping Children According To Learning Styles And Ability (As Appropriate To Their Ages) Would Allow Teachers To "Specialize" And Expend Their Effort In Fewer Areas.
- ◆ Standardize Testing-Too Stressful To Students And Staff. Small Solution For Parent-Learning And Involvement.
- ◆ Stop All Bussing. Take That Money And Beef Up The Children's Neighborhood School.
- ◆ Stop Allowing Standardized Testing To Drive The Curriculum. If Monetary Gains Are Attached To These Scores/ Adequate Progress, The Focus Will Only Increase. If This Happens, My Child Will Be Educated At Home.
- ◆ Teacher Aides To Provide More Adult Interaction For Children In Every Classroom At The Elementary Level.
- ◆ Teacher Shortage
- ◆ Teachers Need To Have The Freedom To Remove Children Who Are Continually Disruptive From Their Classrooms So They Can Teach- Not Spend All Their Time And Energy On Keeping Order.
- ◆ Teachers Pay Based On Quality Of How They Are Educating Our Students - Not Necessarily Decided By Test Scores.
- ◆ The Changes In Rogers GPA And Units In Unfair To The Older Students.
- ◆ The Need For Early Childhood Education. Preschool Available For All Children.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ The Safety Of Our Schools! What Are We Doing To Address The Fact That We, As A State, Have Such A Disproportionate Number Of School Shootings?
- ◆ The State Department Offers Incentives To School Districts Who Recruit, Train, Pay For College, Bilingual Teachers To Meet The Needs Of Our Changing Population, Especially In NW Arkansas.
- ◆ Thinking Skills, Thinking Curriculum. Problem Solving Skills.
- ◆ This Meeting Is A Good Start At Changing The Culture Of The State. Currently The General Citizenry Does Not Hold Education As Very Important, " I Have Made A Living And I Don't Have A College Education." This Attitude Is Too Prevalent And More Meetings To Meet More Citizens And To Educate Them On The Importance Of Education. Valuing Education Is Tremendously Important.
- ◆ Time Spent On Special Education Paper Work Is Nearly Unbearable. Sped Teachers (Good Teachers!) Are Leaving This Specialty Area In Doves Because Of This Demand Imposed Upon Them By The AR State Department Of Education.
- ◆ Too Much Homework For Both Advanced Students And Students Who Are Average.
- ◆ Trained, Paid Assistants In The Classrooms
- ◆ Use AETN To Provide Parents With Live Or Recorded Programs That Can Be Utilized From Home. But Can Provide Parental Guidance For Helping Get Involved In The Child's School Life. They Can Be Taped By Each School And/Or Loaned Out For Parents Use. They Can Be Interactive Between School Sites And Used Often. When These Programs Would Run-Make Sure School Advertises Their Airing Date.
- ◆ Vocational/Technical Education Needs To Be Greatly Expanded. Non-College Bound Students Need To Have A Marketable Skill When They Graduate From Hs.
- ◆ We Should Be Assured That Grades (A,B,C,D) In AR Are Valid And Mean The Same As In Other States.

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005 - Benton County: Siloam Springs Community Bldg.

- ◆ A Real Gifted Education Is Important For All.
- ◆ Adequate Funding For Alternative Education.
- ◆ Adequate Funding For Special Education.
- ◆ All Students Must Have The Opportunity To Experience All The Arts.
- ◆ Assure That Teacher's Degree Qualifies One To Teach.
- ◆ Background Checks For All Adults Around Children.
- ◆ Better Age Help In P-16 Curriculum Alignment
- ◆ Consolidate At Least Higher Grades.
- ◆ Consolidate School Districts, One Per County Or One Per State.
- ◆ Consolidate Smaller High Schools To Be Able To Offer Optimum Curriculum.
- ◆ Consolidation On Case By Case Basis.
- ◆ Determine How Japan And Some European Countries Get 75% Of Funds To Classrooms And Us Is Under 50%.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Education- The Only Profession Where You Must Have At Least Four Years Of College To Teach, But Anyone Can Tell You What To Teach And When To Teach It.
- ◆ End Traditional Curriculum At About The 10-11 Break. Allow Students To Then Choose Vocational Training Or Pre-College Training At State Cost For At Least One More Year.
- ◆ Equalized Teacher Salaries, Regardless Of Demographics Would Take Away From More Populated Areas' Resources And Hurt All Educators.
- ◆ Fix Special Education.
- ◆ Funding- Adequate, Predictable, And Easier To Understand.
- ◆ I Do Not Have Children. I Don't Mind Supporting An Above Average System, But Don't Want To Keep Wasting My Money On One That Does Not Work.
- ◆ Identify Students With LD's And Multiple Intelligence Who Need Help By 3Rd Grade. Get Them Real Help At That Time.
- ◆ Improved Facilities Funding To Replace Four Year Old Buildings.
- ◆ Increasing Salaries Will Not Bring More Qualified Teachers To Arkansas. Arkansans Are Stereo-Typed As Hillbillies And Being Stupid. Change The Stigmatism First.
- ◆ Keep The Un-Educated As Well As Uninterested Out Of Substitute Teaching Jobs.
- ◆ Let Teacher's Teach, Not Be A Data Entry Clerk.
- ◆ Let Teachers Teach.
- ◆ Limit Or Eliminate Extra-Curricular Activities To Boost Available Funding For Education!
- ◆ Minimize Amenities At Schools. School Is Work, Not A Vacation.
- ◆ More Discipline And Respect In Schools.
- ◆ Must Address Special Education, It Is Too Broad, And Too Expensive. Must Have Good Comprehensive Special Ed For Those Who Need It, Adequately Funded. But Must Look At Learning Styles, Good Early Grade Teachers To Address Learning Differences.
- ◆ Must Not Push/Force Academic Curriculum Down. Must Maintain Developmental Appropriate Curriculum At Early Grades If Want Real Learning.
- ◆ Not Everyone Needs Algebra.
- ◆ Offer Broad Opportunity To Children To Get In All Disciplines.
- ◆ Pay For Teachers Based On Performance Just Like A Real Job.
- ◆ People Fall Through The Cracks.
- ◆ Practice The Three R's.
- ◆ Qualified Teacher. Well Trained And Inequitable Salaries.
- ◆ Re-Empower Principals And Classroom Teachers.
- ◆ Reduce Administration Overhead By Region.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Reduce Judicial And Legislative Input.
- ◆ Reduce Single Parent Families.
- ◆ Run Schools Like Businesses And Reward Those (Students And Teachers) That Perform. Remove Those Who Don't.
- ◆ Safety In All Areas.
- ◆ Salaries Do Not Educate. Good People Educate. Pay Appropriately.
- ◆ Standardized Or Uniform Teacher Education Program.
- ◆ Standardized Or Uniform Teacher Education Programs For Academics And Vocational.
- ◆ Stop Making It Seem As Thought This Generation "Deserves" An Education. It Is A Privilege And Should Be Earned Just Like A Driver's License Or Someone's Respect. Same With Teacher Salaries.
- ◆ Technology Funding Included In State Funding Formulas.
- ◆ The People That Know What Will Solve Problems, The Teachers, Never Get To Talk.
- ◆ There Needs To Be A Way To Discipline The Kids.
- ◆ There Needs To Be A Way To Hold The Parents Just As Accountable For The Child's Education.
- ◆ Understand That Not Everyone Needs To Go To College.
- ◆ Unreadable

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007 - Boone County: John Paul Hammerschmidt Business/Conference Cntr

- ◆ A Higher Proportion Of Students Take Advanced Classes In Smaller School Situations.
- ◆ Allow Districts To Get Rid Of Poor Teachers. This Should Not Be Based Only On Test Scores.
- ◆ Any School, Large Or Small That Is Getting The Job Done Should Be Left Alone.
- ◆ AP/ Advanced Placement Classes To Foster Independent Thinking.
- ◆ As A Student, I Am About To Graduate. I Feel That With Smaller Schools We Can Get A Better Education. In College, I Plan To Major In Education. With Smaller Schools I Would More Than Likely Be Hired At Valley Springs. I Feel That I Have An Education That Will Lead Me Down The Right Road.
- ◆ Concern--Is It Possible To Get Unbiased Suggestions From An Obviously Biased Group? Ie, Teachers & Others W/ Vested Interests.
- ◆ Consolidation Is Not The Answer To School Problems. Consolidation Will Only Compound Them.
- ◆ Consolidation Is Not The Answer.
- ◆ Consolidation Is Not The Answer. Most Small Schools Are Educating Their Children Adequately. If You Take The School Out Of The Community, The Community Will Die. Students In Very Large Schools Lose Their Identity And Fall Between "The Cracks" Of The System.
- ◆ Discontinue Alternative Certification Of People Who Do Not Have Degree In Education

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Education Has To Be A Top Priority In Our State Before We Will Rise From The Bottom To The Top. We Need To Support, Fund, And Emphasize Education In Every Aspect For Our Schools To Improve And Our Students Succeed.
- ◆ Education Should Be Done By The Educators And Not The Legislators.
- ◆ Efficiency Should Be Interpreted As Quality Of Learning.
- ◆ Emphasis On The Basics In Elementary.
- ◆ Enforce Laws Already In Place. Set Consequences & Emplement Sanctions.
- ◆ Equitable Technology And Distance Learning Access For Early School In AR Small Schools Will Leave Access To The Variety Of Course Offerings That Large Schools Have.
- ◆ Focus On The 3 R's: Writing Across The Curriculum & Math Across The Curriculum As Much As Possible.
- ◆ Foreign Languages Taught In Elementary. Spanish Is In Our Present And Future. The Need Will Only Continue To Grow.
- ◆ I Am Opposed To Consolidation--If It Isn't Broken Don't Fix It--Close Schools Regardless Of Size If They Are Not Meeting Standards
- ◆ I Feel That We Need To Address The Problem Of Too Many Students Being Put In Special Ed. Classes.
- ◆ If Parents Are To Be Held Accountable For Preparing The Student For School, The Expectations Need To Be Communicated To The Parent.
- ◆ If There Are Programs To Help Parents, Their Existence And Qualification Requirements Need To Be Communicated To The Parents Shortly After The Child Is Born.
- ◆ Keep Smaller, Localized Schools
- ◆ Make Use Of Technology And Distance Learning Programs.
- ◆ More Openness From Legislature And Department Of Education To New Technology Learning In Classrooms.
- ◆ No Athletics During School Hours.
- ◆ Professional Development/Continuous Learning Opportunities For Teachers.
- ◆ Raise Teacher Salaries.
- ◆ Reward Schools & Teachers For Outstanding Successes. This Reward Will Encourage More Students To Succeed. As It Encourages Schools To Perform.
- ◆ Smaller Student-Teacher Ratios.
- ◆ Students Should Find Success In Our Schools. All Research Shows Small Schools Are More Successful Than Large Schools. Those Who Promote Large School Settings Should Do Some Research. Let's Do What Is Best For Our Youth.
- ◆ Teacher Salaries Raised.
- ◆ Technology Emphasized
- ◆ Until Arkansas Determines That Education Is The Single Most Important Issue In Our State's Future Success, We Will Never Rise Above Our Current Level Of Education. This Will Require Funding And Local Control. Education Level Is The Determining Factor Of A Person's Desire And/Or Accomplishment Of Success!
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SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

008 - Bradley County: Warren High School

- ◆ As An Educator, I Am Very Concerned Over Two Specific Issues Impacting The Educational Arena. These Issues Are Alternative Certification And Home Schooling. In Both Of The Areas I've Witnessed The Good And The Bad. I Feel Overall Alternate Certification Is Allowing People To Become Teachers Who Are Not Qualified. However, I Have Seen One Success In Our District.
- ◆ Consider The Health Care Needs Of Handicapped
- ◆ Do Away With So 4 Modification. This Is A Joke
- ◆ Equally Equipped Schools
- ◆ Home Schoolers Should Be Held More Accountable. I've Had Numerous Students To ""Drop-Out"" Just Because They Can ""Goof-Off"" Under The Title Of ""Home-Schooled."" I Also Know There Are Accountable Home Schoolers But Overall I'm Afraid It Falls Short Of The Ideal. These Are Only 2 Of Many Areas Of Concern.
- ◆ How Can I Be Brief. Will The Gov. See This? Does He Really Care?
- ◆ How Is It That Administrators Can Be Paid An Enormous Amount In Arkansas And Teachers Are Still Last On The Pay Scale. Teachers Have All The Work And Weight On Their Shoulders To Meet All The Needs Of The People Of The Future. If We As Teacher Have To Carry The Full Weight To Meet All The Needs That The Government And Education Is Putting On Us Why Then Can The Government Not Help To Meet This Need.
- ◆ Improved Compensation
- ◆ More Time In Classroom--Less Inservices
- ◆ Safe And Healthy Environment
- ◆ Severe Handicap Children Are A Distraction To Other Students And Present A Safety Concern To The Handicap Student And The Teacher. At What Point Do You Draw The Line For The Handicap Child's Safety. The Non ADA Student Should Not Be Held Back By The Medical Need Of The ADA Child.
- ◆ Slow Learners And Non Learners. We Need Tracking And Ability Grouping For These Groups. We May Need To Go Back To Chapter I Students That Are Low And Teach Them At Their Ability.
- ◆ Special Need Children Should Not Be In Public Education. You Are Spinning Your Wheels On Effectiveness Of Education.
- ◆ To Much Time Out For In-Service For Teachers During The School Year.
- ◆ Too Much In Service During School Time. Do All In Service In The Summer. Don't Take My Teachers Out Of The Classroom For Training. Pay Teachers In The Summer For Going To This Training. If We Didn't Have So Much Inservice We Could Have Higher Salaries

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012 - Clark County: Henderson Education Center

- ◆ All Children Can Not Be Expected To Work On The Same Level Because Children Are Different And They Learn At Different Speeds. All Fourth Graders Can Not Be Expected To Read On A Fourth Grade Level.
- ◆ Allow Students To Drop Out Of Schools At Lower Age When They Are Not Interested In School And Become Discipline Problems.
- ◆ Availability And Use Of School Social Workers, Psychologists.
- ◆ Availability And Use Of Social Workers, Psychologists, Nurses, And Learning Specialists.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ By The Way, I Am In Full Support Of President George W. Bush's "No Child Left Behind Act Of 2001" Of What I Have Been Able To Currently Process Of The 670 Pages. I Am Tired Of The Double Talk And Red Tape With What I Feel Shows The Lack Of Training And Or Caring Of This School District. I Am In The Process Of Arranging For An Independent Testing Of My Daughter By A Child Psychologist Because Of The Failure Of The Arkadelphia School District To Properly Test And Teach My Daughter! But Will This School District Ever Have Anyone Who Can Properly Give My Child And Others The Tools They Need To Learn? How Many Other Children Are They Doing This To? Not All Children Are Mainstream Children, And This School District Needs To Provide The Proper Needs For Each Child, Not Just Put A Band-Aid On The Problems!
- ◆ Decreased Emphasis In Standardized Testing.
- ◆ Early Intervention For Students Who Are Not On Grade-Level (I.E. Retention At Kindergarten And First Grade).
- ◆ Encourage Parenting Education For Students At The Secondary Level.
- ◆ Equal Opportunities For All Children.
- ◆ Help Universal Pre-K Get Into Existing, Quality Approved Childcare Centers. Do Not Cram The Kindergartners And First Graders Into Crowded Rooms To Make Room For 3-4 Year Olds.
- ◆ I Am A Parent Of A Child With Learning Disabilities. Since My Daughter Was In Kindergarten Or First Grade I Have Asked If There Could Be A Possibility She Could Be Dyslexic Due To Her Difficulty With Reading Skills. However, I Have Met With Brick Walls Within The System. I Have Been Brushed Off Continually By Supposed "Special Ed Professionals" Who Have Said "No." On Friday, March 8, I Had A Meeting With My Daughter's Current Reading Teacher Who Stated That She Thought My Daughter Might Be Dyslexic. I Was In Tears Because I Had Been Trying To Approach This Possibility For At Least Four Years! Why Is It That I Have Met With Brick Walls Of People Who Are Supposed To Be Specialized In Recognizing These Problems? Now The Director Of The Special Ed Program Has Sent Me In Circles With Her Double Talk Of Bench Marks, Using The IEP, And I Had To Request The Testing. Well, I Have Asked About This For My Daughter In The Past, But I Was Not Informed That I Actually Had To Spell Everything Out For Them!!! However, I Was Also Informed That The School District's Tester Would Not Be Able To Diagnose It. Where In The World Is This Circle Going!?! They Have Passed My Daughter Through The System And Do Not Seem To Care That She Is In Fourth Grade And Cannot Read! They Give Her A's And B's For Her Attempts! I Compare This Situation To Continually Just Placing A Band-Aid On The Problem When There Needs To Be Exploratory Surgery. Again, I Must Emphasize That My Daughter Is In The Fourth Grade And Cannot Read. She Shows Signs Of Being Bright, But Has Not Had The Proper Instruction. I Have Tried To Ask For Help, Only To Have Supposed Professionals Basically Indicate That I Do Not Know What I Am Talking About! Why Should I Be The One Who Must Constantly Keep After The System? Yes, I Know That These Educators See Me As A Problem Parent Because I Am Constantly Attempting To Receive The Help That My Daughter Needs. Why Should I Question Their Authority? Why Should I Bother Them? Because I Care About My Daughter? I Care About Her Future. I Care That She Cannot Read! I Am My Daughter's Advocate! I Care That Tax Dollars Are Paying People Who Apparently Are Not Properly Trained To Teach My Child! What About The Children Whose Parents Do Not Question The System? I Am Attempting To Address A Very Serious Problem. I Am Addressing This For Any Child Who Needs More In-Depth Testing And Special Instruction.
- ◆ I Believe That Minimum Standards Need To Be Set For Students To Achieve On State Testing.
- ◆ I Believe That Our Present Type Of Testing Is Not Effective. It Will Not Prove To Be Effective In The Long-Term.
- ◆ I Believe That We Need To Have More Integrated Learning With All Disciplines.
- ◆ Lack Of Parental Involvement.
- ◆ Less Emphasis On Standardized Testing As An Indication Of The Quality Of Education.
- ◆ Merit Pay Is Not The Solution, We Need To Improve Learning.
- ◆ More Meaningful Partnerships With Community And Parents And Involve Them In Decision-Making.
- ◆ More Teaching Of Social Skills/Manners In School
- ◆ Not Being Taught How To Study Social And Behavioral Skills.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Prepare And Re-Educate Teachers To Provide The Most Current And Effective Methods For Teaching Math.
- ◆ Professionally Active/Continued Training For Teachers And Administration.
- ◆ Program Internships Should Be Made Available To High School Students In Area Businesses. Have Businesses From Larger Towns Come In And Talk To Students About The Opportunities That Are Available To Them In Different Fields.
- ◆ Reduce The Number Of School Districts In The State To Make More Funds Available For Increased Teacher Salaries. Consolidation Of Small Districts.
- ◆ Review The Procedures Currently In Place For Testing Students And Determine If The Amount Of Time Teaching To The Tests Is Really Teaching Our Children What They Need To Know.
- ◆ Support Fine Arts In All Schools For All Ages, By Qualified Teachers.
- ◆ Too Test Driven (Standardized).
- ◆ Workforce Education For Those Students That Will Never Pass The Literacy Test (11Th Grade).

