



REFORMING EDUCATION
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EDUCATION UPDATE

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Arkansas Education
Accountability Coalition

Members,

It is time to bring the Little Rock School District's continued money grab and attack on school choice to a screeching halt!

The Little Rock School District has followed through on its threat to file a legal challenge against the State of Arkansas related to the 1989 desegregation settlement agreement. A legal filing was made in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas in the form of a "Motion to Enforce 1989 Settlement Agreement."

First, keep in mind that this IS NOT just a Little Rock problem! The Little Rock School District's continuing money grab negatively impacts and takes resources away from the rest of the entire state. Make no mistake about it, it is abundantly clear that a primary purpose of this action is to have the federal court force the State of Arkansas to continue the flow of millions of additional dollars a year to the Little Rock School District – additional funding over and above the normal funding other school districts across the state receive. Their continuing

legal challenges have little to do with adequately serving the needs of children and much to do with continuing the wasted flow of millions and millions of dollars to an increasingly dysfunctional educational delivery system that apparently has no problem with spending hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for legal fees in an effort to keep the additional state dollars coming.

They also seek to have the federal court place unlawful conditions on open-enrollment public charter schools in Pulaski County. The Little Rock School District would rather hold a child hostage in a school that continues to underserve

them, rather than allow them and their parents to attend a school that will better serve their needs. This is an attack on a parent's right to choose and an attempt to prevent a child from taking advantage of the best educational opportunities available to them. **The elimination of choice for children in Arkansas is a primary target of this litigation.**

There is a compelling reason there are thousands of children on the waiting list for open enrollment public charter schools in Little Rock. These parents understand that their children are being underserved by the traditional educational delivery system. The answer



is NOT, as the LRSD is demanding of the federal court, to hold these persistently underserved children hostage in a system that would rather blame someone else for their failures than do what's necessary to improve. The answer IS to provide all children, where necessary, with a better alternative. The LRSD refuses to admit that those thousands of kids on the waiting lists are there for a reason. It's the place where parents — of all ethnicities — are desperate for an educational delivery system that adequately serves their needs. That, again, is why there are almost 4,000 children on the eSTEM open enrollment public charter school waiting list, alone. It's because those parents — of every background — want a better, more appropriate, higher quality educational opportunity for their children than they are currently receiving.

In order to fight on behalf of our students and their families to protect the unique educational opportunities that open enrollment public charter schools provide, and end, **once and for all**, the continued flow of millions of additional dollars to the Little Rock School District. We are supporting a requested intervention in this case brought by open enrollment public charter schools in Pulaski County. We want to ask you to consider doing the same.

Arkansans for Education Reform Foundation is establishing a special account to assist with raising funds for the legal expenses that will be incurred as a result of this intervention. The Stop the Madness Account will help defray the legal expenses.



I would like to ask each of you to consider a contribution, no matter the size, to this effort. Checks should be made to Arkansans for Education Reform Foundation with a memo to: Stop the Madness Account. Donations should be mailed to:

Arkansans for Education Reform Foundation
 Luke Gordy, Executive Director
 300 Spring Street, Suite 712
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Due to AERF's 501c3 status, contributions to this effort are tax deductible and you will receive a receipt to confirm your tax deductible contribution.

It is long past time to "Stop the Madness" and bring the Little Rock School District's continuing money grab to a screeching halt!

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this effort. Thanks so much to all of you for your continuing encouragement and support regarding our efforts to improve educational opportunities for the children of Arkansas!

Warmest personal regards,

Luke Gordy

Luke Gordy
 Executive Director
 Arkansans for Education Reform Foundation

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