



Bureau of Legislative Research
Policy Analysis & Research Section



Adequacy Study Process

June 2015



Adequacy Study Statute

- Arkansas Code §10-3-2101 et seq.
- Act 57 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003: established broad study requirements
- Act 1204 of 2007: provided more specific steps for accomplishing requirements
- Act 725 of 2011: added the review of new laws or rules approved in the biennium

Adequacy Study Process

- There is no single report that is The Adequacy Study.
- Study is a year and a half long process, culminating in recommendations and a final report.
- The 2013-14 adequacy study included 65 presenters, 25 meetings and dozens of reports.

Roles

Committee

- Direct study
 - Set study priorities
 - Direct study schedule
 - Determine decision-making process
- Define adequacy
- Make policy and funding recommendations

BLR

- Inform about statutory responsibilities
- Carry out study
- Advise on legal ramifications

Other Organizations' Roles

- **ADE:** Provide information for BLR reports; answer programmatic questions during committee meetings
- **Districts and Educators:** Respond to surveys; participate in site visits; advocate for school/student needs
- **Educational Advocacy Organizations:** Provide testimony; assist with surveys; advocate for their constituencies

Study Components

- District survey
- School site visits
- Teacher survey
- Reports presented by BLR
- Presentations from others

District Survey

- Online survey of all school district superintendents
- **Purpose:** Obtain data that's not available through other resources
- **Timeline:**
 - ✓ July: Develop draft survey
 - ✓ Early August: Work with AAEA to fine tune questions
 - ✓ October: Email survey link to superintendents
 - ✓ Early November: Survey deadline

School Site Visits

- Teams of two visit clusters of four or five schools over a period of one or two days.
- **Purpose:** To obtain information that requires more explanation (qualitative data)
- **Timeline:**
 - ✓ Summer: Develop site-visit questionnaire
 - ✓ October: Randomly select schools
 - ✓ November through mid-January: Conduct site visits

Teacher Survey

- Survey teachers in schools randomly selected for site visits
- Developing a survey method that aims to maintain respondent confidentiality while ensuring valid responses

District and School Participation

- Districts and schools have typically been very cooperative and provided all information requested.
- Some districts have asked whether completing survey is required.
- It might be helpful to have a motion giving us the authority to say that participation is required.

BLR Reports Typically Include:

- Results from related survey questions
- # of students served, demographic data
- History and legislative intent
- Relevant statutes and rules
- Patterns in funding and expenditures
- Accreditation violations
- Student test scores
- Related federal funding and evaluations
- National comparisons and research

Information Leads to Questions

- Some reports will spark questions that call for additional research or analysis.
- Example: Teacher salaries in 2014

BLR Reports DO NOT Include:

- Opinion
- Recommendations
- Determination of Adequacy

Resource Allocation: Staffing

Matrix Item (Legislative Intent)	Matrix Staffing Level	Avg. District Staffing Level
Classroom Teachers	29.94	??
Special Education Teachers	2.9	??
Instructional Facilitators	2.5	??
Librarian/Media Specialist	.85	??
Guidance Counselor & Nurse	2.5	??
Principal	1	??
Secretary	1	??
Total	35.69	??

Resource Allocation: Expenditures

Matrix Item (Legislative Intent)	Foundation Funding Received FY15	Avg. District Expenditure
School-Level Salaries	\$4,528.90	??
Technology	\$225.60	??
Instructional Materials	\$183.10	??
Extra Duty Funds	\$57.20	??
Supervisory Aides	\$56.70	??
Substitutes	\$66.30	??
Operations & Maintenance	\$651.80	??
Central Office	\$430.20	??
Transportation	\$321.20	??
Total Per Student	\$6,521.00	??

***PROPOSED
MEETING
SCHEDULE***

Recommendations & Final Report

- Education Committees must submit final report and recommendations to Senate President Pro Tempore and House Speaker by Nov. 1, 2016.
- Must publish a draft report at least 14 days before submitting to President Pro Tempore and Speaker.

Fiscal Session Responsibilities

§10-3-2104(d) Before Fiscal Session,
Education Committees shall:

- Meet to review funding recommendations in 2014 Adequacy Report
- Review any other issues that could affect ability to provide adequate education
- Amend, if necessary, 2014 recommendations by March 1, 2016

Adequacy Links

Link to Current Adequacy Study

- <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/education/K12/Pages/AdequacyReportDetails.aspx?catId=2016>
(To navigate from General Assembly website: Click on BLR tab at top; click on BLR Education Research on right side; click on K-12; click on Adequacy Reports on left side; click on 2016)

Link to Past Adequacy Study Materials

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/education/K12/Pages/AdequacyReports.aspx>

BLR Staff

Richard Wilson

Policy Research & Analysis

- Nell Smith
- Paul Atkins
- Dr. Brent Benda
- Dr. Ginny Blankenship
- Dr. Mandy Gillip
- Chrissy Heider
- Adrienne Williams

Committee Staff

- Mark Hudson
- Juanita Giles

Legal Services

- Isaac Linam

Fiscal Services

- Mildred Hamilton

Key Contacts

- Richard Wilson: richardw@blr.arkansas.gov
- Nell Smith: smithn@blr.arkansas.gov
- Mildred Hamilton: hamiltonm@blr.arkansas.gov
- Isaac Linam: linami@blr.arkansas.gov
- Mark Hudson: mark@blr.arkansas.gov