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014 - Cleburne County: Cleburne County Courthouse

- ◆ A Class That Teaches Life Necessities: Hygiene, Basic Cooking, Sewing, Automotive, Finance (Saving Programs, Checking Accounts, Difference In Simple/Compound Interest), Local Government Structure, Chamber Of Commerce Functions.
- ◆ Clothing Guidelines For Students And Teachers.
- ◆ I'd Like To See Functionally Literate Children At Graduation. Good Penmanship, Vocabulary, Manners And Coping Skills. Math Skills Conquered Before Being Allowed To Use Calculators.
- ◆ Parent Support
- ◆ There Is Over-Testing.
- ◆ We Must Hold Children Back Who Do Not Pass Daily And Weekly Criteria. Passing Them Hurts The Child And Society Later.

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016 - Columbia County: Magnolia High School

- ◆ A Child At The Jr. High Was Allowed To Get On The Bus To Go Home, Allowed On Campus The Next Day, Attended Four Different Classes, And Was Planning To Eat Lunch From The Vending Machines. However, The Child Was Punished At The "Do Right Table" In The Lunch Room For Not Having A Name Tag On. The Child Had To Sit At A Table Until All The Other Kids Were Served And Then Was Allowed To Leave. My Questions Are If The Tag Is For Safety Reason, Why Was The Child Even Able To Get On The Bus To Go Home; If The Tag Is Needed To Buy Lunch And The Child Was Using The Vending Machine, Why Was It Necessary; If The Child Is Paying In Cash And Does Not Want To Have A Credit On The Card, Why Is The Card Necessary?
- ◆ All Homework Should Be Relevant And Feedback Should Be Given. If It Is Worth Doing, It Is Worth The Teacher Grading. Copying From The Book, Tracing Maps From The Book, Requiring Children To Locate Information From Sources That Require An Adult To Transport Them To The Library By 5:00 And Parents Work Late, Etc. Should Be Eliminated.
- ◆ Asking Questions After A Reading Assignment Is Not Teaching Reading Comprehension, It Is Testing Reading Comprehension. Different Texts Require Different Comprehension Techniques. Children Should Not Be Forced To Recall Small Details From A Fictional Book Designed To Entertain Or To Teach A Concept; However, Locating Details In A Science Text In Necessary. Teaching The Children How To Read Different Types Of Text Is Necessary.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Can A System Not Be Put In Place Where Parents Request Teachers And Then Teachers Select Their Students From That List? If The First Round Teacher Does Not Choose Your Child, Then You May Make A Second Choice. You Continue To Choose Until A Match Is Made. In Other Words, Good Teachers Would Get To Choose From A Large Number Of Students And Good Students Would More Likely Be Chosen By A Good Teacher. All Parents Define Good Teachers Differently And All Teachers Define Good Students Differently. This Would Allow A Better Chance For A Good Match.
- ◆ Families Are Important. People Enjoy Different Activities. You Cannot Go Deer Hunting With Dad In July. The Old Idea Of Getting Out For Summer For Farming And Harvest Is No Longer Appropriate. I Do Feel Students And Teachers Need Time Off, I Just Do Not Feel The Administration Should Determine Those Times. Yes, It Would Be A Change And Some Days Would Have To Be Mandatory, But Students Should Not Be Penalized For Spending A Week With Dad In November When The School Thinks The Student Should Stay Home Watching TV In July.
- ◆ If A Child Has A Particular Interest And The Parents Are Willing To Purchase The Instrument, Why Should They Not Be Allowed To Learn That Instrument? In Order To Be A Part Of The Band You Have To Learn The Instrument That Is Assigned And The Parent Must Rent That Instrument. How Much Does It Cost To Rent A Football Uniform?
- ◆ In The Past Five Years The Magnolia Kindergarten Has Undergone A Philosophy Change. Five Years Ago Children Were Not Retained Due To Not Knowing Their Alphabet. Now Kids Are Put In The "Low Group" In September If They Cannot Recognize The Alphabet. A Change In Philosophy Is Not Bad. However, Parents Are Not Aware Of The Expectations Of The School.
- ◆ Inappropriate Teaching Can Be Expensive Or Cheap. If The Science Equipment Is Ever Used, Then Spending The Money To Buy It Was Foolish. Yes, Teachers Need Supplies. The Supplies Also Need To Be Used. The Public Might Better Understand The Need For New Buildings If They Were Used More Than 178 Days A Year For 8 Hours A Day. Why Can't Teachers Schedules Be Staggered And Para-Professionals Be Hired To Allow School Hours To Be Extended And Allow Time For Homework And Reduce The Need For After-School And Summer Childcare?
- ◆ Increases Should Not Be Made Just Because Teachers Do Not Feel They Make Enough. True Evaluations On Performance As Well As Their Ability Should Determine Increases. I Feel Giving Them The Opportunity To Choose Their Students, Choose Their Vacation Days, Et. Is An Alternative. Hiring Para-Professionals To Pull Duty And Certified Substitute Teachers To Provide Enrichment Activities During Vacation Days And To Provide Tutoring Would Also Be Incentives.
- ◆ Is It Teaching When A Child Is Assigned To Complete A Pre-Write Activity, Rough Draft, Edit And Rewrite The Final Product In One Evening? This Does Not Allow The Teacher To Teach If The Final Product Is Completed Before The Teacher Ever Sees It. Also The Child Should Not Have To Complete Similar Assignments Before Getting Feedback On The First One. How Can They Know What Is Expected Of Them If They Do Not Get Feedback On The First Six Assignments? Thirty Minutes Of Homework In Six Subjects In Three Hours. The Bus Drops The Kids Off At 4:00. To Insure 8-9 Hours Of Sleep Bedtime Is 9:00. That Leaves Five Hours. Three Hours For Homework And Two For Family, Eating, Baths, Etc. It Is Understandable Except When It Is A Child Writing The Five-Line Definition Of The Word Bicycle When They Are In Pre-AP English In The Seventh Grade. Just Exactly What Was The Purpose?
- ◆ More Student Centered Teaching.
- ◆ Science Has Proven That Brain Functions Achieved During The First Three Years Of Life Determines The Capacity For Later Learning. The Earlier You Get Kids The Better. If Taking The Children Away From The Family Is A Concern, Why Are So Many Kids In Daycare? We Need To Provide Quality Experiences For Our Babies, Not Childcare, If We Want To Have The Best Chance Of Deferring Learning Problems.
- ◆ Teach Kids To Communicate Mathematically : De-Emphasize +,-,X Etc. Of Fractions, Decimals And Whole Numbers, Teach Concepts. Teach To The Higher Order Of Bloom's.
- ◆ Tests Should Also Show Teachers What They Need To Explain Further. If Many Students Miss A Question On A Test, An Evaluation Of That Question Needs To Be Done. Could The Question Be Worded Differently, Does The Information Need To Be Explained Further, If Most Students Missed The Question Does It Need To Be Omitted, Etc.? If It Is Worth Part Of A Grade, It Is Worth Analyzing.
- ◆ Watching Movies Such As Dr. Doolittle Seems Inappropriate When All Studies Show That Kids Watch Too Much TV In The First Place. Educational Trips Are Not Allowed. I Do Feel Kids Need Rewards, I Just Do Not Feel TV Is The Right Way.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Worksheets Do Not Equal Teaching. Memorization Does Not Equal Teaching. We Are Educating The Future And Yesterday's Techniques Are Not Enough. Medical Procedures From Five Years Ago Are Not Good Enough And Neither Are Teaching Procedures Based On Research From Five Years Ago. Accountants Must Learn New Tax Laws, Mechanics Must Learn New Machines And Buy New Equipment To Fix Them, Etc. Schools Should Be Ahead Of The Game And Good Teachers Who Know The New And Best Teaching Procedures Need To Be Paid For Their Abilities.



017 - Conway County: UA Community College - Morrilton

- ◆ Ask High School Students Themselves For Ideas.
- ◆ Educate Everyone
- ◆ I Am Also Concerned About The Elimination Of The Governor's Distinguished Scholarship Program Which Has Been So Successful In Keeping Our Exemplary Students In The State. Funding For This Program And The Aegis Programs Needs To Be Discussed. I Don't Know If This Committee Is The Appropriate Group Or Not. Thank You For Providing This Opportunity.
- ◆ Limit Curriculum
- ◆ Motivational Speakers For High School Students.
- ◆ Public Schools Should Offer Challenging Courses And Curriculum To Meet The Needs Of The Students. Advanced Students Need Course That Will Provide For A Background That Will Enable Them To Excel In College.



018 - Craighead County: Greater Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce



- ◆ A Second Reason To Emphasize Early Childhood Would Be To Assist With Child-Care Costs For Families With Low-Incomes. We Want All Of Our Citizens To Be Productive, But To Do So They Must Have Help. Childcare So That Parents Can Go To Work Or Further Their Own Education.
- ◆ A Third Reason To Focus On Early Childhood Would Be To Provide A Healthy Start To All Our Children. Our Children Are Our Most Important Resource And To Give Them The World We Need To Begin Early. Thank You For Your Attention.
- ◆ Address The Needs Of The Whole Child (Intellectual, Social, Physical, Emotional).
- ◆ All Of Our Students Need To Be Computer Literate.
- ◆ As We Strive To Improve Our Educational Standards, I Sincerely Hope That We Will Never Lose Sight Of The Fact That The Teachers First Responsibility Is To Teach Children , Not A Test.
- ◆ Consistent Discipline
- ◆ Discipline- Please Allow Us To Teach And Give Students A Chance To Learn! We Are Tired Of Educational Theft!
- ◆ However, I Am Concerned With This New System Of Benchmark Exams, The First Of Which Is Administered In Grade 4, The Second In The Sixth, And Again In Grade 8. Schools Are Under Great Pressure To See That Their Students Do Well On These Exams Or They Will Be Strongly Censored. In Turn, The Schools Put Pressure On The Teachers To See That Their Students Perform Well.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ I Feel It's Very Important To Focus On Early Childhood Programs. For Several Reasons Our Youngest Children Need Our Attention. An Extremely Good Reason To Focus On Our Youngsters Is To Help Prepare Them To Enter The School System. We Want Our Children To Learn So Much By The End Of First Grade And Many Simply Were Not Prepared To Enter Kindergarten. They Begin Their School Years Struggling With Concepts That They Need To Know Before Kindergarten. They Cannot Learn To Read Before Learning Their ABC's And Many Low-Income Parents Cannot Afford Pre-School. Additionally, Many Parents Don't Know How To Teach Their Children Elementary Concepts.
- ◆ I Feel That Any Willing Provider For Early Childcare (6 Weeks To 4 Years) Who Is Willing To Meet The Necessary Requirements Should Be Able To Provide Care For 3 And 4 Year Olds.
- ◆ I Have No Problem Paying Based On Performance.
- ◆ If Childcare Providers Loose Their 3 And 4's They May Close Their Doors, Due To The Fact That Providers Can Not Sustain A Program On Infant And Toddler Income From Parents!
- ◆ Less Emphasis On Testing.
- ◆ Licensure
- ◆ More Emphasis On Early Childhood Education.
- ◆ My Name Is Virginia M. Shepherd, And I Live In Jonesboro. Having Spent Many Years In The Teaching Profession, I Am And Always Have Been A Strong Advocate Of Public Education. It Is One Of The Things That Has Made Our Nation Great, And I Personally Feel That As Citizens Of This Country We Have An Obligation To Pressure Our Schools And Continue To Guarantee That Every Child Born In The Us Has The Opportunity To Have A Free Education. I Strongly Sympathize With Those Who Are Trying To Improve The Quality Of This Education.
- ◆ No Standardized Testing! Too Much!
- ◆ Obviously, Some Of This Is Good. As A Result, However, We See First Graders Having To Do Homework Which Increases Proportionately With Each Passing Year So That In A Very Short Time, Children Not Only Have To Stay In The Classroom All Day, But Have To Spend The Evening Doing Homework Which Leaves Little Or No Time For Family Activities. In Addition, Parents Who Can Afford It Have Their Children Tutored So They Can Pass The Benchmark Exam At Some Expected Level
- ◆ Parental Choice On Pre-Schoolers!
- ◆ Quality Education Depends On Quality Teachers. Raise Teachers Salaries To That Of A Professional So That Quality People Can Go Into Teaching And Stay In Teaching.
- ◆ Spend Taxpayer Money On Academics, Not Athletics And Other Programs.
- ◆ Teach English
- ◆ Teachers Across The State Should Receive Equitable Pay.
- ◆ The Number One Problem With The Whole School System Is The Fact That Most Superintendents And Principals Are Former Coaches And Not Academically Minded.
- ◆ We Need Better And More Mental Health Services For Students In The Schools. We're Still Not Identifying Barriers To Learning As Something That Needs A Better Answer Than In School Or Out Of School Suspensions.
- ◆ We Need More Quality Literacy Programs.
- ◆ We Need More Quality Pay For Quality Teachers.
- ◆ We Need More Quality Professional Development.
- ◆ Why Can't All Providers, Not Just Head Start, Be Able To Offer Free Child Care (Or Reduced) To Children?

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Why Should Any Child Be Ready For First Grade And Not To Mention Kindergarten. Children Are Going Into Pre-School Away From Loving Mothers And Most People Can't Afford That And The State Is Funding Much Of This.
- ◆ With The Teacher Shortage Why Is The State Department Making It More Difficult To Get A Teaching License?

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021 - Crittenden County: Mid-South Community College

- ◆ Emotional Disturbed Children--Teachers Need Training
- ◆ Expectations Are Too Low
- ◆ Need For Current Events
- ◆ Need Summer Enrichment Program
- ◆ Parent Involved
- ◆ Public Schools Are Not Safe
- ◆ Stop Passing Students Without Mastering Th Grade Level
- ◆ Students Are Not Challenged
- ◆ Students Are Not College Bound
- ◆ Teachers Should Also Work Across The Curriculum And Work Together. This Should Be Included In The Lesson Plans. (Mandatory)
- ◆ The Tax Collection Plan Should Be Restructured. Currently In Crittenden County Marion School District Collects Taxes From Some Of The Major Tax Revenue Businesses. (Wal Mart/Dog Track/Railroad) These Monies Should Be Put Into A Common Fund That Includes All Of The County Schools West Memphis And Marion Etc. The Current Tax Plan Is Not Fair To All Of The County Citizens.**
- ◆ Vertical Team Teaching Should Be Mandatory For All School Districts. By This I Mean Teachers From Different Grade Levels (In The Same Discipline) Should Work Together As Teams To Help Students Develop Necessary Skills (Ex, Writing, Analysis, Geography) To Succeed In School. This Will Avoid Repetition And Create A Team Attitude Among Teachers.

