

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Meeting Jointly
Monday, August 3, 2026
1:00 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Dan Sullivan, Vice Chair; Joshua Bryant, Jim Dotson, and Bryan King; Representatives Keith Brooks, Chair; Brit McKenzie, Vice Chair; Lincoln Barnett, Rick Beck, Bruce Cozart, Hope Duke, Tony Furman, Denise Garner, Diana Gonzales Worthen, Julie Mayberry, Jessie McGruder, Stetson Painter, DeAnn Vaught, and Steven Walker

Other members present: Senators Mark Johnson, Fredrick J. Love, and Jamie Scott; Representatives Glenn Barnes, Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Nick Burkes, Rebecca Burkes, Paul Childress, Cameron Cooper, Denise Ennett, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Steve Hollowell, Tippi McCullough, Jack Ladyman, Aaron Pilkington, David Ray, Jay Richardson, Johnny Rye, Joy Springer, Dwight Tosh, and Jeff Wardlaw

Representative Brooks called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the June 1, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Without objection, the meeting minutes were approved.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) [Exhibit C]

ISP-2025-089 by Representative Brit McKenzie – Requesting the House Committee on Education to Study the Creation of a Personal Education Tax Credit Program to Empower Families and Expand Educational Freedom

Without objection, ISP-2025-089 was adopted.

Discussion of Health Insurance Funding and Medical Price Estimates [Exhibit D]

Patrick Klein, Vice President and Consulting Actuary, The Segal Group and Olga Isenberg, Associate Director, The Segal Group provided information regarding health insurance funding and medical price estimates including a comparison between projected expenses versus actual expenses in 2024.

Additionally, Courtney Traylor, Chief of Staff, Shared Administrative Services, James Caldwell, Chief Fiscal Officer, Shared Administrative Services, and Fran Janesen, Deputy Director, Employee Benefits Division discussed health insurance funding and medical price estimates including actions being taken to reduce costs.

2026 Adequacy Study: Presentation of Preliminary Final Report and Adequacy Recommendations Form [Exhibits E1-E2]

Jasmine Ray, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research presented information regarding the Preliminary Final Report and Adequacy Recommendations Form including an overview of the submission process and examples of previous Adequacy Study Recommendations.

Additionally, Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff, Arkansas Department of Education discussed testing standards in Arkansas's schools.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.