

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**JOINT MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION**

**Monday, October 14, 2013**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**Room 171, State Capitol**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Representative James McLean, the Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Johnny Key, Chair; Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Alan Clark; and Senator Uvalde Lindsey.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative James McLean, Chair; Representative Ann Clemmer, Vice Chair; Representative Charles Armstrong; Representative Les Carnine; Representative John Catlett; Representative Bruce Cozart; Representative Robert Dale; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Jody Dickinson; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Debra Hobbs; Representative Karen Hopper; Representative Sheilla Lampkin; Representative Homer Lenderman; Representative Mark Lowery; and Representative Brent Talley.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Randy Alexander; Representative Harold Copenhaver; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Justin Harris; Representative Fredrick Love; Representative Stephen Meeks; Representative Reginald Murdock; Representative Chris Richey; and Representative Jeff Wardlaw.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Jane English; Senator Eddie Joe Williams; Representative Eddie Armstrong; Representative Duncan Baird; Representative Bob Ballinger; Representative John Burriss; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson; Representative David Hillman; Representative John Hutchison; Representative Joe Jett; Representative Walls McCrary; Representative Mark McElroy; Representative Micah Neal; Representative Betty Overbey; Representative Sue Scott; Representative Frederick Smith; Representative Nate Steel; and Representative Tommy Wren.

**Morning Session**

**Minutes:**

Without objection, the minutes of September 9, 2013, September 10, 2013, and September 26, 2013 were approved as written.

**Exhibits:**

Exhibit C1 – 09/09/13 Minutes  
Exhibit C2 – 09/10/13 Minutes  
Exhibit C3 – 09/26/13 Minutes

Representative McLean congratulated Mr. Shane Broadway on his recent appointment as director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE).

Discussion of Issues Associated with the Cost of Postsecondary Student Remediation

Presenter & Synopsis:

**Mr. Shane Broadway**, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was recognized. Mr. Broadway said that his presentation would include statutorily required information, such as financial figures on the cost of remediation, and policy initiatives being undertaken by ADHE and various partners to further address this important issue. Mr. Broadway discussed a report containing data on remediation rates. The accompanying PowerPoint presentation included the following information:

- charts and graphs on 1-Year Remediation Rates,
- requirements for remediation in the subjects of Math, English, and Reading,
- breakdowns by gender and race/ethnicity of remediated students,
- students with a high school GPA of 3.0 or greater who had to be remediated,
- comparisons of Anytime, 2-Year, and 1-Year Remediation Rates,
- graduation rates of remediated students, and
- remediation expenditures.

Mr. Broadway discussed venues through which the issue of remediation is being addressed in Arkansas, including the Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness (Act 585 of 2013), the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education (Act 1082 of 2013), and the requirement of Act 1479 of 2013 that the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and the ADHE jointly study and report on remediation issues. He went on to discuss other efforts, including the work on redesigning the ADHE concurrent credit finance policy and the success of a pilot project developed by the ADHE and the ADE that expanded the opportunity for higher education institutions to work collaboratively with high schools in offering remedial courses while a student is still in high school. Mr. Broadway commented on the work being done at the regional and national level to address the remediation issue, singling out the work of the Southern Education Foundation (SEF). He noted that the SEF has agreed to help sponsor a conference concerning remediation that will include educators from other states who have been creative in addressing remediation at the high school level. Mr. Broadway said the conference is tentatively set for November 20, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA). He said the meeting will coincide with the investiture ceremony of Mr. Tom Courtway as the president of UCA.

Contributors to the Discussion:

**Mr. Rick Jenkins**, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability, Research and Planning Division, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was recognized, and provided clarification, as needed, on data in the Report on Remediation Rates.

**Ms. Tara Smith**, Senior Associate Director for Finance, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was recognized. Ms. Smith walked members through expenditures broken down by Institution, All Students, First Time Entering Freshman, and Adult Students in the annual Remediation Report.

**Dr. Tracy Tucker**, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Division of Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Dr. Tucker gave an update on a project concerning transition courses in Math and Literacy being worked on by the ADE, the ADHE, and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).