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022 - Cross County: Wynne Senior High School

- ◆ Accountability Of School, Every Child Can Learn. Leave No Child Behind.
- ◆ College Professors Also Spend Time In Class Rooms- Maybe More Shadowing Of College Students To See What They Are Getting In To.
- ◆ Full Funded Special Needs Programs.
- ◆ Funds For Facilities For Pre-K Programs.
- ◆ Keep The Gay Rights Agenda Out Of The Public Schools.
- ◆ No Pre-K!
- ◆ Pre-K Programs Funded Same As K-12.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Quality Preschool Programs Are Greatly Needed. Many Children Are Coming To Kindergarten In AR Already Substantially Behind In Language And Social Skills, And They Are Not Ready To Learn.
- ◆ Rigor In Teacher Education Training Programs
- ◆ Standardized Curricular Programs
- ◆ Statewide Teacher Salary Schedule
- ◆ Teacher Pay Should Be Increased To Compete With Other Professions. How Else Can We Attract And Maintain Quality Teachers?
- ◆ Teacher Salary.
- ◆ Teacher Training Programs In Universities And Colleges Should Be Improved, Including Training In Ella, Elf, And Math Strategies Such As Math Investigations.
- ◆ The Diverse Backgrounds And "Special Needs" Of Today's Classroom Student Is Overwhelming. Teachers Are Being Held Accountable For Things They Have No Control Over.
- ◆ There Is Not Enough Public Communication Addressing The Concerns In Education. Too Many Politicians And Committee's That Have "No Clue" Or A "Limited Clue" Of What They Think Our Classrooms Are Like.
- ◆ Those In The State Legislature Should Spend Time In Schools (Maybe A Week) In Different Parts Of The State To See What Is Going On. Then Make Their Changes In AR Education . Also, Being In Average Teachers To Help Legislatures See Needs.

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024 - Desha County: Great Rivers Technical Institute

- ◆ An Education Degree Does Not A Teacher Make. Alternative Certification Is Essential So That Those Who Are Gifted In A Certain Area Can Share That Knowledge With Students.
- ◆ Extensive & Challenging Curriculum For All Students
- ◆ Students All Over State Deserve An Excellent Education. Students In Delta Are Losing Out Because Of Poverty & Ill-Prepared Teachers - Or No Teachers At All For Some Subjects.
- ◆ Teachers Must Be Well-Prepared, Well-Educated, Well-Rounded & Literate. This Is Not The Case Now In All Classrooms.
- ◆ Tell Them What To Teach, But Not How To Teach It.
- ◆ The State Needs To Tell Teachers Exactly What Is Expected To Be Mastered At Each Grade Level.
- ◆ We Need To Have Sub-Teachers Go Through Special Training - Education/Training On How To Instruct.
- ◆ Wider Use Of Technology- Computers, Video, Television To Let All Students Have Access To A Varied Challenging Curriculum.
- ◆ With Raising The Education Level Of Teachers, We Need To Raise The Pay Teachers Receive.

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SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

025 - Drew County: Monticello Workforce Training Center

- ◆ Arkansas Will Never Have A Suitable, Efficient, Equitable Free System Of Public Education With More Than 100-110 School Districts, With Minimum Enrollment Of 1200-1500, K-12. Furthermore, We Could Free Up \$100 Million A Year, And Growing, By This Level Of Reorganization.
- ◆ I Would Like To See Emphasis Of Concern Placed On The Needs Of Above Average Children. It Seems Like Our Main Priority Of Concern Is For Special Needs Students. What About The Needs Of Above Average Learners.



026 - Faulkner County: Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center

- ◆ An Honorable Way To Equalize Funding For Students, Not Just Schools.
- ◆ Close Old, Decrepit Schools And Build New Ones.
- ◆ Diversity Of Education For Socio-Economic Levels.
- ◆ Foreign Languages Taught In Elementary Schools.
- ◆ Governor Huckabee's Next Stop Blueprint Fails To Mention Arkansas' State Mandated Gifted Programs Or AP.
- ◆ Hold Schools Responsible/Accountable In Science Education.
- ◆ Include/Add Professional, Working Educators To The State Board Of Education.
- ◆ Life Skills
- ◆ Minimize Facilities Standards Such That Antiquated And Non-Functioning Schools Are Closed.
- ◆ Remove The Appointment Of The State Department Of Education Director From The Governor's Appointment Power.
- ◆ Restructure Allocation Of Funding (Not The Amount But How Appropriate).
- ◆ Restructure How Money Is Spent. More Money For Classroom Resources And Materials.
- ◆ Restructure Time Element In Schools (Year-Round Schools)
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Safety In Schools.
- ◆ Stricter Guidelines For Charter Schools. Expect Charter Schools To Meet The Same Standards As Public Schools.
- ◆ Take Steps To Reduce Class Size.
- ◆ Teach Foreign Language When Young
- ◆ Teach Science Reasoning And Not Science Memorization Because That Is How Students Are Tested On The Act Exam.
- ◆ The Video Showed Only White Families, And No High School Teachers. It Appears The Commission Priorities Are Focused On Early Childhood/Elementary Issues That Involve White Families!
- ◆ Weight Of Back Packs Filled With Books! Students Are Carrying 40% Of Their Body Weight Instead Of The 15% They Should Be.



SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

027 - Franklin County: Arkansas Valley Technical Institute

- ◆ Active Parent Participation
- ◆ Back To Basics.
- ◆ Deserve Quality Education To Prepare.
- ◆ Get More Parents Involved In Team Effort.
- ◆ Keep Local Control, Produce Productive Adults And College Bound Students To The Work Force.
- ◆ Less Standardized Testing.
- ◆ Local Control Of Our Schools.
- ◆ Nurturing Safe, Orderly Environments
- ◆ Optimum School Size. Not Too Small And Not Too Large.
- ◆ Respect For Education.
- ◆ We Are Desperately In Need Of A Pr Campaign To Change People's Perceptions Of The Value Of Education. When Parents Take Students Out Of Class For Haircuts And Rock Concerts, They Are Showing Their Disregard For Education. When Afternoon Classes Are Decimated Because Students Leave To Compete In "After-School" Activities, The District Says It Does Not Value What Is Happening In Our Classrooms. We Need To Educate The Public With Facts About What Being Educated Can Do For Their Children And For The People Of Our State. A Clever Pr Campaign (Comparable To The Anti-Tobacco Efforts) Can Change Attitudes.
- ◆ Your Survey Should Have Asked "Are You An Educator?" Much Of Our Input Came From Teachers And Administrators. Actual Parents Without Other Connections To School Were Conspicuously Absent From Our Meeting.

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029 - Garland County: Hot Springs Civic & Convention Center

- ◆ A Consistent And Fair Assessment Tool Must Be Created Or Determined. Sat-9 Versus Benchmark. These Measure Different Types Of Skills. What Do You Want To Assess?
- ◆ Abolish The State Co-Ops And Replace Them With A Small Department With About 3 Employees In The Dept. Of Education. We Don't Need Them.
- ◆ Centralize Administration And Buying To Increase Efficiency And Put Money Saved Into Our Children.
- ◆ Classroom Teachers Hold Students Responsible For Mastering Curriculum.
- ◆ Consider Restructuring Entire Education System.
- ◆ Consolidate Districts
- ◆ Consolidation Of Small School Districts That Are Underperforming
- ◆ Develop Apprentice Programs
- ◆ Education - Understanding - Less Hate And Fear

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Encourage Both Students And Teachers To Reach Out And Achieve And Reward Them For Achievement. Regarding Teachers. Challenge Outstanding Performance And Reward That Performance With Outstanding Pay (A Bonus For The Year).
- ◆ Evaluate Merits Of Consolidation, Address Those Systems (70 Districts With 400 Or Less Students).
- ◆ Every K-3 Classroom Should Have A Full Time Aide.
- ◆ Foreign Language Education Needs To Be Improved At The Level Of Language, But Also At The Level Of Cultural Awareness And Education (That Should Naturally Go With These Courses). This Is How To Make Arkansas Students More Aware Of The Changing Demographics In Their Own State As Well As Their Region (Historically French In La), Their Nation And The Global Community That They Are Being Brought In To With Or Without Personal Desire.
- ◆ Funding & Implementation Of All These Programs!!!!
- ◆ Have Consistent Non-Manipulative Measuring Tools/Testing For Proficiency Levels; Students Advance As They Demonstrate Prove Knowledge & Ability To Pass To Next Level.
- ◆ Have School Administrators Be Supportive Of Classroom Teachers Via Their Presence In The Classroom And Recognizing Their Strengths, And Correcting Their Weaknesses.
- ◆ Healthy Environment And Food Programs Based Upon Latest Research
- ◆ I Agree W/ All The Recommendations But What Was Not Discussed Is; How?
- ◆ I Would Like To See Business And Industry In Arkansas Allow At Least One Personal (Education) Day Or X Amt Of Hours For A Parent To Attend A School Function (Activity) During The School Day.
- ◆ Identify Each Child & Teacher's (Parents Too) Modalities For Learning, Ie, Visual, Auditory, Hands On
- ◆ Identify Students' Talents & Tendencies Early For Development & Career Options
- ◆ If A College Student Applies For A State Loan Or Grant, They Should Be Obligated To Teach In The State For At Least Two Years. This Will Keep Our Professionals In Our State For At Least Two Years. (This Is Only If That Student Is Studying To Receive A Degree In Education.)
- ◆ Improve Fiscal Reporting So That It Is Understandable For Each Local School Patron. Revamp The Audit System So It Is No Longer ""Pro Forma"" And Cause The ""Letter"" That Accompanies The Audit To Be Made Public, As Well.
- ◆ Leave Administration And Legislators Out Of So Much Input Unless They Spend More Time In Classroom To See What Is Really Going On.
- ◆ Legislature Should Get Out Of The School Administration Business!
- ◆ Legislature Should Not Approve New Requirements Or Programs Without The Funding To Put These Programs Into Place- This Happens Annually In Arkansas!
- ◆ Mentoring By More Advanced Students
- ◆ Minimum Requirements For Students To Participate In Extracurricular Activities. The AAA Academic Program Which Allows Non-Passing Athletes To Participate Is Simply Ridiculous.
- ◆ Modify The Fair Dismissal Act--Make It Easier To Fire Ineffective Teachers And Reward Outstanding Teachers.
- ◆ My Greatest Concern Is That The Excellent Ideas That Have Come From These Discussions Will Not Be Considered. I Base This On The Fact That Governor Huckabee's Education Reform Package Was Introduced With So Little Input From Educators And The Committee He Helped Create.
- ◆ Prerequisites/Standards For School Board Membership: Education, Training

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Proficiency Standards For Teachers To Qualify The Pay
- ◆ Publish Locally Credit Reports And Improve Report Cards Accordingly.
- ◆ Remove Education From Paying Sales/Use Taxes.
- ◆ Require Stretching Breaks To Help Reenergize Bodys And Minds. (Japan Does This Most Effectively.)
- ◆ Sports To Be Elective, Fitness Required
- ◆ State Directed Pre-School Curriculum And Standards
- ◆ Teach Nutrition As A Life Skill
- ◆ Teach Students And Provide Plenty Of Opportunities To Write And Speak On Their Feet Before Other Persons (Communicate!).
- ◆ Teach Students How To Think, That Is, Teach Them How To Develop The Powers Of Analysis So That The Mind May Reason To A Logical Conclusion.
- ◆ Teachers, Parents, Businesses And Students Work Together To Build A Better Learning Environment.
- ◆ There Are Too Many Administrators In The School Systems.
- ◆ Uniforms To Make All Students Equal
- ◆ We Need To Address The Total Child--Intellectually, Physically, Socially, Emotionally
- ◆ When An Arkansas Accredited High School Graduates A Student Who Applies To An Arkansas School Of Higher Learning And Needs Remediation, The School District Needs To Bear The Cost Of Remediation.
- ◆ Why Are Children Being Passed, When They Have Clearly Failed?
- ◆ Why Children Are Being Passed In Large Number Just So Funding Will Remain In That School.
- ◆ Young Children (K-4) Need More Free (Recess) Time. Let Kids Be Kids.

◆ 032 - Hempstead County: UA Community College - Hope

- ◆ 50% Of Our Group Was Teachers & School Officials. Very Little Parental Involvement.
- ◆ Back To The Basics . . . The 3 R's
- ◆ Certification For Substitute Teachers
- ◆ Changes That Have Been Detrimental To Education: Lowering The Grading Scale In High Schools. Currently The Scale Is: A-90, B-80-89, C-70-79, D-60-69, F-59. At The Very Least, It Needs To Be Returned To Former Levels: A-95, B-85-94, C-70-85, D-60-70, F-59. It Would Be Even More Beneficial If C Were 75-84, D-65-74, F-64.
- ◆ Classroom Teachers Must Be Given The Time To Teach, The Right To Discipline Children, And The Respect They Deserve.
- ◆ Curriculum Aligned To Standards
- ◆ Curriculum Alignment (A Must) To Standards. Students Can't Be Held Responsible For Good Test Scores If They Don't Receive A Curr. That Addresses The Test Items.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Equitable Technology Availability State Wide.
- ◆ Focus On Reading, Writing, And Math In The 1St-3Rd Grades
- ◆ Follow The Rules/Regulations Of Student Handbook.
- ◆ Government Should Help Establish Existing Child Care Facilities Before Building New Ones.
- ◆ Grade-Level, Universal-National Testing Program.
- ◆ I Believe That Our Schools Are Doing A Fine Job Covering Basics And That If We Could Include More Arts In Our Curriculum It Would Help With Our Learning Of Basics. It Has Been Proven Through Brain Research That Arts Are Very Important.
- ◆ I Believe We Need Smaller Class Size So Students Will Receive More One On One Help.
- ◆ I Want A Safe Environment By Removing Disruptive Children.
- ◆ I Want Children That Want To Learn Backed Up By Parents That Value An Education
- ◆ I Want Our Curriculum To Go Back To The Basics.
- ◆ Learning Is Not Always Accomplished In A Square Box. Our Teachers Need To Be Aware And Trained In Behavioral Areas And What Will Make Their Classroom Work Better.
- ◆ Learning Must Be Fun. Parental Involvement In Their Child's Education Should Be Mandatory.
- ◆ More Discipline And Respect! Parental Support Concerning Discipline - Less Verbal Abuse From Parents.
- ◆ More Discipline In Our Schools. We Need Support From Parents.
- ◆ Pre-School Available To All But Not Mandatory.
- ◆ Recognize Alternative School Programs To Promote Academics.
- ◆ School Discipline And School Safety Are The Major Issues! What Do Teachers Do With Students Who Don't Want An Education And Continue To Disrupt Class So Much That They Use All The Suspended Days (If They Are Resource Students?) These Students (Even Elementary) Need An Alternative School Environment. A Regular Classroom Is Not For Them.
- ◆ Second Change That Has Been Detrimental: Implementing The "Block" Schedule In High Schools. The "Block" Or "Period Day" Does Not Work Well At This Level. Students Are Not Mature Enough To Handle Material At This Speed. I Teach Advanced Biology, And Even These Students Are Not Benefiting. I Have 2 Children Who Went Through Our High School. The Younger One Arrived At High School Under The "4 Period Day." I Know She Was Not Given The Same Education That My Older Child Received. (The Older One Came Through Before The "4 Period Day.") Also, Extracurricular Classes, I.E., Football, Cheerleading, Band, Are Now Offered All Year. Academic Classes Are Given For One Term. We Have Doubled The Time Spent In Extracurricular Classes Vs. Academic Classes.
- ◆ Smaller Classes.
- ◆ Smaller Number Of Students Per Classroom.
- ◆ Students To Be Allowed To Go On Educational Fieldtrips.
- ◆ Students To Be Held Accountable For Their Actions (As Well As Parental Accountability).
- ◆ Students Who Are Not Able To Pass Academic Courses Should Start Learning A Trade At An Earlier Age.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Summer School, After School Tutoring, Etc. Programs Have The Same Students Attending Year After Year - Is This Helping Or Is It Wasting Tax Payers \$\$?
- ◆ Support From Administration And School Board.
- ◆ Teachers Need More Training And Education In Behavior Problem Children A Better Ways Of Handling Those Problems In The Classroom I.E. Add
- ◆ Teachers Salaries Have Got To Improve Because We Are Losing Good Potential Teachers While They Are Young To Other Careers Or To Surrounding States Who Pay More.
- ◆ Vouchers For Schools So You Can Have Choices
- ◆ We Need Parents To Support Public Schools And Teachers.
- ◆ Year Round School

◆ 034 - Howard County: Nashville Fire Station

- ◆ At The High School Level We Need Two Tracks, One For The College Bound And Another For Those Who Want To Go To Work Right After High School.
- ◆ Curriculum/ Early Childhood
- ◆ Demand Regulations Of Fair Treatment Laws For Teachers Including Teacher Breaks And Hiring Subs- Always!! High School Teachers At Our School Get One Hour Lunch And 50 Minute Planning Periods. I'd Often Love To Use The Restroom. Our School Also Splits Classes To Keep From Hiring Subs Due To "Lack Of Funds."
- ◆ Funding Facilities
- ◆ More Free Education Programs For Parents And Teachers.
- ◆ More Prep Time. Any Preparation I Do Is On My Own Time. I Know That Is Why Many Teachers In Our School Lack Preparation. It Is Too Easy To Go Home, Or We Have Plans. We Need Time To Work During School Since Elementary Students Demand All Of Your Time While In Class.
- ◆ Organizational Structure
- ◆ Reforms Should Start At A Grass-Roots Level, And More Upward.
- ◆ Released Test Items To All Teachers Immediately. I'd Like Them In My Hands Or Info On Where To Get Them.
- ◆ State Education Facilitators With Much (Three Years Or More) Teaching Experience In The Same Grades They Are Advising. Not High School Teachers Telling First Grade Teachers What They Expect, Etc.
- ◆ Teacher Salaries/ Professional Development
- ◆ The Arkansas Department Of Education's Educational Experts Should Spend The Majority Of Their Careers In A Classroom, Not An Administrator. The Only Person Who Can Solve The Problems In A Classroom Is A Person Who Knows The Problems In A Classroom.
- ◆ We Must Break The Cycle Of "Don't Care" Parenting. We Need To Focus On Training Our Teenagers To Be Effective, Responsible Parents, Not Just Baby Factories!
- ◆ We Need Empowered Teachers In The Classroom.
- ◆ We Reward And Punish Students, Lets Also Reward Teachers! \$\$\$!

