

MINUTES
HOUSE EARLY CHILDHOOD PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, June 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, and DeAnn Vaught

Other members present: Representatives Wade Andrews, Alyssa Brown, Dolly Henley, Chad Puryear, David Ray, Joy Springer, Steven Walker, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Representative Garner called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the March 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Presentation of Holding It All Together: Working Moms and Childcare in Arkansas Report [Exhibits C1-C3]

Maddie San Juan, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Women's Foundation of Arkansas presented the Working Moms and Childcare in Arkansas Report including data on women's labor force participation.

Update on Early Childhood Education from the Arkansas Department of Education

Ashelyn Abney, Education Division Director, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), and Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner, DESE, ADE provided updates from the Office of Early Childhood.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.