**Ms. Amy Baldwin**, Project Director, Complete College America, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was recognized. Ms. Baldwin provided background and spoke on the redesign of remedial education.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ≈ comparison of remediation rates in Arkansas with the national average,
- ≈ development of a presentation document that would include data on the impact of Smart Core on remediation,
- ≈ remediation rates and graduation rates,

- ≈ ability of a student to take remedial courses concurrently with other courses,
- ≈ breakdown of remediation expenditures at 2-year and 4-year public institutions of higher education,
- ≈ clarification of definitions for *traditional* and *adult* students,
- ≈ determining if an institution is efficient by the number of students served with provided funds,
- ≈ average cost per credit hour,
- ≈ alignment of transition courses to the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI), and
- ≈ rationale for course content selections.

Mr. Broadway introduced **Dr. Wayne A. Brown**, who has been working with the ADHE under the aegis of the “Achieving the Dream” grant to review data reporting capabilities.

PowerPoint Presentation:

ADHE Report on Remediation Rates

Exhibit:

Exhibit E – 6-61-221. Reporting of graduates requiring postsecondary remediation. Statute text.

Handouts:

ADHE Report on Remediation Rates  
ADHE Annual Remediation Report

Discussion of the Annual Report of the School Leadership Coordinating Council

Presenter & Synopsis:

**Dr. Mary Gunter**, Chair, School Leadership Coordinating Council, was recognized, and stated this is the fourth annual report made to the Committees since 2009. She reiterated the two focuses of Act 222 of 2009: to strengthen Arkansas educational leadership development and to provide school support. She said the report would be presented in two parts: she would talk about the School Leadership Coordinating Council, while Mr. David Cook, former Arkansas State Representative and author of this legislation, would talk about the work of the Leadership Academy and the School Support System. Dr. Gunter said Mr. Cook recently had been named the director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy. Dr. Gunter revisited the purposes of the Leadership Coordinating Council and recognized Council members present at the meeting. Dr. Gunter discussed Vision for Educational Leadership, Core Beliefs, and meeting dates since the last report to the Committees.

Contributors to the Discussion:

**Dr. Richard Abernathy**, Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators, and **Mr. Mike Mertens**, Assistant Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators, were recognized and presented an overview of the success achieved in the Arkansas School Superintendent Mentoring Program working with school superintendents who are on the job for the first time.

**Dr. Karen Walters**, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Dr. Walters presented an update on the principal evaluation system, furnishing a history of the Leader Excellence and Development System (LEADS) and discussing its future. She also discussed a proposed development plan for a superintendent evaluation system to parallel LEADS.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ∴ school site visits,
- ∴ screening of superintendents’ prior experience as a prerequisite to mentoring,
- ∴ feedback from teachers and staff in addition to a superintendents’ required portfolio,
- ∴ participation by superintendents of charter schools,

- ∴ utilization of classroom teachers in the evaluation process,
- ∴ surveying staff for principal evaluation, and
- ∴ mentoring/training of school board members.

Presenter & Synopsis:

**Mr. David Cook**, Director, Arkansas Leadership Academy, was recognized. Mr. Cook presented an overview of the Arkansas Leadership Academy School Support Program (SSP). He said the Academy works with schools and districts to build leadership capacity within their educational systems that improve student achievement and sustain high levels of expectation and attainment for all students. He noted the Academy works in collaboration with fifty (50) partners from around the state. He said that the Academy has touched over 12,000 people since it has been in place.

Contributors to the Discussion:

**Ms. Belinda Akin**, Capacity Building Leader, Arkansas Leadership Academy, was recognized. Ms. Akin discussed the purpose and objectives of the SSP.