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT



035 - Independence County: UA Community College - Batesville

- ◆ Even With The State Push For Literacy & Math Our Children Still Need Instruction (Formal--Not Just Through Reading) In Science--Social Studies At The Elementary Level.
- ◆ Much Time Is Spent During Indoor Recess Watching Video & That Time Could Be Spent Playing Board Games Which Reinforce Academic Skills & Social Skills.
- ◆ Reduce Administrative Expenses. One School District Per County, While Keeping Schools Small.
- ◆ Students Learn Best When They Feel Comfortable & Loved So We Need To Love Them First, Love Working With Them & They Will In Turn Love Learning.
- ◆ The State Needs To Set Goals, Measure Results, And Get The Hell Out Of The Way. Stop Telling Local Schools How To Achieve The Goals.



036 - IZARD COUNTY: JOHN E. MILLER EDUCATION COMPLEX

- ◆ All Schools Should Implement After-School Programs Such As Tutoring And Or Extracurricular Activities. This Is In Order To Keep Students Interacted With Positive Role Models. This Would Also Provide Tutoring For Students Who Receive No Help At Home.
- ◆ All Teachers Need To Be Certified And Educated In Their Field Of Teaching.
- ◆ All Teachers Should Be Certified.
- ◆ All Teachers Should Be Compensated Equally, But, In The Same Sense Teachers Should Be Carefully Assessed To Be Sure They Are Individually Teaching In The Correct Manner As Well As The Correct Attitude.
- ◆ Arkansas Colleges Are Costly. To Go To College To Become A Teacher Is Not Luring To Students Because Of The Pay. Something Needs To Be Done To Increase Salaries To Lure The Very Best And Smartest People To Lead Our Children To Be Productive Citizens. I Challenge All Legislators To Substitute Teach In A School For One Week.
- ◆ Benchmark Testing Should Be Stopped. The Benchmark Test Should Not Determine The Rating Of Schools Or Individual Teachers.
- ◆ Changes In Curriculum Do Not Occur Quickly Enough To Help The Students Who's Benchmark Or Sat Test Prompted The Curriculum Change.
- ◆ How Do We Expect All Our Students To Be Proficient And Advanced? What Has Happened To The Bell Curve?
- ◆ I Would Like To See Teachers Better Trained To Teach Technologies. Better Science, Math Resources For Extra Help Into Junior High And High School.
- ◆ Making Some Technology Courses Mandatory.
- ◆ More Active Recruitment Of Community Involvement.
- ◆ Salaries Should Reflect Education, As In Other Professions.
- ◆ Small Class Size Is An Advantage To Teachers And Students.
- ◆ Smaller Classrooms And Hiring Aides (Possibly Non-Certified) To Optimize Student Teacher Ratio.
- ◆ Special Education

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Teacher Salaries Are A Very Important Issue In Education. Educators Are Being Asked To Assume More Responsibilities And Receive More Training Without Additional Pay. I Do Not Think Teacher Salaries Should Be Linked To Test Scores. Groups Of Students Vary From Year To Year.
- ◆ Teachers Need To Have Salary Increases. This Will Help Teachers Who Are Already Working And Will Encourage People To Enter The Teaching Profession.
- ◆ Teaching To Benchmark To Promote Better Scores Rather Than Well Rounded Students.
- ◆ Testing Students And Teachers To See If They Are Visual Or Audio, Learners And Teachers And Matching Students Who Are Having Problems With Teachers Who More Closely Match A Student's Learning Style.
- ◆ To Lure Students To Become Teachers We Must Increase Teacher Salaries.
- ◆ Troublesome Kids
- ◆ We Need More Funding For Elementary Classes.

◆
037 - Jackson County: Arkansas State University - Newport

- ◆ Academic Abilities Grouping
- ◆ After School Programs
- ◆ Availability Of Many Sports, Social Activities.
- ◆ Compared To National Average Of ?
- ◆ Consistency In Program
- ◆ Copy Examples Of Successes In Private Schools.
- ◆ Create A More Disciplined Environment
- ◆ Criticism Should Be In Private.
- ◆ Develop Consistency In Programs. Don't Start So Many Programs That Fall By The Wayside. Constant Changing Of Programs Is Confusing To Students.
- ◆ Discipline
- ◆ Early Diagnosis For Disabilities
- ◆ Educate Parents On The Effect Of TV & Video Games
- ◆ Expect Quality Work. Increase Expectations.
- ◆ Extend School Year
- ◆ Family Support Of Child Education.
- ◆ Focus On Basic Skills
- ◆ Focus On Maturity Rather Than Age.
- ◆ Free Breakfast & Lunch

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Immunity Of Teachers/Administrator In Discipline Areas.
- ◆ Increase Funding For Early Childhood Education.
- ◆ Increase Teacher Salaries
- ◆ Invest The Money In Grade Schools To Handle The Situation For Troubled Kids.
- ◆ Keep Minimum Grade Point Standards For Athletes.
- ◆ Large Role Of Positive Parental Involvement
- ◆ Mandate Discipline/Allow Teacher & Admin Discretion
- ◆ More Authority For Administrators
- ◆ More Funds
- ◆ More Narrowly Focused Curriculum
- ◆ Open Atmosphere For Learning
- ◆ Parent/Teacher Acquaintance
- ◆ Parental Involvement
- ◆ Parents Read To Children
- ◆ Penmanship
- ◆ Positive Parental Involvement & Responsibility
- ◆ Prevention Programs - Have Guest Readers At An Early Age For Drugs, Smoking, Sex Challenge.
- ◆ Provide Adequate Funding
- ◆ Provide Diverse Educational Opportunities
- ◆ Put Prayer In School.
- ◆ Reduce College Remediation Rate. Currently Have 47% Remediation Rate.
- ◆ Remove Focus From Test Based Student Performance. Use Alternative Assessment.
- ◆ Respect.
- ◆ Respect/Discipline
- ◆ Salaries Need To Be Increased
- ◆ School Is An Opportunity - Not A Task.
- ◆ Security
- ◆ Small Class Sizes, Especially For Lower Grades
- ◆ Student Accountability

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Student To Use Creative Abilities
- ◆ Students Buy-In To School As An Opportunity, Not A Task.
- ◆ Take Government Out Of The Classroom.
- ◆ Teach All Children To Read.
- ◆ Teachers & Students Respect Each Other
- ◆ Teachers Need To Ask More
- ◆ Track For Vocational Or College Directive
- ◆ Uniforms
- ◆ What Does A Great School Look Like: High Paying Salaries, Safe, Respect/Discipline, Expect Quality Work; Improve Expectations, Students ""Buy-In"" To School As An Opportunity Not A Task.
- ◆ Year-Round Schools

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038 - Jefferson County: University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

- ◆ After School Tutorials
- ◆ Community Schools Working Together
- ◆ Early Education With Parent Involvement
- ◆ Establish Accountability Measures For: State, Local Communities, School Boards, School Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Students.
- ◆ Forum A Disappointment In That Teachers Were Not Given The Opportunity To Discuss Items Of Real Concern To Them.
- ◆ Massive Movement To Educate And Involve Parents.
- ◆ Parent And Teacher Involvement In School Curriculum
- ◆ Parental Involvement
- ◆ Raise Teacher Salaries.
- ◆ Support For Educational Coop
- ◆ Teacher Should Have More Control And Input Into The P[Professional/Staff Development For The School District.
- ◆ Teachers Evaluation Every 3 To 6 Yrs. Teacher Take Stress Management Classes

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039 - Johnson County: Clarksville High School

- ◆ Don't Make Prospective Teachers 'jump Through Hoops.'" It Is Easier To Obtain Employment In Careers With High Pay.
- ◆ Drug Intervention For Students Who Fall Into A Place Of Non-Involvement With School Activities.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Fewer Tests
- ◆ Have A State Mandated Curriculum
- ◆ Home School Accountability--Almost None.
- ◆ I Also Feel That Parent Involvement Should Be Mandatory. It Is A Vital Part Of A Child's Education.
- ◆ I Feel There Is A Need To Increase Teachers Salary As This Will Provide A Better Quality Of Teachers Who Feel They Are Compensated As Well.
- ◆ Leave Small Rural Schools Out Of A ""Rush"" To Consolidate
- ◆ No Act 1660
- ◆ Resolve The Teacher Certification Problem. This New State Policy Has Compounded The Teacher Shortage Problem.
- ◆ Students Should Be Encouraged To Participate In Workforce Education Programs. These Programs Teach Valuable Life Skills That Many Curriculum Developers Overlook. Many, Especially In Business Technology, Are College Preparatory.
- ◆ Teeth Into Accountability
- ◆ The End Of Level Testing For High School Should Be Eliminated. It Was Not Properly Planned And Has Not Been Effectively Implemented.

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040 - Lafayette County: Stamps High School

- ◆ Although Teachers/Parents Want To Work Together There Is A Definite Lack Of Communication. I Feel Exhausted Trying To Keep Up With What Is Going On Sometimes.
- ◆ Elementary Children Here Need More Creative Opportunities--Art, Athletics, Writing.
- ◆ Engage E.A.S.T For Grant Sources
- ◆ Establish Grant Mill
- ◆ I Fully Appreciate & Support All Teachers. However, When I Am Helping My Kids Do Homework, I Feel Like I Am Teaching Them The Material For The First Time.
- ◆ I Think Teachers In Lafayette County Should Be Paid The Same As Teachers All Over The State.
- ◆ I Think We Are Missing Something In Math In The Stamps School District (The State For That Matter).
- ◆ Learn As You Learn Programs
- ◆ Our PTO Should Not Have To Buy Air Conditioners For School!
- ◆ Recruit _____ From SAU
- ◆ Return Elective Subjects Back To Elective Status. When I Was In School, You Chose Between Band, Athletics Or Art. This Was Not A Bad Thing For It Left The Time Needed For Homework And Studying.
- ◆ Stress The Basics Of Math, Science, Arithmetic, English And Reading, But Let Recognition For Achievement Come From Real Academic Achievement. Take Character Development Out Of The Process For Merited Achievement Is What Builds Character.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Teacher Salaries Are Important, But There Are So Many Benefits Not Measured In Money. Time At Home. The Main Goal Must Be Kids.
- ◆ The Decline Of Our Public Education Began When God Was Omitted From School. Prayer, Teacher Read Scripture Etc.
- ◆ We All Need To Be On The Same Page Of The Same Game Plan Every Day.

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041 - Lawrence County: Williams Baptist College

- ◆ Another Very Important Issue In Education Is Discipline. Many Teachers Are Very Cautious About The Form Of Corporal Punishment They Use Because Of The Threat Of Lawsuits. Some Students Are Being Cheated Out Of A Quality Education Because Of A Few Discipline Problems That No One Wants To Handle. Parents Should Be Awakened And Held Responsible For The Actions Of Their Children. Many Parents Lack Parenting Skills. Would A Required Parenting Class Help With This Problem?
- ◆ Are Teachers Accountable For Their Actions In The Classroom?
- ◆ As A Whole We Do Not Support Ed. Financially
- ◆ As We Began Our Teaching Careers In The Seventies It Didn't Take U Us Long To Realize That We Were Allowing Our Children To Start School Too Young. October 1 Was The Cut Off Date For Many Years And We Had Several Five Year Olds In First Grade. If You Haven't Taught First Grade With Five Year Olds You Probably Don't Have Gray Hair. This Was A Frustrating Time For The Child, Parent, Teacher And Fellow Students. It Took Many Years And Several Failing Students To Move The Date Back To September 15. This Date Is Still Too Early And Many Students Meet Frustration Because They Aren't Socially Ready To Tackle The Challenge Of First Grade. We Expect These Young Children To Master Too Many Skills At Such A Young Age. As These Young Teenagers Graduate From High School They Are Too Young And Immature To Face The Reality Of The Real World. We Recommend That The Cut Off Date For Kindergarten Should Be Moved To Age Five By June 1St.
- ◆ Better Salaries--Stay Competitive With Other Professions
- ◆ Better Scheduling
- ◆ Big (Pr) Movement Between School & Home
- ◆ Curriculum: Regardless Of Grades, Kids Cannot Communicate, Hold Jobs, Gap In Grades They Get & Knowledge They Actually Receive
- ◆ Do More For Children Who Are Not Successful--Reading
- ◆ Get Kids Ready For Workforce, Basic Preparation For Kids Going Into Workforce
- ◆ I Also Feel That No 4 Year Old Should Be Allowed To Enter Kindergarten. Please Consider Moving The Birthday Requirement Back To At Least August 1St Rather Than September 15Th, And Even Better, Move It To June 1St. Close To 80% Of The Children I Have Taught In The Past 30 Years Who Have Been Under Achievers, Were Too Socially And Developmentally Immature To Be Successful In Mastering All The Required Basic Skills, Let Alone Be Proficient In More Advanced Ones. They Simply Were Not Ready. Education Preaches And Preaches That Retention Is Not The Answer, And While I Agree, It Is Simply Not Fair To Throw These Precious Little Bodies Into The Lion's Den By Having To Send Those Not Yet Ready On To The Next Grade.
- ◆ Identifying Needs Before School
- ◆ Less Testing
- ◆ Merit Pay
- ◆ More Funding For Existing Programs

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ More Technology
- ◆ Need Specialist
- ◆ No Merit Pay
- ◆ Not Be Held Accountable For Things Kids Won't Do & For Mobility Of Students
- ◆ Parents Need To Be A Coach And Meet Teachers Halfway (Character Building)
- ◆ Parents Need To Be Held Accountable
- ◆ Perfect Schools: Teaming, Community Based
- ◆ Provide Ability Grouping For Learners Of Different Levels--Small Group Instruction For Learners With Difficulties
- ◆ Provide Parenting Classes
- ◆ Require Textbook Companies To Produce Books For Readers Of Different Levels
- ◆ Society--Character Building
- ◆ Transdisciplinary Training
- ◆ What Is Being Stressed At Home? Is The Education Of Children Important To Majority Of Parents?
- ◆ While In Theory, I Agree With The Fact That Arkansas Needs To Do Something To Increase Proficiency In Student Scores, I'm Not Sure That The Measures Being Taken At This Time Are Solving The Problems. In My Area Of Education, As In All Others, More And More Mastery Of Skills Is Being Put On The Plate But The Children Entering The System Are Starting Out With Different Size Plates Needing To Be Filled. I Feel That Free Educational Preschool Programs Focusing On What Was Traditionally Kindergarten Skills Must Be Available To All Families, Not Just To Those Families Who Are At Risk And Serviced By Head Start, Hippy, ABC And Those Who Can Afford To Pay. There Are Many Other 3 And 4 Year Old Children In The State Needing Preschool Programs Who Either Can't Afford Them Or Don't Qualify. It Might Also Be Of Benefit To Require 4 Year Old Children To Attend A Program Developmentally Geared Towards Their Needs.

