

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
House Committee on Education
Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, June 4, 2024
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Jane English, Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Vice Chair; Joshua Bryant, Kim Hammer, and Matt Stone; Representatives Brian S. Evans, Chair; Keith Brooks, Vice Chair; Rick Beck, Bruce Cozart, Hope Duke, Charlene Fite, Lanny Fite, Denise Garner, Wayne Long, Ron McNair, Stephen Meeks, Stetson Painter, and Carlton Wing

Other members present: Senators Tyler Dees and Mark Johnson; Representatives Howard Beaty, Cameron Cooper, Jon Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Jack Ladyman, Richard McGrew, Jon Milligan, Chad Puryear, Johnny Rye, Tara Shephard, and Joy Springer

Representative Evans called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the March 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Resource Allocation: Categorical Funds, Supplemental Funds, and Spending on Items Outside the Matrix [Exhibits C1-C2]

Adrienne Beck, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR); Lori Bowen, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, BLR; Elizabeth Bynum, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, BLR; and Jasmine Ray, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, BLR, presented information on categorical funding, supplemental funding, and non-matrix spending.

Equity in Funding and Spending [Exhibits D1-D2]

Julie Holt, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, BLR, explained horizontal equity, fiscal neutrality, and vertical equity in funding and spending.

Learning Expectations/Academic Standards [Exhibits E1-E2]

Julie Holt, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, BLR, presented information on academic standards, required courses, graduation requirements including graduation rates, and provided an overview of education legislation from the 2023 Regular Session.

Teacher Merit Incentive Program

Jacob Oliva, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE); and Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, ADE, discussed information on the Merit Teacher Incentive Fund including eligibility categories and student performance.

Career and Technical Education [Exhibits F1-F2]

Leah Headley, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, BLR, presented information on expenditures and funding, program alignment, Career and Technical Education courses and students, state

workforce connections, and upcoming legislation.

Teacher Salaries [Exhibits G1-G2]

Jasmine Ray, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, BLR, discussed teacher salary comparisons over the state and reviewed minimum teachers' salaries.

Overview of School Funding [Exhibit I]

Representative Bruce Cozart, District 91, Arkansas House of Representatives, provided an overview of proposed funding and accountability changes.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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