

**MINUTES**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**House Committee on Education**  
**Meeting Jointly**  
**Monday, October 2, 2023**  
**1:30 PM**  
**Room A, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Jane English, Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Vice Chair; Breanne Davis, Jim Dotson, Kim Hammer, and Greg Leding; Representatives Brian S. Evans, Chair; Keith Brooks, Vice Chair; Rick Beck, Bruce Cozart, Hope Duke, Charlene Fite, Lanny Fite, Denise Garner, John Maddox, Brit McKenzie, Ron McNair, Stephen Meeks, Stetson Painter, DeAnn Vaught, and Steven Walker

Other members present: Senators Scott Flippo, Bryan King, and Fredrick Love; Representatives Stan Berry, Harlan Breaux, Cameron Cooper, Denise Ennett, Jon Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Jimmy Gazaway, Tippi McCullough, David Ray, Jay Richardson, Johnny Rye, Tara Shephard, Dwight Tosh, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Senator English called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Approve Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1 – B4]**

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

**Discussion of Arkansas School Letter Grades in 2023 [Handouts C1 – C2]**

Jacob Oliva, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), and Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner, Public School Accountability, ADE, presented the Final 2023 Accountability Results and the 2023 Schools on the Move Toward Excellence. They discussed school letter grades for schools in Arkansas and discussed value added growth.

**Presentation of K-12 Education Funding and Legislative Trends [Exhibits D1 – D2]**

Christopher Duncombe, Senior Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States (ECS) and Madeleine Kriech, States Relations Associate, ECS, presented a comparison of Arkansas and national K-12 funding models, a state profile of Arkansas, and discussed legislative trends. They explained their research organization and discussed spending per student in Arkansas in comparison to neighboring states.

**Discussion of House Bill 1689 (2023 Regular Session): To Amend the Public School Funding Act of 2003; and to Create the Comprehensive Investment in Student Achievement Act [Exhibit E]**

Representative Cozart presented HB1689 and discussed how it mimics a similar act in Tennessee. The proposed legislation would create a new funding formula for Arkansas schools.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.