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042 - Lee County: Entergy Reddy Room

- ◆ All School Districts That Are Under Federal Court Order To Desegregate Should Be Made Public And Therefore, There Should Be No Question As To Whether They Are Covered By ACA 6-13-631. Districts Under Federal Court Order To Desegregate Are Exempt From This Statute.
- ◆ Is The Lee County School District Curriculum Designed To Allow Students To Compete With Students Outside Of This District? If So Why Are So Many Students Requiring Remedial Courses And Why Are Students Entering From Other Districts Further Along Than Those In This District?
- ◆ It Is Not In The Best Interest Of Students In K-4 To Be Suspended From School. It Serves No Purpose To Suspend These Students. They Are Home Without Much Needed Instruction For An Extended Period Of Time.
- ◆ More Emphasis On Vocational Education
- ◆ No One Should Be Allowed To Run For A Public School Board While Their Children Are Enrolled In A Non-Public School. This Is Where That Person Has Custody Of That Child And That Child Is A Resident Of The District That The Person Is Trying To Become A School Board Member.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Over Half Of The Students Graduating From The Lee County School District Are Required To Take Remedial Courses Upon Entering College. Based On Recent Articles In The State Newspaper And The Commercial Appeal Grades Of Graduating Students Do Not Reflect The Same As Their Act Scores. A Student Who Has A 3.5 Average May Very Well Score Low On The Act Exam. It Gives The Appearance That Students In This District Are Not Being Taught What Is Necessary For Them To Score High On The Act Exam. The State Should Direct Its Attention To Improving These Inequities And Designing Curriculums That Will Allow Students To Compete With Other Students Outside Of Arkansas.
- ◆ Raise / Equalize Teacher Salaries Across State.
- ◆ State Law Requires That Parents Be Involved In The Education Of Their Children. Each Year At The Beginning Of The School Year A Public Meeting Is Held In The District. The Law Requires That Parents And The Public Be Allowed To Give Public Comment. At The Meetings Conducted In Lee County, There Is No Place On The Agenda For Parents Or The Public To Make Comments. There Is Nothing In The Information Distributed That States That Parents Or The Public Has The Right To Make Comment.
- ◆ State Law Says That School Board Meetings Are Open To The Public And The Public Has A Right To Address The Board. No District Should Be Allowed To Bar Citizens From Making Comments At Current Meetings Based On What Was Discussed At The Meeting. The Public Should Not Be Required To Give A Week's Notice Of Their Intent To Address The Board. The Minutes Of School Board Meetings Should Be Free To The Public Without Any Charge. Charging The Public Is ""Taxation Without Representation."" The Public Has Paid When They Pay Taxes. Every Parent Should Be Allowed At Least One Copy ""Free Of Charge"" Of School Board Minutes. (Full Report Including Bank Statements And Disbursements).
- ◆ The Lee County School District Has A Five Point Grading System For Honors And Award. If A Student In This District Who Is In The Honors Program Has Grade Point Average Of 4.00, His/Her Actual Grade Point Average Based On The Four Point System, Is Only A Three Point. This Gives The Student The Illusion That He/She Is Doing Better Than Students In Other Districts Where There Is No Five Point System. It Also Gives Parents The Illusion That Their Child Is Doing Better. This Does Not Benefit Students When They Enter Institutions Of Higher Learning. As A Matter Of Fact, It Is Detrimental To Students When They Compete With Students Who Actually Have A High Grade Point Average. Many Students Will Find Themselves At A Disadvantage.
- ◆ The State Department Of Education Should Make Sure That School District's Finances Are Properly Handled And Within The Realm Of The Law. Districts Should Not Have Money In Non-Or Low Baring Interest Accounts. School Board Members Who Have Special Interest Or With Banks Where These Monies Are Kept Should Not Serve On That Districts Board. It Is A Conflict Of Interest And Unethical.
- ◆ The State Of Arkansas And Its Agencies, And Any Other Public Institutions That Are Under State Control Should Be Barred From Selling Or Disposing Of Used Or Surplus Computer Equipment As Surplus Or Junk, This Equipment Should Be Divided Between The School Districts Of Arkansas For Use In The Respective Districts.
- ◆ The State Should Enforce The Health And Sanitary Laws And Districts Should Be Given A Minimum Amount Of Time To Bring The District Up To Standards. Schools Should Be Free Of Litter And Buildings Maintained? For Example, Tile Peeling Off The Floor, Ceiling Tile Not In Place, Water Stains On Ceiling Tile, Cracks In Windows, Holes In The Parking Lot, Paneling Falling Down, Dirty Floors Etc.
- ◆ There Should Be A Clear Law Concerning The Disposal Of Property Of School Districts In The State Of Arkansas, Now Each District Does As It Please.
- ◆ There Should Be A System Established Where Parents And Citizens Can Challenge Or File Complaints About School Districts Violating State Law Without Having To Go To State Courts. This System Should Have Definite Time Frames As To Resolutions Of These Complaints And Mandatory Penalties Where The Complaint Is Found To Be True.
- ◆ When Making Decisions To Reduce Staff, Administration Should Be Reduced Before Reducing Teachers And Programs. It Is More Important To Have Teachers And Instructional Programs Than Unnecessary Administrators.

◆ 044 - Little River County: Cossatot Community College of UA - Ashdown

- ◆ Discipline In Our Schools Is Bad. Teachers Have No Resources To Use With Unruly Kids.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Early Development With Experiences(Hands On, Physically, Visually, In Person)
- ◆ Real Life Experience- Field Trips With Parent Involvement
- ◆ Reset Priorities For Teachers
- ◆ Reset Priorities For Teachers, Back To The Basic (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic)
- ◆ Start Multilanguages Early And Require Them.
- ◆ We Need To Promote Our Schools. A Pr Person To Help Promote The Schools.

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046 - Lonoke County: Cabot High School

- ◆ Accountability With The People To Work Alongside To Know When Things Aren't Going Well. No More Line Authority, We Need Checks And Balances!
- ◆ Appropriate Supervision Must Occur. A Building Principal May Supervise 20, 30, Up To 60 Teachers, Plus Try To Run The Building. No Other Industry Has So Little Direct Supervision.
- ◆ Bottom Line Is The Teacher. You Better Hire The Best, Keep Them Trained, Support Them With Materials. All Of This Costs, We'll Pay One Way Or The Other.
- ◆ If People Realize That Every Child's Education Actually Affects Them Personally. I.E. 1) Most Criminal Behavior Done By Drop-Outs And Uneducated 2) Work Force Availability 3)Do You Want Someone Who Can't Do Math Giving You Change Or Building Computer Programs (AASIS?) Then Maybe They Would Value It More For All Children Even Those Not Their Own.
- ◆ Passing Students Who Do Not Have The Skills Does Not Do Them A Favor.
- ◆ Schools Are Under Financed. Books, Supplies And Staffing Are Critical.
- ◆ Taxes Have A Bad Connotation- Is There Another Way To Name It And Collect It?
- ◆ The Best Written Curriculum, The Clearest Expectations, The Most Beautiful Buildings And All The Materials In The World Won't Help Students Achieve Without Teachers Who Are Qualified And Motivated To Do Their Job.

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050 - Mississippi County: Mississippi Co. Community College

- ◆ Are Teachers A Part Of Deciding What Accountability Means And How To Determine This?
- ◆ Class Size Reduction Is Very Important To Me. I Feel That Our Case Loads Are Way To High To Meet Individual Needs Of Students.
- ◆ Don't Test Kindergarten (Achievement Tests). Let's Be Accountable In Different Ways, Maybe Different Types Of Test.
- ◆ Enforce Attendance -- More.
- ◆ Make Students Attend School W/ Certain No. Of Days Before Taking Achievement Tests.
- ◆ Will Accountability Be Determined By One Test? If So, Does This Really Measure What You Are Teaching?

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SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

052 - Monroe County: Clarendon Elementary School

- ◆ A Need For Black History In The School To Let Them (Black Children) Know That They Have A Place To Speak, Etc.
- ◆ Academics Over Athletics.
- ◆ Academics Should Be The Focus Of Public Schools Over Athletics.
- ◆ Emphasis On Academics Instead Of Athletics.
- ◆ Hold Checks Of Parents! Welfare Assistance, Etc.
- ◆ Hold Parents Accountable For Childs' Actions.
- ◆ Hold Welfare Checks If Student Doesn't Comply And Meet District Requirements.
- ◆ If You Mandate It.. Live It, Walk It, Teach It!
- ◆ Increase Discipline
- ◆ Increase Parental Involvement.
- ◆ Legislators Work In Teacher's Shoes For 6-8 Weeks. Teach It, Live It!
- ◆ Merit Pay Not A Good Idea.
- ◆ Parent Involvement.
- ◆ Parent Involvement.
- ◆ Parental Involvement
- ◆ Parental Involvement Increase.
- ◆ Parents Held Accountable For Child's Behavior.
- ◆ Parents Held Accountable.
- ◆ Parents Must Be Held Accountable For Their Students' Behavior.
- ◆ Parents Need To Be Held Accountable For Student's Behavior.
- ◆ Parents Need To Be Held Accountable For Students Behavior. Some Students Have No Desire To Learn And Have No Respect For Schools Or Teachers. They Are Constantly Disrupting.
- ◆ Pay Teachers More!
- ◆ Put Prayer Back Into School. Where God Is Not There, Satan Is. Look At What Is Happening In Our Schools.
- ◆ School Accountability Based On Multiple Indicators Rather Than Just Testing.
- ◆ School Accountability Based On Multiple Indicators.
- ◆ Schools Should Not Be Judged By Test Scores Only, But Other Factors Need To Be Considered.
- ◆ Stronger Administrative Discipline.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Stronger Discipline.
- ◆ Stronger Discipline.
- ◆ Stronger Discipline.
- ◆ Teacher Salaries Need To Be Equal Throughout The State.
- ◆ Teachers Paid Equally Statewide.
- ◆ The Categories That We Have Been Given Are Too Vague. Most Suggestions Fall Under The "Other" Category.
- ◆ The Parents Need To Be More Accountable For Their Child's Behavior And Academic Skill.
- ◆ We Are Losing Good Teachers To Other States.
- ◆ We Need To Adopt A Standard For Right And Wrong For Our Education System. If Not, The Judeo-Christian Ethic, Then Something.
- ◆ We Want To Require Equal Educational Opportunities For All AR Children.

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054 - Nevada County: St. Michael's Community Room

- ◆ Accountability Coupled By Drastic Pay Increases- Pay Increases Will Create A Talent Pool Of Qualified Teachers
- ◆ Accountability For Teacher/Student/Parents
- ◆ Advance Notice For Combining High School Students (Incentives For Districts To Move Voluntarily)
- ◆ Assessment Moved To Spring
- ◆ Assessments For Accountability- Criterion Tests (ACTAAP Validity/Reliability/ Subjective) And Nape
- ◆ Books Are Page By Page- Not Much For Diverse Learners
- ◆ High School: More Advanced Placement Courses, Fine Arts
- ◆ Home School Students (No Requirements For Parent Educators)
- ◆ More Discipline, Dress Code
- ◆ Parent/Community Involvement
- ◆ Real World/Thinking Skills
- ◆ Repeal 100% Of Sales Tax Exception - Increase Of Current Sales Tax Revenue By 110%
- ◆ Special Needs Requirements- Unfunded And Uneducable Students
- ◆ Subsidized Preschools Using What Is Already Working
- ◆ Teacher Licensure (Praxis Expense, Ability To Receive Help Or Info, Shortage Areas)
- ◆ Teacher Salaries (Law Compared To Surrounding States And Equity Between Districts)
- ◆ Went To Several Schools- Houston Was More Advanced

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT



055 - Newton County: Deer School

- ◆ 100% Graduation--Every Student Prepared For Post Secondary Education, I.e. Technical, Vocational, College.
- ◆ 3 Jr & Senior Years Needs Full Curriculum
- ◆ Accountability--Do Not Require Special Education Students To Take ACTAP!
- ◆ All Staff--Employees/ Increase Salaries & Benefits
- ◆ Appropriate Curriculum
- ◆ Art & Music Preparation
- ◆ As Employees--Computers More Use
- ◆ Better Benefits & Pay For Teachers
- ◆ Businesses Are Dictating Schools And Overcharging For Materials & Supplies.
- ◆ Consideration Of Student Should Come Before Consideration Of Cost.
- ◆ De-consolidation
- ◆ Districts Cooperatively Sharing Some Staff--Counselors, Spec. Ed. Teachers, Music, Etc.
- ◆ Enthusiasm For Learning - Administration To Teachers To Parents To Students.
- ◆ Explore Grant Money To Operate Parent Advocacy Training Program Who Have Students In Spec Ed. Pacer Is Name Of Program In Minnesota--No Public Funding.
- ◆ Extra-Curricular Activities--Not Just Sports, Band, Drama, Math Contests Etc.
- ◆ Extra-Curricular Activities: Should Emphasize Academics As Much As Sports.
- ◆ Federal Reimbursement For Property Tax Loss Due To Federal Land In District
- ◆ Funding
- ◆ If State Mandated--They Should Fully Fund
- ◆ Junior & Senior Years Need Full Curriculum To Spiraling Curriculum K-12
- ◆ Juniors & Seniors Need Full Curriculum, Not Out Of School Early.
- ◆ No To Consolidation!
- ◆ Parent Acc
- ◆ Parental Involvement--Partnership, Teachers, Volunteers
- ◆ Parental Involvement: Incentives For Parents Of All Students, Especially At Risk Youth To Become More Involved In Their Child's Educational Needs.
- ◆ Professional Certification Of Teachers Should Have Reasonable Time Limit Enforced Re: Becoming Certified.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ School Districts Should Contribute More To Health Insurance Premiums.
- ◆ Staff--Need More Money, Insurance Rates Need To Drop, Smaller Student/Teacher Ratio, Adequate Amount Of Teachers In The School
- ◆ Staff: Low Teacher/Student Ratio With Adequate Pay For The Individuals In Charge Of Educating Our Future Adults!
- ◆ State Dept Of Ed. Act As Clearinghouse For Teachers Looking For Opportunities In Arkansas. Each District Could ""Register"" Needs For Each School Year.
- ◆ State Raise Teachers Salaries Commensurate With Other Professionals.
- ◆ Teachers Should Have More Input Into Professional Development.
- ◆ Transportation--Keep Bus Routes Logistically Feasible, Travel Time At A Certain Amount (90 Minutes On A Bus At Most), No Consolidation!!!
- ◆ Transportation: Students Should Only Have To Travel A Logistically Feasible Distance Of Miles Or Time.
- ◆ Up-To-Date Facilities--Re-Vamp Older Buildings, Safer Schools

◆ 056 - Ouachita County: Camden Fairview School District

- ◆ Consider The Fact That Bigger Schools Don't Necessarily Mean Better Schools.
- ◆ Consolidate School For More Effective Teaching.
- ◆ Day Care For All Student Parents
- ◆ Establish Test/Guidelines Before Passing To Next School.
- ◆ Include Physical Education, Music And Art In K-12
- ◆ Increase Funding For Preschool And Hippy
- ◆ Locate And Place High Quality Educators
- ◆ Make Education A Three Fold Effort, Parents/Students/Teachers
- ◆ Make Sports Available To All Students.
- ◆ Mandatory Homework Beginning In Fourth Or Fifth Grade.
- ◆ Offer Year Round School. Block Instruction Would Allow More Time For Repetition.
- ◆ Parental Accountability For Kids Education
- ◆ Parenting Classes For All Teenage Parents- Mothers And Fathers.
- ◆ Parenting Classes For All Teen Parents- Fathers And Mothers.
- ◆ Parents Of All Levels Can Help At These Ages.
- ◆ Physical Ed, Music And Art For K-12
- ◆ Reward Parents For Student Progress With Scholarships.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Set High Standards For Kids
- ◆ Stabilize Funding For Preschool And Early Education Programs.
- ◆ Teachers Responsibility In Education Early Which Should Carry Over.

