

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

ADEQUACY

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
9:00 A.M.
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Jane English, the Chair of the Senate 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; Lance Eads; Jim Hendren; Mark Johnson; and James Sturch.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: *Representatives:* Fred Allen; Rick Beck; LeAnne Burch; Gary Deffenbaugh; Jana Della Rosa; Brian Evans; Denise Garner; Mark Lowery; Stephen Meeks; Nelda Speaks; and DeAnn Vaught.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: *Representatives:* Kenneth B. Ferguson; Justin Gonzalez; Lane Jean; Tippi McCullough; and Stu Smith.

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 referred Committee members to the Adequacy Tracking Sheet (*Handout C2*), which notes all topics required be covered in the Adequacy Study. She then reviewed the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Program (AESAP), the state's accountability system for public schools and school districts, which runs parallel to the federal system under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Holt reported on issues including *Why Hold Schools Accountable? What Is School Accountability? How Is AESAP Implemented? Soft Accountability and Letter Grades, Reward Schools, and Adequacy Outcomes Related to Educational Accountability.*

Contributors to the Discussion:

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

Ms. Tricia Kerr, Program Director, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Arkansas Department of Education

Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary of Education, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- whether any proven progress has been made in the Little Rock School District during takeover,
- source and meaning of growth score that is set as a goal to be achieved,
- A-F scores following the bell curve,
- meaning of *reconstitution* with regard to schools in distress,
- students continuing to need remedial courses when entering college,
- effect of labeling on morale of schools,
- effect of schools using innovative approaches to engage students in math and science,

- clarification of Demographics' Predictive Value for ESSA School Index Score & Its Components,
- method for excluding English Language Learner (ELL) students from A-F scores,
- correlating incarceration and other data to school performance,
- homeschooled special needs students who access special needs classes counting towards ESSA figures,
- expectations vs. realities pertinent to school districts following laws,
- presenting information in Holding Arkansas Schools Accountable (*Handout C1*) to the State Board, and
- isolating data points when tracked.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Holding Arkansas Schools Accountable

Handouts:

Handout C1 – Holding Arkansas Schools Accountable

Handout C2 – Adequacy Tracking Sheet

Handout C3 – Holding Arkansas Schools Accountable, Bureau Brief

Handout C4 – Holding Arkansas Schools Accountable, PowerPoint

English Language Learner State Categorical Funding

Presenter:

Ms. Nell Smith, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith stated ELL Funding is one of four state categorical funds to be discussed in the Adequacy Study. She said the Funding is targeted to support student services directed to students with additional needs; it is funded entirely with state funds and the funds are considered restricted. Utilizing charts, graphs, and tables, Ms. Smith walked Committee members through an in-depth report which included *English as a Second Language Program Overview; Measuring Student Success; ESL Funding and Expenditures; and Analysis of District Spending and English Learner Gains*.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Ms. Tricia Kerr, Program Director, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- bilingual vs. English immersion programs of instruction, and
- establishing awareness of and accommodating different dialects in language instruction.

Handouts:

Handout D1 – English Language Learner Funding, Bureau Brief

Handout D2 – English Language Learners (ELL) State Categorical Funding Review

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, October 7, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. in MAC, Room A, Little Rock (*Joint Education*)

Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in MAC, Room A, Little Rock (*Joint Education/Adequacy*)

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.