

## **Appendix A. From “Arkansas Comprehensive State Literacy Plan for Birth to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade,” February 2011**

### **Appendix E. K-12 Teacher Preparation**

#### The Content

- In order to ensure that teacher preparation programs in the state provide effective literacy curricula and field experiences, literacy courses in the state’s teacher education programs will be reviewed. The ADE and ADHE will prepare a matrix that will be a tool for faculty to analyze literacy course or field-based experience course content. This process would assist programs in finding deficits of “content standards in the areas of pre-literacy, reading and writing,” or “a system of screening assessments to inform instruction; guidance on the selection and use of evidence-based reading and writing curricula and targeted interventions,” and would aid in alignment with the comprehensive, systematic approach of the SLP. It is noted that teacher preparation programs may go beyond this alignment and often do; it is the goal of many teacher preparation programs to approach instructional choices as problem-solvers with a wealth of theoretically-based or scientifically-based options, chosen based on foundational knowledge of social, physical, emotional and cognitive development.
- Explore the possibility of Education faculty in collaboration with Professors of English, Rhetoric, and Composition at Arkansas institutions of higher education will develop a course for prospective English teachers in which they will be taught “rhetorical theory and analysis and how to do and teach close reading using historically and culturally significant texts in our own civic culture and in other countries' traditions.” They will collaborate in developing this course to ensure that it enhances Common Core's standards in the English language arts and reading.
- Teacher education faculty in collaboration with relevant Arts and Sciences faculty will refine an existing methods and materials courses so that teacher candidates in mathematics, science, history, and other content areas are taught how to incorporate effective literacy practices in their respective subjects. Relevant Arts and Sciences faculty will collaborate with education faculty in ensuring the relevance of the literacy practices taught in this course to the teachers' subject area.

#### Recommendations for Licensure Tests for Teachers and Specialists in Reading

- The ADE, in collaboration with Education and Arts and Sciences faculty, will pilot a dedicated test of research-based reading instructional knowledge for prospective early childhood and elementary teachers (K-6/8). Such an additional licensure test would ensure that the critical components of research-based reading instructional knowledge are emphasized and weighted accordingly. Such a test would also help ensure that beginning classroom teachers begin their careers with the reading instructional knowledge that is needed for effective instruction for struggling readers.