◆

057 - Perry County: Perryville High School

- ◆ \$\$\$ Spent For High Quality Free And Available Preschool Education. There Is A Pay-Off In Long-Term Results, More Hs And College Graduates, Fewer % Problems With Drugs, Alcohol And Jail.
- ◆ Also, Emphasis On Life Skills And Well Rounded Curriculum- Including Shop, Agri, Fixing Toasters, Changing Oil In A Car- Legislatures Should Have Less Control. Allow The Schools To Educate Instead Of Jumping Through Hoops For The Legislature.
- ◆ Curriculum
- ◆ Enforce Attendance Policy, Narrow Attendance Policy Between Schools
- ◆ Funding
- ◆ Funding, Hiring, And Retaining Top-Quality Teachers At All Levels.
- ◆ I Feel Uncomfortable With Home Schooling And That The Schools Are Aware Of The Students In Home Schooling- Is It Adequate?
- ◆ I Would Like To See The Teachers Teach Their Class And Get It Through To The Students. My Daughter Has An A In Chemistry, And She Doesn't Know Anything About What She Was Taught.
- ◆ If The Students Ask For Help, The Teachers Need To Help And Quit Saying "No, You Are Supposed To Know It Already."
- ◆ Increase Teacher Salary
- ◆ Keep Schools Small As Long As Education Needs Are Met.
- ◆ No Sales Tax For Education Purposes For School Districts!!
- ◆ No Sales Tax For Educational Purchases.
- ◆ No Sales Tax On Educational Purchases For School Districts- Tremendous Savings For Districts
- ◆ Organizational Structure
- ◆ Parental Involvement In The Education Process.
- ◆ Print The "Good" Stuff Teachers Do Instead Of All Negative.
- ◆ School Uniforms Are A Must. I See Too Many Midriffs Exposed And Low Cut Shirts. Students Are Not Sent Home To Change.
- ◆ Teacher Salaries
- ◆ Teacher Salaries Comparable To Other Professionals.
- ◆ Teacher Salaries/ Not Put Raises On School Districts.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT



060 - Poinsett County: Harrisburg High School

- ◆ 1/2 Year Of Ark. History In Jr. High Is Not Necessary It Should Be Incorporated In The History Class.
- ◆ Extra Curricular Activities Are Important. This Helps Keep Students In School And Gives Them Variety. Grade Point Average To Participate In Extra Curricular Is Questionable. They Can Graduate But Can't Participate With Certain Grades.
- ◆ Teachers Should Be Able To Teach What Is Necessary Not To The Test



062 - Pope County: Russellville High School

- ◆ A Questionnaire Should Be Sent Home To Every Parent In Terms Of Likes And Dislikes Of The School System. Everyone Should Have A Chance To Voice Their Opinions And Suggestions Of How To Improve The School System.
- ◆ All School Districts Must Have A Curriculum Director!
- ◆ Bring Discipline Back To The Classroom/Administrator.
- ◆ Children Need Backpacks On Wheels! The Teachers Are Allowed, The Children Are Not.
- ◆ Equity In School Funding, Each School Should Receive The Same Dollars Per Student.
- ◆ I Feel That The Concern Of The Students Both Educational And Social Were Not Addressed At This Meeting. I Feel That Teachers Already Put A Tremendous Responsibility On The Parents That Has Not Been Trained On The Method Of Teaching.
- ◆ I'd Like To See Effective Processes Benchmarked And These Processes Taught To Teachers.
- ◆ Increased Discipline In Schools, Cut Down On Troublemakers In The Classroom.
- ◆ Let's Face It, There Are Some Bad Teachers. The Act Protecting Them Needs To Be Removed.
- ◆ Out Of All Our Discussion Tonight We Had More About Teacher Concerns And Salaries Than The Concerns Of The Parents And Students. I'm Concerned As A Parent And Grandparent In The System. We Need Fairness In The Classroom For All Students. The Ratio Of Very Qualified Teachers Of Color That Are Separately Told There Are No Positions Open In The Area, Then The Next School Year There Are New Teachers Hired.
- ◆ Personnel Policies Written And Reviewed With Teacher Input Is Necessary And Essential.
- ◆ Preschool Education Is A Must.
- ◆ Reward/Performance-Based Salary Augmentation For Master And Mentor Teachers (Programs Such As Tap)
- ◆ Some Teachers Need To Have A Special Refresher From Time To Time On Anger Management As Well As Exposing Their Personal Feelings Concerning Race. N It Is Very Miserable In Our District.
- ◆ Take The Calculators Out Of Elementary Through Jr. High So The Kids Can Use Their Brain Rather Than Their Finger To Think With.
- ◆ Teacher Due Process Is An Essential Professional Guarantee.
- ◆ Teacher Pay Should Not Be Tied To Student Testing. The ACTAAP Is A Poor Test And Not Appropriate Developmentally.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Teachers Need Also Refresher Courses On How To Respect The Student Also.
- ◆ Teachers Need To Able To Control Their Classroom!
- ◆ Teachers Should Be Actively Involved In All Improvements/Changes To Reduce Variation. 100% Can Never Be Attained Due To Normal Variation, However, Excellence Can Be Achieved.
- ◆ The Frameworks/Outcomes Are Great Because They Help To Vertically Align The Curriculum.
- ◆ The Next Step Is To Measure The Processes. There Are Good Examples In Healthcare Using Statistical Process Control Tools To Measure Whether A Process Is Working Or Not.
- ◆ The Process For Teachers To Use In Accomplishing These Outcomes Seems To Be Lacking. Teachers Seem Confused And Left Out Of The Loop.
- ◆ There Have Been Applications Denied Of Teachers Of Color Or They Are Told That There Are No Positions Available; And The Next Schools Year The Positions Are Filled By Non-Color Persons. (School Employees, Not Just Teachers.)
- ◆ Use School Vouchers To Get The Disruptive Kids, Rather Than The Good Kids, Out Of The Regular Public Schools And Into Schools Where They Will Get The Training They Need.
- ◆ Utilize Aides: Train Them And Use Them Efficiently. Pay Them More Than \$7,000 A Year.

065 - Pulaski County: Otter Creek Elementary School

- ◆ Classes For Parents Who Don't Understand What Is Being Taught Now.
- ◆ Equal Classes: White And Black Children.
- ◆ Have Different Class Types, Basic Plus Excell
- ◆ Help Kids Not To Be Bullies. Good Kids Could Teach Kids That Are Mean How To Be Nice.
- ◆ Kids Should Not Trick Teachers.
- ◆ Parents Need To Be More Involved In Class Room Subjects, And Be Able To Help With The Books.
- ◆ Put All On A Budget.
- ◆ Study Halls For Helping Kids A.M. Or P.M. With Caring Teachers.
- ◆ Teachers Should Not Give Kids Homework That They Don't Know How To Do. (Adam, Age 5)
- ◆ Teachers That Will Not Be Afraid Of Students.
- ◆ We Don't Need 300 Plus School Districts.
- ◆ We Need More Basic Math Classes In 6Th, 7Th, And 8Th Grade.

066 - Pulaski County: Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church

- ◆ Adopting Educational Methods That Accommodates Learning Differences Especially Learning Disabled Children.
- ◆ Better Transition Of Kids From Treatment Facilities.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Consolidation Of School Districts.
- ◆ Cost/Benefit Orientation On All Aspects Of School. Esp. Extreme Cost And Inefficiency Of Sports Programs. At All Levels Up To And Including Collegiate.
- ◆ Cut Programs Such As School Breakfast, Most Sports Below The 9Th Grade, Career Counseling, Reduce Out Of Class Activities, Give Teachers More Control Of The Classroom, Etc. The State Can Decide Which Programs To Cut Or Let Voters. Do Not Create Programs For Children Below Six Years Old.
- ◆ Diversity Of Class Styles Based Upon Student Needs For Learning- Particularly High School/ Middle School
- ◆ Give Algebra Test After Alg. Ii
- ◆ Global/Logical Perspective- Critical Thinking
- ◆ Higher Expectations
- ◆ I Would Like To See Public Schools Concentrate On The Basics: Reading, Writing, And Arithmetic. It Is Said Often, The Advent Of Additional Requirements Distract From The Goal Of Education. If Abraham Lincoln Could Learn From His Mother And A One Room School With Limited Resources, Surely Our State Can.
- ◆ Make Sure Children Are Prepared To Participate With New Technologies.
- ◆ Parental Accountability
- ◆ Provide Alternative Classrooms For Troubled Students.
- ◆ Public Perception
- ◆ Reduce Age Of Required Attendance From 18 To 16.

◆
068 - Pulaski County: Southwest Little Rock Community Center

- ◆ School Discipline, Better Attitudes And Behavior From A Small Classroom.
- ◆ Smaller Class Room Sizes. I Believe That If The Class Sizes Were Smaller, The Children Would Learn Better, There Would Be Less Distractions, And Better Education.

◆
069 - Pulaski County: Parkview Arts & Science Magnet HS

- ◆ All Girls Class
- ◆ All Students In Middle And High Schools Should Be In Uniforms.
- ◆ Alternative Education Setting
- ◆ Basic Life Skills - Checkbook, Etc.
- ◆ Benchmarks Should Begin At An Early Grade Level.
- ◆ Better Job Standardizing Curriculum.
- ◆ Blue Ribbon Schools
- ◆ Blue Ribbon Schools (Presidential Award)?

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Change Scheduling. Block 90 Minute Classes In High School. Grades Go Up. Learning Goes Up. Test Scores Go Up.
- ◆ Clear, Concise, Creditable Discipline Program.
- ◆ Climate & Culture Of Schools
- ◆ College Fairs For High School
- ◆ Discipline: Repeated Discipline Offenders Should Be Dealt With Properly As To Not Distract Other Students And The Teacher
- ◆ Diversification: Increase Awareness - Students May Want To Learn About The Cultures And Languages Of Other Students - Raising The Bar.
- ◆ Do Not Embarrass The State Any Further. We Are Tired Of Being Last In Education.
- ◆ Early Childhood Education
- ◆ Financial Resources
- ◆ For Teachers: Don't Give Up On A Student (Don't Settle). Don't Have The Mental State To Allow A Child To Settle For Second. Still Try To Push For First.
- ◆ Funding (250 Mill Budget)
- ◆ Funding For Education In Arkansas Made A Priority For The Next Legislative Session. Fund Education First.
- ◆ Higher Expectations - Teachers, Students, Administrators
- ◆ I Am Concerned About The Health Problems That The Children Possibly Will Encounter Because Of The Heavy Loaded Backpacks.
- ◆ I Would Like To Ask Why Students Who Come To Public Schools With A Gun Are Not Held Accountable For Their Actions.
- ◆ Identifying Individual Needs Of Child
- ◆ Interpersonal Skills
- ◆ Issues: Infrastructure--Programs & Services, Student Expectations, Instruction (Strategies)(Practices), Quality Of Teaching, Computers (Technology), Athletics Vs. Normal Students, Desegregation Vs. Integration, Special Education (Tracking), High _____, Accountability
- ◆ Leadership - Bldg. & District
- ◆ Levels
- ◆ Listen To Teachers
- ◆ Make College Seem Fun
- ◆ More Interactive ""Experiential"" Learning
- ◆ More Workforce Education
- ◆ On Level Classes
- ◆ Parental Involvement & Support

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Parental Involvement.
- ◆ Parental Involvement.
- ◆ Placement Tests/Prep: Placement Tests Are Necessary To Put Kids In Classes With Kids On Their Same Level.
- ◆ Please Include A Discussion Of Year-Round Or Extended Year Schools. Among The Changes We Need To Consider Seriously Is Changing The Length Of The School Year.
- ◆ Poor Facilities.
- ◆ Prayer Should Be A Vital Aspect Of The School System.
- ◆ Pre-School Education: Learning Should Begin Before Kindergarten.
- ◆ Principal Advisory Board (Run By The Mayor)
- ◆ Provide More Choices
- ◆ Quality Of Teachers
- ◆ Reinforce Work Study Program Where Counselors Actually Find A Job That Is Suitable For The Student.
- ◆ Restructuring Of The School Year To Allow For Curriculum Alignment And Student Planning On School Time - Not After Hours. Maybe 12 Month Contracts As Opposed To 10.
- ◆ Small Class Sizes
- ◆ Student Accountability (Need To Be Held To A Standard For All Areas)
- ◆ Students Should Have Books For Each Subject. I've Noticed That Some Schools Don't Have Math Books And Teachers Are Teaching From Workbooks And Making Copies For Students To Use As Books.
- ◆ Teach Different Students Differently.
- ◆ Teacher Collaboration Time (Team Teaching)
- ◆ Teaching Strategies: Incorporating ""Practical"" Experiences Into Instruction
- ◆ Technology Deficits
- ◆ Technology Funding At Building Level.
- ◆ Test Alignment With Curriculum & Benchmarks
- ◆ Three Glaring Grammatical (Verb Use) Errors In Video ""On Education."" It Seems Important For The Commission To Set The Standard.
- ◆ Too Many Standardized Tests.
- ◆ What To Do: Prepare Quality Teacher(Tch. Education Programs)

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070 - Pulaski County: Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

- ◆ Basics!

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Better Facilities
- ◆ Better Teacher Salaries
- ◆ By All Means Do Not Judge A Teachers Worth By The Score A Child Makes On A Standardized Test. These Tests Are Invalid And Unreliable Because Students Do Not Take Them Seriously. They Are Too Long.
- ◆ Certified Teachers
- ◆ Competency Based Education By Grade Level Starting K Through 12. Student Must Master Competencies Before Moving On To The Next Grade Level!
- ◆ Continued Professional Development For The Teachers With Accountability Of The Teacher For What Is Presented.
- ◆ Cut The Number Of School District In The State. I Know There Are A Lot Of Small School District That Could Be Run By Fewer Numbers Of Administrators If Some Districts Were Combined. Don't Eliminate Schools In Communities, Just Have One Superintendent In Charge Of Several Schools Such As Little Rock, NLR, And Pulaski County Do. This Might Even Cut Down On Some Assistant Superintendents, Also.
- ◆ Develop A System That Would Encourage Individual Parents To Save Money For The College Education Of Their Children.
- ◆ Different Streams Of Training For Different Styles, Abilities, And Economic Levels.
- ◆ Discipline At Schools. Give Administration And Teachers More Authority Without Legal Ramifications. Need Campus Supervisors To Walk Hall, Etc.
- ◆ Discipline Back In Schools.
- ◆ Discipline!
- ◆ Discipline- "Break It, Buy It" For Every Child, No Matter What Their Disability May Be.
- ◆ Do Away With Tax Exceptions To All Businesses To Get A Broader Base Of Support.
- ◆ Educate Parents On Their Responsibilities For The Students To Be In Attendance And Have Good Behavior.
- ◆ End Desegregation Cases, They Are The Shackles On Our Feet.
- ◆ Get The Federal Government Out Of Our Schools And Put The Education Responsibility Back To The States.
- ◆ High Expectations For Quality Work
- ◆ Higher Expectations
- ◆ I Believe That The Most Pressing Issue Is Professional Development. Many Teachers Are Unprepared For The Concept Of Multiple Intelligence's And Only Teach One Way. One Program Which I Believe To Be The Best Possible Experience For Teachers Is The Arkansas Teacher Institute. The Institute Stresses The Importance Of Various Teaching Styles And Methods To Prepare Students Not Only For Future Learning But For Life. The Institute Also Focuses On Individual Teachers And Their Need To Attain Goals Within Their Teaching By Way Of Action Research, Reflective Exercises And Networking. I Believe That All Teachers Should Have The Opportunity To Participate In This Wonderful Experience.
- ◆ I Know That School Discipline Was A Very Popular Topic, But I Do Not See How The Blue Ribbon Commission Can Have Much Effect On This. The Only Option I See Is To Institute State-Wide School Rules And We All Know That Idea Is Ridiculous.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ If We Want Our State's Economy To Be Competitive Our Schools Must Be Competitive. We Must Attract New Companies And Keep Established Ones Here In Arkansas, And Must Provide A Well-Educated Workforce For Them. Every Generation Wants Their Children To Have Things Better Than They Did. Let's Provide A Better Education For Our Children. Education Reform In Arkansas Is Imperative.
- ◆ Leadership In The Schools Need To Improve.
- ◆ Leave No Child Behind!
- ◆ Limit Each County To Two School Districts. The Quorum Court Members Of Each County Could Draw The Boundary Lines With Consideration For The Tax Base In Both Districts.
- ◆ Magnet Schools Are So Unfair.
- ◆ Make Parents Accountable For Their Children's Grades.
- ◆ More Challenging/Advanced Curriculum
- ◆ More Funds
- ◆ More Money Needs To Be Put Into Education. First We Need To Put It Into Better Facilities. Some Of These Schools Are Badly In Need Of Repairs! Others Were Built During The Period Of The "Open School" Concept. This Concept Simply Doesn't Work, As Evidenced By Standardized Test Scores. We Need To Remodel Or Replace These Schools So That Every Child Can Receive A Quality Education Without The Distractions Inherent There. We Also Need To Put Money Into Teacher Salaries. We Have Some Wonderful Teachers, And We Need To Show That We Value Our Children By Paying Teachers What They Deserve. We Need To Let Them Concentrate On Quality Teaching Rather Than Placing On Them The Hardship Of Having To Work A Second Job.
- ◆ More Parental Involvement
- ◆ More Physical Activity For All Students. We Have An Epidemic Of Obesity. More Activity Would Help Discipline Issues As Well.
- ◆ More Technology Training For Teachers.
- ◆ Need To Bring Professional People Into The School
- ◆ No More Money Unless Strong Accountability
- ◆ Offer Fine Arts At The Elementary Level.
- ◆ Offer Pre-K To All Students Not Mandatory Attendance.
- ◆ Passion: Recruit The Best And Brightest College Students To Teaching.
- ◆ Physical Education/Arts In Education
- ◆ Primary Class Sizes Must Be Low
- ◆ Put Children Back In The Neighborhood Schools.
- ◆ Re-Align School Districts That Would Not Be Too Big Or Too Small That Would Better Allow Communities And Parents To Feel Like They Have "Ownership" Of The Schools Their Children Attend.
- ◆ Safety!
- ◆ Salaries Must Increase To Attract Brighter, Better Teachers.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Settle Desegregation Lawsuits- Taking Time And Money From Students And Giving It To Lawyers.
- ◆ Standardized Tests At Elementary Levels Are Too Long. Most Of The Subtests Run About 50 Minutes. Students Don't Stay Focused In The Classroom That Long. How Can They Stay Focused On A Test?
- ◆ Stop Social Promotion
- ◆ Stop Talking, Start Doing.
- ◆ Stronger Discipline
- ◆ Students Should Have To Pay For Their Books. This Way They Will Take Better Care Of Them. This Would Put More Money Into Other Areas Such As Computers, Furniture, Buildings, Etc.
- ◆ There Is Way Too Much Time, Energy, And Money Spent On Resource Special Education And Not On Tag Education.
- ◆ There Should Be Two Types Of Schools. One That Is Vocationally Oriented And The Other College Prep Oriented. Children Should Have To Choose After The Eighth Grade What Route They Want To Choose.
- ◆ Time Of The Day For These Tests Are Not The Best Either. If It Were Given After Lunch At Least We Would Know That The Students Have Eaten And Had Their Meds.
- ◆ Tutor Each Child To Do Their Best
- ◆ Vocational/Equal To College Prep (Plumbers, Electricians, Mechanics, Aircraft Repair, Etc.)
- ◆ We Also Need To Add To Our Foreign Language Curriculum. We Need To Offer Four Years Of A Foreign Language To Our High School Students, And At Least A Sampling Of Foreign Language To Our Middle School Students.
- ◆ We Also Need To Reward These Students For All Their Hard Work By Bringing Back The Arkansas Challenge Grant Program. Eliminating This Program Is Incredibly Shortsighted If We Want To Encourage Higher Education, And If We Want Our Bright Young People To Stay Here In Arkansas To Build Their Businesses And Families.
- ◆ We Need Better Teacher Preparation Programs- More Content Rigor In Math, Science, And Reading For Elementary Teachers.
- ◆ We Need Boot Camp Type Schools For Hard To Handle Children.
- ◆ We Need Higher Salaries To Attract Brighter Students
- ◆ We Need To Be Able To Track Children More, Such As Different Levels Of English, Math, Science And Social Studies.
- ◆ We Need To Enhance The Curriculum In Our Schools. We Need Art And Music Education Back In The Elementary Schools. Art And Music Are Not Only Important Subjects In And Of Themselves, But They Also Improve The Students' Performance In Other Subjects.
- ◆ We Need To Find A Way To Make Teaching More Attractive To Individuals.
- ◆ We Need To Have Better Discipline In Classrooms So Teachers Can Teach The Students Who Want To Learn.
- ◆ We Need To Make Our Curriculum More Challenging. Many Families Who Have Moved To Arkansas From Another State Have Noticed That Many Of The Things Their Children Are Learning In School Are Things They Had Learned In Previous Grades At Their Previous Schools. We Cannot Settle For The "Dumping Down" Curriculum. We Need To Raise The Bar, And Challenge Our Students So That They Can Be Truly Prepared For College. Many Of Our Students Need Remediation When They Get To College, And This Simply Will Not Do. As A State We Need To Do Everything We Can Do To Prepare Every Student For College. Plans For A College Education Should Be The Norm, Not The Exception. This Means We Need To Offer More AP Courses, And More Sections Of Those Course, So That Every Student With An Aptitude For Math, English Or Science Can Participate.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ We Need To Put More Emphasis On Academics Instead Of Sports. Sports Are Important But Look How Much Money We Spend On Football Fields That Are Only Used A Few Months Out Of The Year.
- ◆ When You Implement New Educational Programs For The State, You Need To Have Teachers And Administrators On The Committees.
- ◆ Year Round Schools Would Be Nice. Go To School During The Months Of Sept-Nov, Jan-March, May-July, With Breaks In Aug, Dec, And April.
- ◆ You Need To Have A Better System For Financing School Besides The Property Tax Because All This Does Is Put A Burden On The Elderly, Property Owners. Most Of The People Who Vote In Mileage Elections Are The Elderly And They Are Not Going To Vote For A Mileage Increase. Wouldn't A Sales Tax Be More Fair? This Way Everyone Pays Taxes.

