

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Meeting Jointly
Monday, October 6, 2025
1:30 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Jane English, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice Chair; and Breanne Davis; Representatives Keith Brooks, Chair; Wade Andrews, Rick Beck, Karilyn Brown, Bruce Cozart, Hope Duke, Tony Furman, Denise Garner, Diana Gonzales Worthen, Julie Mayberry, Jessie McGruder, Stephen Meeks, DeAnn Vaught, and Steven Walker

Other members present: Senators Ronald Caldwell, Mark Johnson, Fredrick J. Love, and Jamie Scott; Representatives Fred Allen, Glenn Barnes, Stan Berry, Denise Ennett, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Steve Hollowell, Tippi McCullough, Jeremiah Moore, Aaron Pilkington, David Ray, Jay Richardson, Johnny Rye, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, Dwight Tosh, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Representative Brooks called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the September 2, 2025, and the September 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B2]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) [Exhibit C1-C2]

Representative Brooks moved to batch ISP-2025-077 by Representative Kendra Moore – Refer to the House Committee on Education a Study to Evaluate the Educational and Economic Impact of Allowing Students with Documented Learning Differences to use Text-to-Speech Assistive Technology During State Assessments in Arkansas and ISP-2025-078 by Representative Joy Springer – Refer a Study to the House Committee on Education Regarding the Provision of Instructional Assistance and Test-Taking Costs for Individuals Seeking Nursing Certification in Arkansas, and without objection, the motion carried.

Representative Vaught moved to adopt the batch ISPs, seconded by Senator Davis, and the motion carried.

Presentation of Partnership Program for Academic Facilities and Transportation [Handout 1]

Jacob Oliva, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), Greg Rogers, Chief Fiscal Officer, ADE, and Tim Cain, Director, Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation presented information regarding the Partnership Program including information on Warm, Safe, and Dry (WSD) System Replacement projects and plans for new buildings and additions.

Presentation of Teacher Recruitment and Retention Efforts [Handout 2]

Jacob Oliva, Secretary, ADE and Dr. Brandie Benton, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, ADE gave a presentation on teacher recruitment, retention, and recognition including information on teacher shortage based on subject within Arkansas.

Presentation of Pilot Program with ADE in Partnership with the Arkansas School for the Blind

Kenia Flores, Manager of Government Relations, Learning Ally presented information on the Pilot Program

with ADE in partnership with the Arkansas School for the Blind including information on the audiobooks provided to visually impaired students.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

DRAFT