

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

ADEQUACY

Tuesday, November 5, 2019
9:00 A.M.
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Jane English, the Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: *Senators:* Jane English, Chair; Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Eddie Cheatham, Linda Chesterfield, Lance Eads, Mark Johnson, and James Sturch

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: *Representatives:* Bruce Cozart, Chair; Reginald Murdock, Vice Chair; Fred Allen, Rick Beck, Jana Della Rosa, Jim Dotson, Brian S. Evans, Denise Garner, Grant Hodges, Mark Lowery, Stephen Meeks, and Nelda Speaks

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: *Senators:* Bob Ballinger, Alan Clark, Jonathan Dismang, Greg Leding, and David Wallace. *Representatives:* Stan Berry, Harlan Breaux, Bruce Coleman, Les Eaves, David Fielding, Charlene Fite, David Hillman, Monte Hodges, Joe Jett, Jack Ladyman, Rebecca Petty, Chris Richey, Johnny Rye, and Stuart A. Smith

Discussion of Issues Related to Enhanced Student Achievement (Poverty) Funding

Presenter:

Ms. Nell Smith, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith said this funding was originally called National School Lunch (NSL) state categorical funding because it was distributed to school districts based on the number of students in each district who were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch through the federal school lunch program. However, to avoid confusing state education funding with the federal meal program, Ms. Smith said Act 1083 of 2019 changed the name of the program to Enhanced Student Achievement (ESA) Funding. Utilizing a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation with charts and graphs, Ms. Smith discussed ESA Funding Basics; ESA Funding Distribution; ESA Funding Rates; Complicating Factors; Districts and Charter Schools Participating in Provision 2; Districts and Charter Schools Participating in Provision 2 or CEP; Impact on Achievement Data; Other ESA Funding Programs; Use of ESA Funds for Matching Grant Eligible Uses; Total ESA Funding; Poverty Funding in Other States; ESA Spending by Use; Year to Year Changes in ESA Funding Uses; ESA Expenditure Location; School-level ESA Expenditures; Student Achievement; Poverty Concentration and Student Outcomes; Poverty Concentration and Student Growth; National Comparison; ESA Expenditures and Student Achievement; and Expenditures for Allowable Uses.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- clarification of totals for multiplier ranges,
- clarification of amount allotted for school resource officers,
- intent for use of ESA funds going forward,
- challenge of improving the achievement of low-income students,
- economies of scale as a problem with funding,
- number of programs by statute and those added by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

- (DESE),
- whether data is available showing any causal relationship between money generated toward programs and effectiveness,
 - correlation between income and performance, and
 - addressing problems through systemic change and not programs.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Enhanced Student Achievement Funding and Expenditures

Handouts:

Handout C1 – Enhanced Student Achievement Categorical Funding, Highlights

Handout C2 – Enhanced Student Achievement Funding and Expenditures, Report

Handout C3 – Enhanced Student Achievement Funding and Expenditures, PowerPoint

Other Handout:

Adequacy Tracking Sheet

Continued Discussion of Written Testimony Submitted by Various Education Advocacy Organizations Regarding their Concerns about the State’s Current System of Funding for Public Education

In order to facilitate the work of the Senate Interim Committee on Education and the House Interim Committee on Education in meetings pertinent to complying with provisions of Arkansas Code Annotated §10-3-2101 et seq., the Continuing Adequacy Evaluation Act of 2004, the Chairs of the Committees requested organizations to submit written testimony outlining concerns about the state’s current system of funding for its public education system. This request was made in a BLR memorandum, dated September 5, 2019 (*Appendix A*). Presentations were made by the following: **Mr. Dale Query**, Executive Director, Arkansas Rural Education Association (AREA), and **Mr. Scott Richardson**, Attorney, McDaniel, Richardson, & Calhoun PLLC (*assisting AREA*); **Dr. Tony Prothro**, Executive Director, and **Mr. Dan Jordan**, Government Relations Director, Arkansas School Boards Association (ASBA); **Ms. Jerri Derlikowski**, Research Director, and **Mr. Thurmen Green, III**, Policy and Community Engagement Associate, ForwARd Arkansas.

Written testimony was submitted, but not presented, by **Ms. Kathy Smith**, Senior Education Advisor, Walton Personal Philanthropy Group (PPG).

PowerPoint Presentations:

AREA Adequacy Testimony

ASBA Funding Public Education in Arkansas: Thoughts, Concerns, and Recommendations

Exhibits:

Exhibit D5 – AREA Adequacy Testimony

Exhibit D6 – ASBA – Written Testimony Addressing the Adequacy of Public Education in Arkansas

Exhibit D7 – ForwARd Arkansas – Adequacy Packet

Exhibit D8 – Walton PPG Packet

Handouts:

Handout D5 AREA Adequacy Testimony PowerPoint

Handout D6; ASBA Funding Public Education in Arkansas: Thoughts, Concerns, and Recommendations, PowerPoint

Relevant Action:

Representative Mark Lowery, was recognized, and made a motion requesting the joint chairs to appoint a subcommittee to look at the possibility of adopting joint rules that would apply fairly and equitably to both sides. The motion received a second.

Representative Cozart stated the motion would be taken and Committees can vote on it; but it may not go forward. He said the House does not let committees make rules; and the Committees are governed by the House rules. The motion will have to be taken to the Parliamentarian and the Speaker.

Pursuant to the motion by Representative Lowery, the motion was carried on a voice vote.

Following discussion pertinent to the intent of the motion, Representative Lowery pulled his motion down.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, January 6, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. in MAC, Room A, Little Rock (*Joint Education/Adequacy*)

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in MAC, Room A, Little Rock (*Adequacy*)

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.