

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

ADEQUACY

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

9:00 A.M.

Room 171, State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative Bruce Cozart, the Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jane English, Chair; Senator Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Alan Clark; Senator Bart Hester; Senator Blake Johnson; and Senator Uvalde Lindsey.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Charlotte V. Douglas, Vice Chair; Representative Sonia Eubanks Barker; Representative Rick Beck; Representative Frances Cavanaugh; Representative Jon S. Eubanks; Representative Mickey Gates; Representative Grant Hodges; Representative Mark D. McElroy; Representative George B. McGill; Representative Stephen Meeks; Representative Nelda Speaks; Representative James Sturch; Representative Dan Sullivan; and Representative DeAnn Vaught.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Jonathan Dismang; Representative Fred Allen; Representative Bob Ballinger; Representative Charles Blake; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Dan M. Douglas; Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson; Representative Charlene Fite; Representative Michael John Gray; Representative Kim Hammer; Representative Ken Henderson; Representative Austin McCollum; Representative Reginald Murdock; Representative Clint Penzo; Representative Aaron Pilkington; Representative Johnny Rye; Representative Matthew J. Shepherd; Representative Brandt Smith; Representative Les Warren; Representative Jeff Williams; and Representative Carlton Wing.

Representative Cozart announced that Items C and D would be taken up in reverse order.

Discussion of Issues Related to Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Presenter:

Ms. Nell Smith, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith stated that, while this topic is not required under the Adequacy Study statute, it is a major part of K-12 education. She said state law specifies that a rigorous career and technical education program that links K-12 education and higher education *shall* be made available; so, state statute requires districts to provide CTE. Ms. Smith utilized bar and pie charts to illustrate data throughout her presentation of the report, *Career and Technical Education in Arkansas's K-12 Schools*. Initially, Ms. Smith described the current educational landscape and some workforce projections. She discussed the educational attainment of the working population in the State of Arkansas, the advantage of CTE courses, the most in-demand occupations in Arkansas based on the educational level needed, and workforce information on growing industries and occupations. She examined the role of K-12 education in preparing young people for careers. She first discussed CTE K-12 Education Requirements, including District/School Accreditation Requirements, CTE Programs of Study, CTE Courses, Graduation Requirements, and CTE Completers. She followed up with a discussion of Delivery of CTE Instruction, how districts provide CTE, and took an in-depth look at state and other types of funding. Utilizing a

map of locations, she focused on Secondary Area Career Centers since they are tied to a significant portion of the state funding specifically meant for CTE. Ms. Smith concluded with a discussion of CTE Expenditures and data on Student Achievement.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Dr. Charisse Childers, Director, Arkansas Department of Career Education

Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Ms. Kathi Turner, Deputy Director, Career and Technical Education, Arkansas Department of Career Education

Mr. Cody Waits, Deputy Director, Office of Skills Development, Arkansas Department of Career Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- plans for funding and access to secondary area career centers for counties not served,
- increase in funding needed to maintain CTE at current level,
- placing quality career centers within 25 miles of schools that are underserved,
- building partnerships with business and industry so that all students have access to a career center,
- number of participants who go on to be employed in field of study,
- how much more participants in CTE programs can expect to earn when employed in field of study,
- reviewing the map on page 15, and figuring out what schools have the ability to offer and what students have access to is either equitable or equal, pertinent to “*opportunities for students to develop career readiness skills*,” the language which enhanced the definition of educational adequacy in the 2016 Adequacy Report,
- having a conversation about reasons school districts in some counties do not participate in career centers,
- doing an educational adequacy study of CTE as opposed to a review,
- meeting adequacy is a requirement of the state, not of industry or business,
- carryover fund balances at career centers; capping the fund balances,
- data on participation of student athletes in career centers,
- clarification of career centers’ expenditures,
- clarification of the purpose of a K-12 education,
- reviewing multiple different funding formulas for CTE programs,
- importance of students being exposed to different careers, even though jobs may not exist in area, and
- role of the Education Committees pertinent to providing an adequate career and technical education.

Handouts:

Career and Technical Education, Highlights, Bureau Brief

Career and Technical Education in Arkansas’s K-12 Schools, Report

Statutory Responsibilities

The Honorable Jim Dotson, State Representative, District 93, was recognized, and reminded members about a luncheon, sponsored by EdChoice, from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Association of Arkansas Counties Building.

Discussion of Issues Related to Professional Development (PD) Categorical Funding

Presenter:

Ms. Adrienne Beck, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Beck walked the Committees through the report, *Professional Development Funding*. She first provided the definition of PD, according to Arkansas statute: “The purpose of professional development is to improve knowledge and skills in order to facilitate individual, team, school-wide, and district-wide improvement designed to ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency on the state academic standards” (§6-17-704(b)). Pertinent to PD, she next discussed Requirements,

Policy History, Arkansas IDEAS, Teacher Survey Results, Professional Learning Communities, Funding, Expenditures, and Fund Balances.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Deputy Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Ms. Stacy Smith, Director, Curriculum and Instruction, Arkansas Department of Education

Ms. Tina Smith, Director, Policy and Special Projects, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ❖ percentage of schools not responding to the request for a survey that are in academic, fiscal, or facilities distress,
- ❖ clarification of superintendents' responses to district survey question pertinent to use of extra four days of PD (Table 1 on page 3),
- ❖ addressing teachers' concerns involving the technology needed for the ACT® exam and student inexperience with technology,
- ❖ exam lining up with the state's standards,
- ❖ preparing students to be *test takers* as opposed to being *learners*,
- ❖ moving toward outcomes-based PD, and
- ❖ clarifying "performance measurement" and assessed penalties; determining whether performance is a success.

Handouts:

Professional Development (PD), Highlights, Bureau Brief

Professional Development Funding, Report

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock (*Academic Facilities Oversight Committee*)

Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Association of Arkansas Counties Building, Little Rock (*Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education Excellence*)

Monday, February 19, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock (*Joint Education/Adequacy*)

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Approved: 03/26/2018