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For Immediate Release
Russellville, Arkansas 72802

REDESIGNING HIGH SCHOOLS IS FOCUS OF REGIONAL MEETING

Picture all the graduates from the local high school being ready to enter college with no need for remediation or ready to walk into a job able to master high-level technical skills. Unfortunately, this is not reality. Nearly 40 percent of high school graduates say they are ill-prepared for either college or the work force when they graduate from high school. This must change.

Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education will be sponsoring ***Regional Shareholder Conversations*** across the state to further the agenda of the "Redesigning America's High Schools" project, an effort made possible by a \$2 million grant from the National Governor's Association to the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE).

Arkansas was one of 10 states to receive the initial NGA grant to institute high school reform. Arkansas is already recognized as a leader in this area because it one of the few states that has a rigorous, college-preparatory course requirement for high school graduation. For instance, only three states require a sequence of Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry to graduate – Arkansas, Texas and Indiana.

Since the Department received the grant, curriculum specialist from kindergarten through twelfth grades and from higher education have been at work aligning course curriculum standards from one grade to the next to ensure that the appropriate groundwork is laid at each grade level to succeed in the next.

The meetings will be another step in implementing effective high school reform in our state.

Meeting dates can be found on the AASCD web site at <http://arkansasascd.org>