

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

ADEQUACY

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

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 Blake Johnson; and Senator Uvalde Lindsey.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Sonia Eubanks Barker; Representative Rick Beck; Representative Frances Cavanaugh; Representative Andy Davis; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Jana Della Rosa; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Mickey Gates; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative Mark McElroy; Representative Stephen Meeks; Representative Nelda Speaks; Representative James Sturch; Representative Dan Sullivan; and Representative DeAnn Vaught.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Fred Allen; Representative R. Trevor Drown; Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson; Representative David Fielding; Representative Ken Henderson; Representative Fredrick J. Love; Representative Austin McCollum; Representative David Meeks; Representative Laurie Rushing; Representative Danny Watson; and Representative Carlton Wing.

Remarks by the Chairs

The Honorable Jane English, State Senator, District 34, and Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, was recognized. Senator English stated that, in light of the new system of educational accountability brought about by Act 930 of 2017, a goal for the Committees during the Interim will be to look at Adequacy within a larger context.

Discussion of Issues Related to the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act (AESAA)

Presenter:

Ms. Julie Holt, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Holt stated that, in order to accomplish the responsibilities for the Adequacy Study set forth in statute, the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act (AESAA), and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, would be discussed in today's meeting. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Holt focused her presentation on what Act 930 of 2017 prescribes for the new accountability system. Initially, she pointed out the most significant changes in the system; continued with a brief history of educational accountability in Arkansas; and followed up with an explanation of specific components of AESAA, including Student-focused Education, Student Success Plans, Statewide Student Assessment System, Student Performance Levels, ESSA School Index, Act 930: District Level Support, Support

and Improvement, and School Recognition Program.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Ms. Deborah Coffman, Assistant Commissioner, Public School Accountability, Arkansas Department of Education

Ms. Lori Freno, General Counsel, Arkansas Department of Education

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

Ms. Stacy Smith, Assistant Commissioner, Learning Services

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- support plans for schools in academic distress within districts that show good overall performance,
- transitioning into the new accountability system,
- student achievement still part of the accountability system,
- formula for weighting criteria,
- having an objective mechanism for what Level 5 support for school districts will look like,
- measuring the projected and actual growth of an individual student,
- revising rules for determining A to F grades,
- arriving at a student's predicted score so it can be measured,
- understanding the science of the predicted score,
- clarifying the difference between student growth and performance,
- longitudinal growth model not looking at grade level, but at what is expected of the student based on prior performance,
- clarification on school districts reaching competency levels of achievement,
- opportunities for parental feedback,
- calculating students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) into the performance of school districts, and
- ensuring compliance with Lake View and the state's responsibility to provide an adequate and equitable education with the replacement of the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) with Act 930.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Education Accountability

Handouts:

Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability System, Research Report

Education Accountability

Arkansas's Educational Accountability System, Bureau Brief

Statutory Responsibilities

Update on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated State Plan

The schedule of **Mr. Johnny Key**, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education, did not permit him to attend the meeting and make the following presentation.

Presenter:

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

Dr. Pfeffer introduced new assistant commissioners at the Arkansas Department of Education: **Ms. Deborah Coffman**, Assistant Commissioner, Public School Accountability, and **Dr. Jeremy Owoh**, Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure.

Dr. Pfeffer presented an executive summary of the third draft of the ESSA Plan, which is undergoing review by the Governor. She noted there is still time to provide feedback and public comment. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Pfeffer emphasized that the ESSA Plan builds on past accountability, ensuring that students have not only an adequate and equitable education, but also an excellent education. She said ESSA goes a little farther by ensuring that performance of all students, including subgroups of students, is counted; and things going on in schools are having a positive impact on all students. Dr. Pfeffer's discussion included vision, stakeholder engagement, accountability, reporting, long-term goals, school support, assessment, English learners, and educator equity and effectiveness. She said the deadline for submission of the ESSA Plan to the United States Department of Education (USDoE) is September 18, 2017.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- defining an ineffective educator as part of ESSA requirements,
- mentoring and supporting new and novice teachers,
- delving down deeper into the lives of students not meeting predicted scores; looking at conditions beyond the school site,
- changes regarding approval of school district school support plans,
- academic standards in relation to ESSA, and
- continuing relevance of a rewards system based on school improvement.

PowerPoint Presentation:

ADE ESSA Presentation

Handouts:

ADE ESSA Executive Summary for DRAFT

ADE ESSA Presentation

ADE ESSA Talking Points

ADE Fifth Indicator Handout

Other Business

The Honorable Stephen Meeks, State Representative, District 67, was recognized. Representative Meeks reported that the project to give Broadband access to every school in the state has been completed. He said Arkansas is among the top 10 states in the nation to have done this.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, September 18, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock – *Joint Education*

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock – *Joint Education/Adequacy*

Monday, October 23, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., Marvell-Elaine School District – *Joint Education*

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 1:30pm in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock – *Academic Facilities Oversight Committee*

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Approved: 09/18/17