**Ms. Jennifer Medeiros**, Research Specialist, Arkansas Leadership Academy, was recognized. Ms. Medeiros discussed SSP outcomes, including Results for Current Schools with 4 Years SSP and Results for All SSP Schools over 4 Years. Ms. Medeiros also commented on the Arkansas Leadership Academy's academic activity, including the Master Principal Program, Leadership Efficacy, and School Turnaround.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- per pupil cost for the program,
- activities to promote the Academy,
- availability of credit toward professional development, and
- number of schools engaged with this year.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Act 222, 2013 Report to the Arkansas Joint Education Committee

Exhibit:

Exhibit F – Act 222, 2013 Report to the Arkansas Joint Education Committee

Handouts:

A Report to the Arkansas Joint Education Committee  
Arkansas Leadership Academy

At 12:00 Noon, Representative McLean announced that the meeting would recess for lunch, and would reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

Afternoon Session

Representative McLean reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Update on the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science (AAIMS)

Presenter & Synopsis:

**Dr. Ken James**, President, Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science, Inc., was recognized. Dr. James discussed the historical development of AAIMS, including the 5-year, start-up grant from ExxonMobil in 2007 that brought a \$13.2 million for the initiative to the State of Arkansas. He commented that the initiative is

currently funded by a state appropriation and The Walton Foundation. He said here are 39 schools currently in cohorts 1-4 across the state. He also spoke of plans to recruit new schools going forward. Dr. James, in a PowerPoint presentation, discussed charts showing the impact that the AAIMS program is having in Arkansas. He said AAIMS is a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) model that produces results, and coexists very well with other programs in the state. He mentioned its goal is to grow the exposure and expansion of Advanced Placement (AP) across the state, and has the data model to make sure there is a return on investment. Dr. James recognized Mr. Bill Abernathy, former State Representative who was House Chair of the Education Committee, and Ms. Tommie Sue Anthony, the inaugural president of AAIMS.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- detailing AAIMS' engagement and focus in a school district,
- sciences selected for focus,
- standards of rigor in concurrent enrollment compared to AP,
- first-year experience courses and AP,
- studies on AP courses by Dr. Neal Gibson and the Arkansas Research Center in Conway,
- data showing whether concurrent classes or AP lead to better success in college,
- mobility of students affecting achievement,
- involving parents or caregivers in increasing scholastic achievement,
- affect of AAIMS on community colleges, and
- student and teacher incentives.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science, AP Training and Incentive Program

Exhibit:

Exhibit G – Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science, AP Training and Incentive Program

Update on the Implementation of Act 1294 of 2013, TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA HAVE THEIR NEEDS MET BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Presenter & Synopsis:

**Dr. Tracy Tucker**, Special Advisor, Curriculum & Instruction, Division of Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Dr. Tucker updated the work the ADE is doing on implementation. She said a working group made up of eighteen (18) educators from around the state has been convened and has met three times. She listed the following specifics as having been discussed: definitions, time frames for screening, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), other screeners, professional development, professional awareness, resources from other states with processes in place, and training and credentials needed for specialists at co-op and district levels to help students with dyslexia. Dr. Tucker stated it is the group's intent to have rules and regulations developed and presented to the State Board of Education on December 9 so they can go out for public comment. Dr. Tucker noted there is another group working to review and update the ADE Resource Guide for Dyslexia which has met twice. She commented that the Division of Learning Services has received calls from school districts confused about the implementation of the Act because of two things: an interest group not affiliated with ADE has taken it upon itself to update the ADE Resource Guide and is sharing it with school districts across the state as the work of the ADE; and professional development providers are offering training that they say meets the guidelines of this Act, although the ADE has not yet reviewed or approved any programs for dyslexia therapy. Dr. Tucker stated the ADE is working through this process and is keeping channels of communication open to school districts to clarify the status of implementation. Dr. Tucker noted that the group is working with the Connect with Kids Education Network to produce a professional development course on professional awareness in the form of a video that will be housed at Arkansas Ideas. The group has also created an extensive list of professional development that will need to be created or realigned to assist teachers and administrators in understanding more about dyslexia and the importance

of all the components of a core reading program. Dr. Tucker said she appreciated the assistance of Senator Joyce Elliott in moving forward with this endeavor.

Contributor to the Discussion:

**Dr. Megan Witonski**, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Dr. Witonski discussed the challenges of building capacity and salaries for garnering experts in the field.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- The Dyslexia Project’s independent update of the ADE Resource Guide, and
- hiring of a dyslexia expert at the ADE.

Exhibit:

Exhibit H – Act 1294 of 2013

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

*Approved: 11/04/13*