

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Meeting Jointly
Monday, June 1, 2026
1:30 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Jane English, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice Chair; Jim Dotson, and Stephanie Flowers; 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, Jason Nazarenko, DeAnn Vaught, and Steven Walker

Other members present: Senators Ben Gilmore, Mark Johnson, Fredrick J. Love, and Jamie Scott; Representatives Fred Allen, Glenn Barnes, Harlan Breaux, Paul Childress, Denise Ennett, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Zach Gramlich, Steve Hollowell, Jack Ladyman, Tippi McCullough, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, Johnny Rye, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, and Dwight Tosh

Representative Brooks called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the May 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Presentation of Department of Education Grants Summarized by Arkansas Legislative Audit for the Year Ended June 30, 2025 [Exhibits C1-C2]

David Webb, Audit Supervisor, Arkansas Legislative Audit, and Michelle Herzog, CPA, Senior Auditor, Arkansas Legislative Audit, presented information regarding the 2025 Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) grants.

Additionally, Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff, ADE and Greg Rogers, Assistant Commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services, ADE, discussed disbursement of grants and merit pay received by teachers.

2026 Adequacy Study: Discussion of Consumer Price Estimates [Exhibit D]

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

2026 Adequacy Study: Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Salaries [Exhibits E1-E2]

Adrienne Beck, Legislative Research Lead, BLR, and Ryan Moltz, Legislative Research Lead, BLR presented information regarding teacher recruitment, retention, and salaries in Arkansas's schools including comparisons over the last three years of teacher recruitment and retention.

Additionally, Courtney Salas-Ford, ADE, and Greg Rogers, ADE, discussed special education in Arkansas' schools including information on teacher recruitment and retention for special education teachers.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.