



**Bureau of Legislative Research**  
**Policy Analysis & Research Section**



# ***Adequacy Study Process***

June 20, 2017



# *Why is adequacy important?*

- **Senator Jim Argue**  
Argue - Impact of Lake View
- **Senator Dave Bisbee**  
Bisbee - Ongoing Study



# ***Post Lake View: Big Changes***

- Increased education expenditures in first year by 12%.
- Improved performance on state and national assessments.
- Increased the percentage of adults with high school diploma.
- Increased teacher salaries.

# *Importance of Adequacy*

- State statute requires K-12 education to be funded first.
- Ed Committees' funding recommendations serve as basis of the governor's budget for education.
- Funding decisions must be based on evidence. Amounts must be based on **districts' NEEDS**, not the amount of available funding.

# ***The Big Investment***

Arkansas students, of course, but also...

44% of Arkansas  
tax dollars dedicated  
to K-12 education.



Half of school district revenue comes from the  
state (40% generated locally, 10% federal).

Foundation funding alone (state and local  
share) provides \$3 billion to schools.

Image Source:

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/bureau/fiscal/Publications/A.%20%20PowerPoints,%20Fund%20Types,%20Important%20Dates/2016%20Financing%20State%20Programs.pdf>

# ***What is adequacy?***

- Argue - What is Adequacy
- There is NO single correct answer.
- It is a **judgment** based on **evidence**.
- The BLR & others provide information—the evidence—through the adequacy study to help form that judgment.
- YOU determine what an adequate education is.
- General Assembly typically adopts recommendations.

# ***Types of Recommendations***

- Funding: e.g., per-student foundation funding rate change, distribution methods
- Substantive education policies: e.g., required staffing levels; new curriculum requirements
- Adequacy study statutory requirements
- Data collection



- You determine the components of an adequate education.
- Anything necessary for an adequate education **must be funded.**



# *Adequacy Study Statute*

- 2003: established broad study requirements
- 2007: provided specific steps for accomplishing requirements
- 2011: added the review of new laws or rules approved in the biennium

***This is YOUR  
study!***



# *Down the Rabbit Hole*



Photo Source: <http://www.alpenglowbenefits.com/social-media-awesome/rabbit-hole/>

# ***Adequacy Study Process***

- No single report is The Adequacy Study.
- Study is a year and a half long process, culminating in recommendations and a final report.
- The 2015-16 study included more than 20 meetings and dozens of reports.

# *Roles*

## Committee

- Direct study
- Define adequacy
- Determine decision-making process
- Make policy & funding recommendations

## BLR

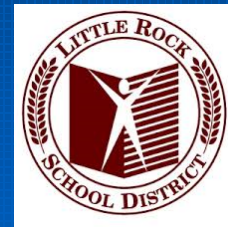
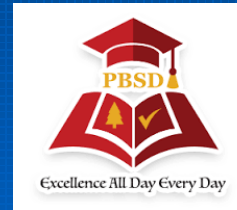
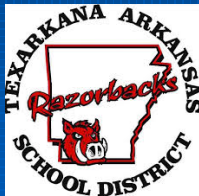
- Carry out study
- Inform about statutory responsibilities
- Advise on legal ramifications

# Other Organizations' Roles

- ADE



- Districts and Educators



- Advocacy Organizations and Others



# ***Study Components***

- Analysis of data from APSCN, national data sources, etc.
- Superintendent survey
- School site visits
- Teacher survey
- Principal survey

# ***Important Deadline***

- Surveys are scheduled to go out in early October.
- If you have a question that can only be answered through a survey question, please **let us know by early September.**



# ***BLR Reports DO NOT Include:***

- Opinion
- Recommendations
- Determination of Adequacy

# ***Timeline***

- Now entering 2018 school year.
- Funding levels already set for 2018 and 2019 school years.
- Recommendations will be for 2020 and 2021.
- Study examines 2016 and 2017 data.

***PROPOSED  
MEETING  
SCHEDULE***

# *Recommendations & Final Report*

- Final report and recommendations due Nov. 1, 2018.
- Draft report due at least 14 days before final report.





# ***Fiscal Session Responsibilities***

## Before Fiscal Session:

- Review funding recommendations in 2016 Adequacy Report.
- Review other issues that could affect adequate education.
- Amend, if necessary, 2016 recommendations by Nov. 1, 2017.

# ***Adequacy Links***

## Link to Past Adequacy Study Materials

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

## Link to Current Adequacy Study

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/education/K12/Pages/AdequacyReportDetails.aspx?catId=2018>

(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 2018)

# ***BLR Staff***

## **Richard Wilson**

### **Policy Research & Analysis**

- Nell Smith
- Paul Atkins
- Adrienne Beck
- Chris Diaz
- Chrissy Heider
- Julie Johnson Holt

### **Committee Staff**

- Mark Hudson
- Juanita Giles

### **Legal Services**

- Isaac Linam

### **Fiscal Services**

- Katie Walden

# ***Final Thoughts***

- Bisbee - Final Thoughts



# ***Key Contacts***

- Richard Wilson: [richardw@blr.arkansas.gov](mailto:richardw@blr.arkansas.gov)
- Nell Smith: [smithn@blr.arkansas.gov](mailto:smithn@blr.arkansas.gov)
- Katie Walden: [waldenk@blr.arkansas.gov](mailto:waldenk@blr.arkansas.gov)
- Isaac Linam: [linami@blr.arkansas.gov](mailto:linami@blr.arkansas.gov)
- Mark Hudson: [mark@blr.arkansas.gov](mailto:mark@blr.arkansas.gov)