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071 - Pulaski County: North Little Rock High School - East Campus

- ◆ Adequate Funding
- ◆ Adequate Salaries For All School Employees.
- ◆ Also A Paramount Need To Adjust Teachers Salaries To A Competitive Level. We Are Losing Our Good Teachers Because Of Money.
- ◆ Efficient Class Sizes.
- ◆ Income Tax Exemption
- ◆ It Is Essential To Have A State Lottery To Raise Funds For Education Exclusively. There Is No Other Source. We Need Funds For Scholarships--Special Programs For Pre-School, 1St To 8Th Grade To Get Good Training For Hs & College. A State Lottery Will Raise Approx. \$250-\$400 Million For Education Exclusively! It Will Be Protected So The Ledge, Gov. Or Anyone Else Cannot Get Their Hands On It.
- ◆ More Funding - You Can't Pay For A Cadillac With Hyundai Price. Arkansas Is Going To Have To Step Up To The Plate.
- ◆ Neighborhood Schools
- ◆ Provide Housing For Teacher Recruits
- ◆ Short Term Increase In Property Tax.
- ◆ Testing Drives Instruction Not Curriculum.
- ◆ Testing Viability - Consequences
- ◆ There Are Too Many School Districts

◆

072 - Randolph County: Pocahontas Community Center

- ◆ ACTAAP Is A Flawed Testing Program And Should Be Eliminated!
- ◆ Have A Group Of Class Drop-Outs To Study The Problem.
- ◆ Have A Group Of Those Who Come From The AR Schools Who Become Very Successful, Not Teachers And Educational Professions.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ The SDE Should Have Control Of Athletics And Activities, Not The AAA
- ◆ Too Many Co-Ops
- ◆ Too Many Colleges
- ◆ Too Many School Districts

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075 - Saline County: Bryant High School

- ◆ 2Nd Grade & Below Crucial--Need More Resources; Time Dictates What Is Taught. Problems Need To Be Caught Early.
- ◆ 4 X 4 Block Scheduling Wastes Student Time & Is Not An Effective Use Of School Resources
- ◆ 6% Turnout In Our School Board Election (Problem In Bryant Is Lack Of Community)
- ◆ Accountability Of Students For Academic Success
- ◆ Accountability: Raised Standards; Different Standards; Take Place Of Parents
- ◆ Active, Engaged Learners
- ◆ Alternative Schools K-12 (Permanent Placement For Troubled/Problem Students)
- ◆ Are You Willing To Have A Lottery Solely Devoted To Education And _____? (In Order To Pay For An Improved Education)
- ◆ Attitudes--Work Ethic
- ◆ Better Communication Between School & Parents
- ◆ Better Information On School Web Sites, Utilize Them To The Maximum Potential
- ◆ Can We Abolish Portions Of The Ar Constitution And Rewrite Them? (Specifically Revenue Distribution And Taxes And Educational Duties And Responsibilities Of The State)
- ◆ Clear, Inviting, Happy, Small Classrooms, Learning Adequate Staff, Treated Like Professionals, Parental Involvement; Community Has To Be Part Of School & Vice--Extra Curricular Activities
- ◆ Counselor/Student Ratio Needs To Be Lowered To 250 To 300 Per Counselor Instead Of 450 To 1.
- ◆ Cut Back On The # Of Standardized Tests--Especially For 8Th Grade. That Particular Age Group Psychologically & Physiologically Do Not Need This.
- ◆ Cut Back On The Paperwork Required From Counselors To Allow Them More Time To Work Directly With Students (1 On 1).
- ◆ Discipline
- ◆ Discipline/Safety In Schools
- ◆ Early Reading Programs (Too Many Of Our Children Can Not Read)
- ◆ Educate All Our Children, Not Just College Bound
- ◆ Facilities--Fully Utilized

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Fewer Standardized Tests. Students Are Over Tested.
- ◆ Flexibility To Challenge Children
- ◆ Hold Teachers Accountable For Teaching The Curriculum
- ◆ How Much Parents & Students Buy Into P-S-T Triangle
- ◆ I Think The Legislature Needs To Reach Out To The People In The State To Get Their Opinions And Input On What The People Want From Our School Districts As It Relates To Educating Our Children And Spending The Funds That The People Give To The State. Don't Just Legislate, Listen! I Would Like To See: Our Schools Need To Get Back To The Basics: Teach Reading, Writing & Arithmetic
- ◆ If Merit Pay For Teachers Is Going To Be Considered, Then Students Must Be Held Accountable For Their Test Scores
- ◆ Implement Character Education
- ◆ Increase Teacher Salaries
- ◆ Involve All The Stakeholders In The Community In The Education Of All Children
- ◆ Keep And Strengthen The Advanced Placement Programs In Our State. Provide The Funding To Train Teachers In Pre-AP And AP Curriculum. If We Want Effective Teachers, Then Continue The Funding For Training Of AP Curriculum.
- ◆ Local Control With Goals That Everyone Needs To Follow.
- ◆ Look At Revising The Tax Base--There Are Many Ways To Raise Money--Many Non-Profit Organ. Probably Should Be Taxed. Also--Revisit The Personal & Property Taxes.
- ◆ Morals Moving Away From Absolutes
- ◆ More Career Focus For Students In Courses
- ◆ More Parental Involvement--Some Kind Of Parental Workshop Or Some Way To Use More To Help Their Children
- ◆ More Resources
- ◆ People Act Out How They Feel About Themselves. With A Dress Code Kids Would Feel Better About Themselves.
- ◆ Practice Focuses On Tests
- ◆ Prepare Children To Function In Society
- ◆ Provide A Safe & Caring School Environment
- ◆ Provide A Safer
- ◆ Remediation Rates Troubling
- ◆ Respect Each Other--Parents, Students, Teachers, Admin Community
- ◆ School Policies Need To Be Geared To Diverse Curriculum Esp. Fine Arts
- ◆ School Should Help Children Who Are Home Schooled

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Schools Should Require Teachers To Utilize A Syllabus In Each Class (Esp. Jr & Sr High) So That Students Can Better Take ""Ownership"" Of Their Progress In Each Course. They & Their Parents Can Monitor Their Progress & Can Adjust Study Skills Accordingly. The Syllabus Becomes A Contract Between The Teacher & Student (Parents Can Be Required To Sign).
- ◆ Smaller Class Size
- ◆ Smaller Class Size For More Individualized Instruction
- ◆ Smaller Class Sizes Offer An Environment Conducive To Addressing Individual Needs
- ◆ Smaller Class Sizes; 20 Kids Much More Individualized And Conducive To Better Learning; Math, Literacy-Reading, Diff. Learning Rates
- ◆ Smaller Groups Or Smaller Schools
- ◆ Students Need To Feel Cared About--They Need To Feel Attached & Involved
- ◆ Syllabus That Would Give Students
- ◆ Take Responsibility For Your Actions
- ◆ Teach A Work Ethic
- ◆ Teach To Think
- ◆ Teacher Freedom: Not Pre Packaged; Teach Critically, Creative
- ◆ Teachers Need To Take Action When They See Students With Alcohol, Drugs Or Smoking On School Premises. Jr. High Students See This Daily & Teachers Ignore It. I Feel This Puts Too Many Kids At Risk Because They Know Nothing Will Be Done.
- ◆ Technology: Teacher Training - Student Use
- ◆ Testing: Accountability To Teacher But Not Students
- ◆ The Blue Ribbon Commission Needs To Send Survey Sheets To The Educators Themselves For Input. Not All Educators Can Attend These Meetings.
- ◆ The Number Of Districts We Have Should Be Much Smaller; In Other Words--Small Districts Should Be Consolidated
- ◆ Too Much Testing (At 8Th Grade)
- ◆ What About Parent Accountability W/ Regard To Test Scores & Discipline? We've Looked @ The Teacher And The Student, But The Parents Are Out Of The Loop.
- ◆ Work Study--More Connected Community Life Skills
- ◆ Year-Round School
- ◆

077 - Searcy County: Ozark Heritage Arts Center

- ◆ Accountability When Investigation Proves Several Violations--Dept. Of Education

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ **Accountability:** (A) We Have Too Many Tests Which Do Not Accurately Represent What Students Know. These Tests Cut Into My Teaching Time And Are An Annual Aggravation. Could Sat-9 And ACTAAP Be Combined? (B) Portfolios Which Students Begin As A 9Th Grader And Add To As They Progress Through School Would Be Better Indicators Of Student Capabilities. Test Performance & Capability Of Student Are Not Directly Correlated For Many.
- ◆ **Arkansas Challenge Scholarship**
- ◆ **Be Certain To Seriously Consider The Murphy Commission And Follow The Suggestion Of Taking Searcy County From 4 Superintendents To 1 Administrative Unit.**
- ◆ **Consolidation Of Administration Only**
- ◆ **Curriculum:** Age Development Appropriate; More Votech For Students Who Aren't College Bound; Focus On Basics
- ◆ **Focus On Basics--Reading, Writing & Math, Communication**
- ◆ **I Also Have A Problem With The Grade Inflation Study That Has Received A Lot Of Publicity Recently. It Makes No Sense To Compare A Timed Multiple Choice Test (Act) With Grades Made In Class (Which Would Include A Lot More Than A Multiple Choice Test). I Personally Know Of Several Students Who Although They Were Not ""Good Test-Takers,"" Were Able To Graduate With Honors From College.**
- ◆ **I Believe The Educational Cooperatives Have Outlived Their Usefulness. Please Consider Eliminating These When Addressing Reduction Of Administrative Costs.**
- ◆ **I Feel That There Is Too Much Emphasis Placed On High Stakes Tests. We Are Using Norm-Referenced Test (Sat-9 At This Time) In The Same Manner As A Criterion Referenced Test (With ""Pass"" And ""Fail"" Scores) Rather Than Using Them As They Were Originally Intended To Be Used.**
- ◆ **I Oppose Mandating Earlier Entry Into Preschool As A Part Of The Public School System.**
- ◆ **I Think It Is Imperative That Schools Begin Testing All Children To Assess Their Individual Learning Style I.E., Visual, Auditory, Tactile, Etc. If A Child Is A Visual Learner And The Teacher Instructs Primarily Auditory The Child Will Have Great Difficulty W/ School & Reaching Their Optimum Potential.**
- ◆ **Keep Teachers In The Classroom. We Have Had Teachers Out 15-22 Days During The Year For Professional Development. Teachers Need To Be In The Classroom.**
- ◆ **Mentoring Program**
- ◆ **More Counseling Services Need To Be Provided To Students. So Many Children Come From Broken Dysfunctional Family Backgrounds And Come To School W/ Fears, Worries Etc. That Their Learning Is Greatly Affected. Their Mind Is Focused On So Many Outside Distractions Their Brain Isn't Able To Process Educational Information, They Are Just Trying To Survive Emotionally.'**
- ◆ **One-On-One Added Help In More Of The AR. School Districts--Volunteer Parents If Needed.**
- ◆ **Parents Should Not Have To Keep Moving From Different Districts In Order To Try To Get Their Disabled Child Educated, Who Are In Definite Need.**
- ◆ **Please Keep In Mind Quality Of Learning, Not Just Efficiency When Considering The Issue Of Consolidation.**
- ◆ **Recognition Of ADHD, As It Should Be Recognized As An Illness.**
- ◆ **School Consolidation Will Not Save Money And Will Wreck Havoc In Our Entire Educational System.**
- ◆ **School Consolidation:** (A) Almost A Logistical Impossibility In More Remote Areas--Students Will Be On Buses For Too Long A Time. I Encourage Members Of The Commission To Ride Existing Routes If You Have Not Already Done So; (B) Towns Lose Their Identity When Schools Are Closed And Students Move Away--No Roots

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Structure And Discipline Need To Come Back. We Have So Many Add & ADHD Students--They Need Discipline And Structure.
- ◆ Study Circle Held In 1999 In Leslie School. No Additional Meetings Held. No Feedback From The State On The Results. Why?
- ◆ Teacher Salaries
- ◆ Teacher Salary: Keep Teachers In Classroom
- ◆ Teachers Offer Helpful Teaching Methods Which Have Worked In Other Areas/States To Parents At IEP?
- ◆ The Preschool Idea Is Not Good. I Have Been An Early Childhood Teacher For 32 Years. It Is Not A Good Idea To Move Early Childhood Ed. Back--We Need To Move The Age Forward.
- ◆ Ways To Encourage Parental Involvement

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078 - Sebastian County: Fort Smith School Service Center

- ◆ ""Schizophrenic"" Approach To Curriculum
- ◆ ""Top Heavy"" On Middle Management
- ◆ Adequate Funding: (A) Incentives And Salaries For Educators At National Average, (B) Qualified Teachers Who Love Kids And Want To Be In The Classroom
- ◆ Babysitting Problem Kids/Mainstreaming
- ◆ Children Entering School Ready To Learn
- ◆ Close Schools That Are Failing (Consolidate If Necessary).
- ◆ College Entrance Exams (Act, Sat) Free To The Student--With Prep Classes
- ◆ Concern Is We Are Losing Contact With Our Children By Not Spending Quality Time With Them. Just Buy Them Another Video Game. I Spent Time With My Children And I Never Had A Police Knocking On My Door And They All Have Careers.
- ◆ Course Offerings Out Of Touch W/ Real Needs Of Pupils (I.E., No Computer Courses), Failure To Teach Children Importance Of Abstract Skills
- ◆ Create A Learning Environment
- ◆ Create A Lifelong Learning Environment
- ◆ Curriculum: (A) Too Many Concepts Being Taught In Elementary (B) Teaching Needs To Be Relevant To Life Skills (C) When Curriculum Is Mandated, Must Have A Framework
- ◆ Emphasis Early Intervention That Allows Teachers To Teach
- ◆ Emphasis On Pre School Education
- ◆ Equality Of Course Offerings And Equipment For Teaching/Learning Throughout The State
- ◆ Grade Inflation

