

MINUTES
HOUSE EARLY CHILDHOOD PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
3:00 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present; Representatives Denise Garner, Chair; Karilyn Brown, Vice Chair; Tony Furman, Julie Mayberry, Stetson Painter, DeAnn Vaught, and Brit McKenzie, ex officio

Other members present: Senators Jane English, Blake Johnson, Jamie Scott, Matt Stone, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Wade Andrews, Lincoln Barnett, Mary Bentley, Alyssa Brown, Frances Cavanaugh, Denise Ennett, Diana Gonzales Worthen, Jack Ladyman, Tippi McCullough, Jason Nazarenko, Bart Schulz, Joy Springer, Trey Steimel, and Jeremy Woolridge

Representative Garner called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the September 30, 2025, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]
Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Update on Early Childhood Education [Handout C1]

Jacob Oliva, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), and Ashelyn Abney, Education Division Director, DESE, ADE provided an update on early childhood education in Arkansas including information on new daycare facilities and changes to the Arkansas Better Chance program.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.