

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, August 20, 2024
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Jane English, Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Vice Chair; Kim Hammer, and Matt Stone; Representatives Brian S. Evans, Chair; Keith Brooks, Vice Chair; Rick Beck, Bruce Cozart, Hope Duke, Charlene Fite, Lanny Fite, Wayne Long, Brit McKenzie, Ron McNair, Stephen Meeks, Stetson Painter, DeAnn Vaught, and Steven Walker

Other members present: Senators Tyler Dees, Scott Flippo, Blake Johnson, Reginald Murdock, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Harlan Breaux, Joey Carr, Cameron Cooper, Cindy Crawford, Jon Eubanks, Jack Fortner, DeAnna Hodges, Rick McClure, Shad Pearce, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, R. Scott Richardson, Johnny Rye, Bart Schulz, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, Trey Steimel, and Jeff Wardlaw

Senator English called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the June 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]
Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Merit Teacher Incentive Program Update [Exhibit C]

Jacob Oliva, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education and Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure, provided an update regarding the Merit Teacher Incentive Program for the 2023-2024 school year including the percentages of teachers receiving a bonus throughout Arkansas.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention [Exhibits D1-D2]

Adrienne Beck, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, presented information regarding teacher recruitment and retention efforts and research.

Federal and State Accountability Systems [Exhibits E1-E2]

Elizabeth Bynum, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, and Adrienne Beck, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, discussed federal and state academic accountability systems.

Presentation of Department of Education Grants summarized by Arkansas Legislative Audit for the year ended June 30, 2023 [Exhibits F1-F2]

Michelle Herzog, CPA, Senior Auditor, Arkansas Legislative Audit, presented information regarding grant distribution for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Discussion of Consumer Price Estimates [Handout 1]

Dr. Carlos Silva, Legislative Economist, Bureau of Legislative Research, discussed estimated adjustments to the Consumer Price Index.

Presentation of Health Insurance Funding for the 2024-2025 School Year [Exhibit H]

Patrick Klein, Vice President and Consulting Actuary, The Segal Group, presented information regarding the fund balance reserve projections and the adequacy of Public School Employee funding for 2024 and beyond.

Presentation of Preliminary Final Report and Adequacy Recommendations Worksheets [Exhibits I1-I2]

Julie Holt, Administrator, Policy and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, discussed the preliminary 2024 Adequacy Report and the recommendations process.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.