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Invest In Pre-School Programs. Fully Fund Special Ed.
- ◆ Keep Art/Music Programs.
- ◆ Keep Physical Fitness Programs.
- ◆ Lack Of Corporal Punishment? Abuse Of Teachers By Pupils. Attrition Rate Of Quality/Young Teachers
- ◆ Lack Of Meaningful Feedback On Stand Tests, Overemphasis On Artificial Measures Of Achievement, Negative Empowerment Of Problem Pupils/Fail Test & Punish Teacher, Not Teaching Practical Skills/Real Life Skills.
- ◆ Lack Of Parental Involvement In Education/Commitment To Education
- ◆ Lack Of Support - Involvement For Public Education: --Apathy--Student, Parent, Teacher, General Public; Lack Of Funding; Inappropriate Legislative Involvement; Biased Support (Cultures, Ses)
- ◆ Learning Or Academic Environment Vs Social Environment
- ◆ Looks Are Meaningless If Your Going To Educate Or Do You Want To Impress, That's The Problems We Have Now. Look At Dress Code.
- ◆ Low Teacher Pay
- ◆ Meeting The Needs Of At-Risk Students: - Schools Becoming Substitute Parents; Physical, Mental, Emotional Needs; Social Skills; Legalized Drop-Outs; Alternative Education - Lack Of Support For; Parenting Training; General Discipline
- ◆ Misallocation Of \$ Resources (Sports)
- ◆ Modernize Administrative Tools
- ◆ Modernize Teaching Tools
- ◆ More Individual Attention
- ◆ More Teacher Time In Classroom (Not Workshops) To Teach Core Curriculum
- ◆ Nationally Competitive Salaries For Staff
- ◆ Overloading Of Teachers At Elementary Levels
- ◆ Parental Involvement In School
- ◆ Pay Teachers--Raise Taxes.
- ◆ Positive Atmosphere--Inviting, Safe, Fun, Respectful Language, Smaller Class Size W/ Active Teacher Involvement
- ◆ Positive Attitude In The Community: (A) Parenting (B)Attendance, Tardies (C) Supplies--Students Have (D) Homework Assignments Completed
- ◆ Pre-Kindergarten Program
- ◆ Raise Teachers' Salaries/Taxes
- ◆ Reading & Back To Basics
- ◆ Real Question Should Be ""What Will Motivate Our Children To Learn?"" Falling Short In 7Th & 8Th Grades. Wasted Years For College Bound Kids.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Reflect Working Environment (Future)
- ◆ Relevance Of Education: Careers, Self, Life-Long Learning; Public Good
- ◆ Smaller Class Sizes
- ◆ Student Achievement: Engagement/Participation, Not Measuring By Standardized Scores, Active Learning, Contextual Learning
- ◆ Student Responsibility (Discipline, Respect)
- ◆ Teach At The Students Level
- ◆ Teach Reading (& Other Basic Skills)
- ◆ Teacher Shortage: --Burnout, Early Retirement, Frustration, Safety (Nationally); Retention; Recruitment Into Educ.--No Money, No Prestige
- ◆ Teachers Having Time To Collaborate
- ◆ Testing: (A) Accountability Through Testing (B) Relevance (C) Kids And Teachers Burnout
- ◆ Two Paths, Academic & Vocational

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079 - Sevier County: Cossatot Community College of UA - DeQueen

- ◆ Better Ways To Assess Paperwork
- ◆ Forget The Myth That Private Schools Do A Better Job Of Educating The Student. It Simply Is Not True.
- ◆ I Can't Emphasize Enough How Important It Is For The Young Hispanic Students To Acquire Language Skills. The Teenagers Can't Be Allowed To "Fall Through The Cracks." English Is The Language Of The Labor And Of The Economy.
- ◆ Neither Lake View Nor Little Rock Schools Should Be Considered Typical Of The Schools In The Rest Of The State.
- ◆ No Unfunded Mandates
- ◆ School Discipline
- ◆ Smaller Class Sizes.
- ◆ State Must Set Standards For All Mandates And Portions Thereof.
- ◆ Teacher Accountability
- ◆ There Must Be Consequences For Student Choices, Positive As Well As Negative. The Legislature Can Help Us De-Emphasize Athletics And Emphasize Academics.

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080 - Sharp County: Cherokee Village Elementary School

- ◆ Also, Small Schools Are Better.
- ◆ College And Vocational Tracks.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Don't Teach ""The Test""
- ◆ Elementary School Watches Too Much TV - Nickelodeon. Get The TV & Cable Out Of The Classroom.
- ◆ Encourage Individuality Because It Is Important To Nurture Those Kinds Of Things.
- ◆ Give The Difficult Learner The Confidence They Need To Stick With It And Try Harder.
- ◆ How Do Act Scores Relate To Level Of Funding?
- ◆ I Feel That Part Of The Problem Is That Some Schools Are Too Large. Students At Larger Schools Tend To Fall Through The Cracks.
- ◆ I Think It Is Important To Keep Local Control Within The Local School Districts.
- ◆ I'm Against Wholesale School Consolidation. Set Standards Of Accountability For All Schools. Those Schools That Can't Meet The Standards Can Be Consolidated.
- ◆ Increase Pay For Teachers.
- ◆ Let The Student Know How Important It Is To Get A Good Education.
- ◆ Look At The Possibility Of Year-Round School As A More Effective Means Of Teaching Students.
- ◆ Lots Of Recesses
- ◆ Make Learning Fun, Especially In The Early Grades.
- ◆ More Emphasis Should Be Put On Making Learning Fun. If A Small Child Loves To Go To School, He Or She Will Love Learning All Of Their Lives. If They Cry Or Balk At Going To School In The Mornings, They Obviously Are Not Happy And Probably Never Love Learning Or Like Going To School. Under Gov. Clinton, Teachers Even In 1St And Second Grades Began ""Force Feeding"" Lessons To Students To Cram All The Required Curriculum Into The School Year. Please Put Emphasis Onto ""Making Learning Fun"" And You'll Have Bright, Eager Students Who Love Going To School. It Is The Right Thing To Do. School Now Is More Just A ""Checklist"" At What The Students Have Been Exposed To, Not What They've Learned.
- ◆ More Equal Funding For All Schools. Change The Tax Base.
- ◆ Return To A Phonics Based Reading Program.
- ◆ Teach Basics.
- ◆ When Comparing Arkansas With Other States, Use Same Standard. What Act Score Do Other States Use For Remedial? What Standard Do Other States Use As Passing Benchmarks? Basic? Proficient?
- ◆ Year Round School
- ◆

084 - Washington County: UA Center for Continuing Education

- ◆ Administration/Teacher Salary Correlation
- ◆ Also, Some Students May Be More Verbally Gifted And Should Be Able To Do Some Testing Orally. For Example, A Gifted Dyslexic Student May Be Counted Off On Benchmarks Because Of So Many Spelling Errors But May Be A Great Composer Of Words And Ideas And Should Be Allowed To Express Them In The Manner More Appropriate For Them.
- ◆ Application

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Better Spending Of School Resources
- ◆ Consolidated School Districts (Not Schools)
- ◆ Diversity
- ◆ Early Childhood Education
- ◆ Extended School Year
- ◆ Gifted/Talented Programs (Not AP) For High School
- ◆ Grades
- ◆ Insure That Children Have Practical Application Of Concepts Taught
- ◆ Meeting Students Where They Are Academically. Individualize Education Plans.
- ◆ Minimize Class Size
- ◆ Multi-Morality, "Multiple Intelligences", Active Learning Curriculum"
- ◆ Needs Of Add, ADHD Students: 40% More Likely To Drop Out Of School
- ◆ Pay Teachers On Market Value Of Their Degree. Stop Paying Good, Bad, Alike & Same Pay For All Skills.
- ◆ Raise Teacher Salaries
- ◆ Reading Specialists For High School
- ◆ Safe Schools With Anti-Teasing, Bullying & Harassment Empowerment & Training.
- ◆ School Administrators Accountability
- ◆ See Education All The Way Through
- ◆ Special Education Student Scores Should Not Be Counted On Benchmarks With Other Students. It Will Not Give A Clear Picture Of The Individual Class/Teacher Scores.
- ◆ Teach Kids To Read & Love To Read
- ◆ Teacher Accountability
- ◆ Two-Tier Funding (A) Foundation W/ Categorical (B) Guaranteed Tax Base For School Facility Funding
- ◆ Use Testing As A Diagnostic Tool Rather Than A Driving Force For Curriculum
- ◆ www.educationinarkansas.com

◆ **085 - Washington County: Helen Tyson Middle School**

- ◆ Education For Parents As First Teachers
- ◆ Education For The Most Part Is In The Classroom, Therefore, Classrooms Must Be Organized & Disciplined.
- ◆ Evaluate Teachers Improvement In Faulty Or Weak Areas. Who Is Testing The Teachers?

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Get Rid Of Channel One In All Schools, And Limit Amount Of Video Instruction--All Studies Indicate Young People Watch Too Many Hours Of TV/Video/Computer At A Young Age. This Impedes The Necessary Learning Of Fundamentals, So Necessary For Success In Life. They Certainly Don't Need Any More Time In Front Of A TV Screen. Not To Mention Being Subjected To Promotional Advertising.
- ◆ Have High Expectations For All Stake Holder (Children, Parents, Community, Administrators, Teacher)
- ◆ Prioritize Literacy So That Every Child Will Read
- ◆ Provide Resources For Special Needs - Chapter I Funding
- ◆ Reduce Emphasis On Social Issues--Structure 5 Days A Week Around Academic Achievement, Classroom Order
- ◆ Teachers Accountability Of The Class Progress
- ◆ Teachers Need Training In Different Teaching Styles To Handle Diversity In Their Classrooms.
- ◆ Though Job Needs Have _____, A Fundamental Education As Groundwork Is Still The Task For PE
- ◆ To Ensure Appropriate Interaction There Should Be Discipline Guidelines For Teachers And Students.

◆ 086 - White County: Searcy Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

- ◆ All Teacher Being Trained To Deal With The Explosive, Emotionally Disturbed Child - For The Safety Of That Child And His Classmates.
- ◆ Allow Prayer
- ◆ Build Self-Esteem - No Child Should Ever Feel Humiliated.
- ◆ Classroom/Assembly Involvement By Business - Similar To Searcy Wow.
- ◆ College/Work Based (Vocational) Separate Study Tracks For Students.
- ◆ Emphasize Teaching Good Values.
- ◆ Getting Students To Enjoy School
- ◆ Go Back To Basic Skills Again. Current Curriculum Is Too Vague. Teachers Don't Understand What Some Of Them Mean.
- ◆ Going Back To The Basics
- ◆ I Also Want To See Students Giving Time & Talents To Communities.
- ◆ Involving Parents
- ◆ Kids Rarely Exceed The Educational Level Of Their Parents, And Some Kids Refuse To Do Their Work Because It Would Put Them Ahead Of Their Parents. Perhaps This Is A Self-Esteem Issue Or A Cyclical Rural Problem, But Somehow The Value Of Education Needs To Be Taught Before The Basic Skills.
- ◆ More Counselors To Help With Emotional Problems & Especially In Alternative Schools.
- ◆ More Learning Time Or Class Time For Basic Skills.
- ◆ More Teacher Support - Schools Should Be Held Accountable Same As Parents Should Be Held Accountable.

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Need To Look At Discipline. Is D Hall Appropriate For Chewing Gum.
- ◆ Pulaski Academy Has A Mentoring Program - Older Students Are Assigned A Younger Student To Mentor Through The School Year.
- ◆ Rethink Our Fundamental Premises Of Schooling And Decide What Is We Want All Kids To Learn & Why.
- ◆ Schools Need To Tie Together The Students Knowledge. Students Need To Know Why They Are Learning What They Are. A Great Example Of This Is The Earth Charter: www.earthcharter.com, www.earthcharterusa.com
- ◆ Self-Knowledge Is The Only Basis Of True Knowledge. More Alone Time, Privacy, Solitude, Contemplation. Independent Study
- ◆ Smaller Class Rooms - Year Round School
- ◆ Stop Listening To ""Experts"" And ""Vested Interests"" And Listen To The Children And Teachers Themselves. Teach Kids About How To Live, Not How To Be A Cog In The Working Machine.
- ◆ Teach The Earth Charter
- ◆ Teachers Coordinating Homework Loads So That There Isn't An Overload.
- ◆ We Need To Stop Being A Parasite On The Working Community. Make Community Service A Required Part Of Schooling. Teaches Unselfishness, Community Involvement And Responsibility. They Can Do Jobs That Are Not Economical: Apprenticeships, Beautification Projects.

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087 - Woodruff County: Augusta City Hall

- ◆ Athletics Vs. Academic
- ◆ Continue To Upgrade Facilities For Better Technology; Keep Schools Clean And Safe.
- ◆ Curriculum: More County Year Olds.-Tech High Schools/Non-College Bound; More Importance On Academics Vs Sports; Consistent Curriculum K-12 Across The State; Better Early Childhood Program Starting @ 3 Y/O
- ◆ I Would Like To See County Superintendents In Small Counties. We Need To Cut Some Expenses In Our Bureaucracy.
- ◆ I Would Like To See School Funding From All Of Our Public Instead Of Just A Handful Of Landowners.
- ◆ Incentives For Teachers To Come Back Home (Same As HED Students)
- ◆ Lack Of Respect & Discipline
- ◆ More Challenges For Students/Teachers
- ◆ Parents And Schools Should Be Equally Accountable For Success Or Failure
- ◆ Schools Are Lacking Respect And Discipline
- ◆ Small Schools Are Very Effective
- ◆ Tax Credits Or Incentives For Teachers/Parents For Continuing Education Or Expenses
- ◆ Teacher Salaries/Prof Dev.: Across The State Equity Of Pay; Continue To Keep Students And Teachers Challenged; Better Benefits, Comparable To Other State Employees; Educate Public Better On Education Issues Of Teachers Salaries

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

◆ Teachers/Administrators Should Live In Same District As School

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090 - Faulkner County: AETN Studio

◆ Accommodations For Mentally And Physically Handicapped.

◆ Accountability For All Laws - State & Federal

◆ Address Diversity: Self-Respect, Respect Each Other

◆ Bigger Push For Vo-Tech

◆ Consolidation

◆ Decisions Should Be Based On Sound Educational Research

◆ Early Childhood Comprehension - Integrated Parenting, Mental Health And Social Service - Use What Is In Existence That Does Work Now.

◆ Empower Teachers

◆ Equity In Teacher Salary

◆ How Tax \$ Is Spent On Education

◆ More Funding For Vocational Education.

◆ Need Basic Skills Down Pat. Measurable For _____ Testing And Further Training.

◆ Parental Involvement - Team Effort To Alleviate Teacher Burden.

◆ Partnerships - Parents, Industry, Business

◆ Positive Behavior Management Programs & Training.

◆ Post-Secondary Encouragement Esp Tech Schools

◆ Pre-School/Even Pre-K Education

◆ Quality Childcare Should Be Available For Families Who Need. Preschool Teacher Need Specialized Training - Preschoolers Should Be Developmentally Appropriate To Age - Not Push Down Curriculum

◆ Remove Monitoring From Dept Of Ed To An Uninvolved/Independent Agency. Idea-d Report Not One State In Compliance - Get In.

◆ Revise Ark Code 6-41-103 To Require Implementation And Monitoring.

◆ Safe Learning Environment

◆ Salary Equity Across The State.

◆ Schools Expected To Fix Society!

◆ Since There Is An Insufficient Supply Of Fully-Licensed Teachers To Support Required Curriculum. How Will The State Recruit Or Get Educators To Replace The Large Percentage Of Teachers Who Will Retire In The Next Five Years?

SUGGESTIONS, ISSUES OR CONCERNS THAT ATTENDEES WOULD LIKE THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT

- ◆ Small Schools Are Just As Effective As, Or More Effective Than, Large Schools. Consolidation Is Not The Answer. Teaching To A Standard Is The Answer.
- ◆ Standardized Testing' Too Much Teaching To A Test Stifles Creative Teaching, Leads To Burn-Out And Measuring Progress By Comparing Scores With Previous Years Scores By Class (Or Grade) Is Not Valid- Doesn't Take Into Account Change In The Student Composition (Leaving & Coming In) Of A Class From Year To Year. Only Individual Score Comparison Would Give True Measurement Of Progress.
- ◆ State Mandated School Self-Evaluation. Teachers Around Our Area Unanimously Resent The Time Taken Away From Teaching. While Some Real Improvements Has Come From It, It's Been More A Minus Than A Plus. Local District Needs To Set Its Own Plan And Process Of Evaluating The School. And Improvement Doesn't Go On Forever. The School At Some Point Is Working Successfully.
- ◆ Teacher/Administration Issues: Salary, Recruitment, Training For All Staff, Teacher/Student Ratios
- ◆ Teaching ""Real-World"" Skills & Relevance.
- ◆ Technical Education/Integration Academics.
- ◆ Testing Should Not Drive The Ed System How Are We Going To ""Teach"" And ""Educate."" Not Leave Social Science And The Sciences Behind.
- ◆ This Feedback Needs To Be Gathered From Broader Pools. Designate Time Period For Public Comment. Advertise It.
- ◆ This Is A Unique Opportunity For This State To Put Politics Aside & Revise Our Entire Tax System - Little Is Adequately Funded That Has To Do W/Children, Education, Etc. We React And Are Not Proactive - This Is The Opportunity To Do So.
- ◆ We Should Not Abandon Smart Start, Smart Step, Bench Marks, And End-Of-Level Testing. These Will Work If Pursued.
- ◆ What About Students Without Parental Support?
- ◆ Whatever Changes Are Made Should Be Based On Sound Educational Research, Not Personal Preference Or Prejudice Or Individual Experiences.
- ◆ Year-Round Schools
- ◆
- ◆