

**MINUTES**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**Meeting Jointly**  
**Monday, February 2, 2026**  
**1:30 PM**  
**Room A, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Jane English, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice Chair; Breanne Davis, and Jim Dotson; Representatives Keith Brooks, Chair; Wade Andrews, Lincoln Barnett, Rick Beck, Karilyn Brown, Bruce Cozart, Hope Duke, Tony Furman, Denise Garner, Julie Mayberry, Jessie McGruder, Stephen Meeks, Stetson Painter, DeAnn Vaught, and Steven Walker

Other members present: Senators Alan Clark, Steve Crowell, Mark Johnson, Jamie Scott, and Matt Stone; Representatives Fred Allen, Stan Berry, Rebecca Burkes, Joey L. Carr, Paul Childress, Denise Ennett, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Steve Hollowell, Jack Ladyman, Tippi McCullough, Shad Pearce, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, Marcus E. Richmond, Ryan A. Rose, Johnny Rye, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, Dwight Tosh, Jeff Wardlaw, and David Whitaker

Senator English called the meeting to order.

**Consideration of a Motion to Approve the January 6, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

**Update on Early Childhood Education**

Jacob Oliva, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, ADE provided an update regarding early childhood education.

**Presentation of Legal Framework of Adequacy [Exhibit D]**

Taylor Loyd, Legislative Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) provided a legal overview of the Adequacy Study including Arkansas's constitutional duties and case laws that established the current Adequacy Study requirements.

**Presentation of Historical Framework of Adequacy [Exhibit E]**

Elizabeth Bynum, Legislative Research Senior Analyst, BLR presented information regarding the historical framework of the Adequacy Study including General Assembly actions over time in relation to creating and implementing the Adequacy Study.

**Presentation of 2026 Adequacy Study Process [Exhibit F]**

Jasmine Ray, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, BLR introduced the Adequacy Study including information regarding the roles of the committee members, guiding documents, and final reports and recommendations.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.