

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, January 6, 2026
1:00 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Jane English, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice Chair; Joshua Bryant, Breanne Davis, Jim Dotson, Stephanie Flowers, and Bryan King; Representatives Keith Brooks, Chair; Brit McKenzie, Vice Chair, Wade Andrews, Lincoln Barnett, Rick Beck, Karilyn Brown, Bruce Cozart, Hope Duke, Tony Furman, Denise Garner, Diana Gonzales Worthen, Julie Mayberry, Austin McCollum, Jessie McGruder, Stephen Meeks, Jason Nazarenko, Stetson Painter, DeAnn Vaught, and Steven Walker

Other members present: Senators Steve Crowell, Mark Johnson, Jamie Scott and Matt Stone; Representatives Fred Allen, Glenn Barnes, Howard Beaty, Jr., Stan Berry, Harlan Breaux, Joey L. Carr, Paul Childress, Denise Jones Ennett, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Jon S. Eubanks, Zack Gramlich, Mike Holcomb, Steve Hollowell, Jack Ladyman, Tippi McCullough, Kendra Moore, Aaron Pilkington, David Ray, Johnny Rye, Tara Shephard, Tracy Steele, and Jeff Wardlaw

Senator English called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve November 3, 2025, November 4, 2025, and December 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B3]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Updates on the Arkansas Acceleration, Common Sense, Cost, Eligibility, Scholarships, and Standardization (ACCESS) Act, Workforce Pell Grants, and the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship [Exhibit C]

Ross White, Director, Division of Career and Technical Education, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and Dr. Tina Moore, Director of Workforce Development, Arkansas Division of Higher Education, ADE provided an update on the ACCESS Act which is a career readiness program designed to guide high school students in making informed decisions regarding college or military service.

Presentation of the National Apprenticeship Program Administered through the Office of Skills Development

Cody Waits, Executive Director, Arkansas Workforce Connections, Arkansas Department of Commerce, presented information on the \$34 million dollar apprenticeship program that was granted to the State of Arkansas by the federal government.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) [Exhibit E]

ISP-2025-082 by Senator Steve Crowell – To Establish the Requirements for a Public School District that Initiates and Maintains a Four-Day School Week; and to Declare an Emergency

Without objection, ISP-2025-082 was adopted.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.