

## Legislative Session – 2013

It seems that the one topic on everyone's mind is what the results will be for Arkansas' schools during the new legislative session. We all have issues, concerns and topics that will be discussed and possibly acted upon. With that in mind, APSRC has created a new tool to support your ability to stay in tune with the legislative discussions. APSRC has established a partnership with LobbyUp and you can access LobbyUp on the APSRC new Legislative Web Portal.

This additional feature of our website will allow our members to view and read legislation, view proposed bills being tracked by APSRC, find information about your legislators and view the legislative calendar.

Here are some of the features of the new APSRC Legislative Web Portal:

- The **Calendar tab** allows you to view the legislative calendar in a month, week, or day format.
- The **Bills tab** allows you to view each of the bills that have been proposed. You can scroll through the bills and click on any bill you wish to read about. By clicking on the bill, you can learn about its history, sponsors, and votes. To view a bill in its entirety, click on "View PDF." You can view bills by the date they were filed, or whether they were filed in the Senate or the House by clicking on the options on the left side of the page. Clicking "Past 24 Hours" will show you all of the bills that have been filed in the past 24 hours. Clicking "Past 7 Days" will show you all of the bills that have been filed in the past 7 days. Clicking "House" will show you all of the bills that have been filed in the House, just as "Senate" will show you all of the bills that have been filed in the Senate.
- The **Legislators tab** allows you to view information about each of your legislators. By clicking on a legislator's name, you can see what committee they serve on, what bills they have sponsored, and you can also find their latest contact information.
- The **Tags tab** allows you to see the bills that APSRC is currently watching. This feature will save you time by allowing you to go directly to the most important education bills.

-The **Keyword Search** at the top right corner of the page allows you to search all bills by a keyword. Any bills that include that keyword will appear on the page and you can scroll through the bills and click on any bill you wish to read about. By clicking on the bill, you can learn about its history, sponsors and votes. Click on "View PDF" to view the bill in its entirety.

You can access the APSRC Legislative Portal at [www.apsrc.net/legislative](http://www.apsrc.net/legislative). If you have any questions, please contact Katie Clifford at [kclifford@apsrc.net](mailto:kclifford@apsrc.net) or (501) 492-4300.

## Arkansas Gazette Article - 35 Labeled 'Achieving' of 239 School Districts - By Cynthia Howell

Thirty-five of Arkansas' 239 school districts and six of 16 open-enrollment charter schools are classified as "achieving" school systems under the state's new accountability system, leaving more than 200 districts and charter systems — some considered very high performing — branded as "needing improvement." The following 35 Arkansas school districts and six charter school systems are categorized as "achieving" under the state's new accountability system approved in June by the U.S. Department of Education and include:

School Districts: Batesville, Beebe, Berryville, Bismarck, Cabot, Cossatot River School District, Cutter-Morning Star, Dardanelle, DesArc, Dermott, Dierks, Elkins, Farmington, Fayetteville, Greenbrier, Hartford, Highland, Huntsville, Lakeside (Garland County), Magnet Cove, Marvell, Manila, McGehee, Mountain Home, Mulberry, Omaha, Osceola, Ouachita, Pangburn, Salem, Siloam Springs, Scranton, Springdale, Valley View, Waldron School District. Charters: Covenant Keepers Charter School (Little Rock), Estem Elementary Public Charter School (Little Rock), E-Stem High Public Charter School (Little Rock), Haas Hall Academy (Fayetteville), KIPP Delta Public Schools (Helena-West Helena), Lisa Academy North Charter School (Sherwood).

Congratulations to each of these school districts!

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