



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell
Commissioner

October 28, 2011

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The Honorable Sue Madison
Chair, Senate Interim Committee on
State Agencies and Governmental Affairs
State Capitol, Room 320
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Madison:

Interim Study Proposal 2011-178 requires the Arkansas Department of Education to provide information to the Interim Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs regarding the current status of children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers.

The Department does not collect any data related to Interim Study Proposal 2011-178. School districts are neither required nor authorized by state or federal law to inquire as to whether a student's parent is incarcerated. There is no mechanism in place in law or regulation to compile this data from school districts. Because this data is not collected by districts, there is no way for us to disaggregate data on those specific students, as requested in the Interim Study Proposal. The Department has no policies or procedures specifically directed to this population.

Feel free to contact us to provide testimony to the Interim Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs to explain our submission.

Respectfully,

Tom W. Kimbrell, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

TK/mg

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