

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

**ADEQUACY**

**Tuesday, April 24, 2018**

**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 Alan Clark; Senator Blake Johnson; and Senator Uvalde Lindsey.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Charlotte V. Douglas, Vice Chair; Representative Sonia Eubanks Barker; Representative Frances Cavanaugh; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Jana Della Rosa; Representative Jon S. Eubanks; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative Mark D. McElroy; Representative George B. McGill; Representative Nelda Speaks; and Representative DeAnn Vaught.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Trent Garner; Senator Jason Rapert; Senator Larry Teague; Representative Scott Baltz; Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson; Representative David Hillman; Representative Roger Lynch; Representative John Maddox; Representative David Meeks; Representative Aaron Pilkington; Representative Mathew W. Pitsch; Representative Johnny Rye; Representative Matthew J. Shepherd; Representative Brandt Smith; Representative James Sorvillo; Representative Dwight Tosh; Representative Danny Watson; and Representative Carlton Wing.

Discussion of Issues Related to the Allocation of Resources for School-Level Staffing by School Districts

**Presenter:**

**Ms. Nell Smith**, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith reviewed School-Level Staffing, the second of three parts comprising the Resource Allocation Report. She noted the review started last month with District-Level Resources, and will finish next month with School-Level Resources. She commented that these reports provide analysis to help measure how well foundation funding is meeting school districts' needs. Ms. Smith referred the Committees to a pie chart on page 7 of the report for the three basic components of the Matrix: District-Level Resources, School-Level Staffing, and School-Level Resources. She said the Matrix is the formula on which the per-student foundation funding rate is based; the Matrix is a list of resources needed to operate a prototypical school of 500 students; and the Matrix also provides a per-student funding amount for each of those resources. Ms. Smith said the resource allocation analysis provides information on the resources on which districts are spending more than the funding they're receiving through the Matrix, as well as on the resources for which districts are spending less than they receive. She noted a context is provided that may help explain the spending patterns that are being seen; and clarified that expenditures are just one measure on which to judge the adequacy of funding. Ms. Smith stated that School-Level Staffing is the biggest piece of foundation funding, making up about 69% of the total. Ms. Smith walked the Committees through the 66-page report, detailing Classroom Teachers and providing highlights of each of the other components.

Contributors to the Discussion:

**Mr. Johnny Key**, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

**Mr. Isaac Linam**, Staff Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research

**Dr. Ivy Pfeffer**, Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- class size averages being reconsidered and addressed in revised draft standards,
- source of funding for increase in teachers' retirement contribution in 2019,
- formula for calculations in the Matrix on page 8,
- tracking use of excess debt service payment for expenditures,
- ADE paying employee match for teacher retirement for co-op employees,
- use of transportation money to pay for assistant principals,
- basis for granting so many waivers for media specialists,
- differences in charter schools' expenditures,
- statutory limitations on renewals for charter schools, and
- whether schools cited for having inadequately licensed special education teachers are concentrated in any area of the state.

Handouts:

Statutory Responsibility Adequacy Study

The Resource Allocation of Foundation Funding for Arkansas School Districts and Open-Enrollment Charter Schools, School-Level Staffing, Research Report

Review of the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP) Process

Presenter:

**Ms. Julie Holt**, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Holt discussed the ACSIP process, and how it has been revamped as a result of Act 930 of 2017. She said Act 930 spells out a new process for required annual school improvement planning that provides schools and school districts more autonomy and flexibility than they have experienced in the last 15 years. Ms. Holt initially delivered a history of school improvement planning; then continued with a discussion of the school improvement planning process today. She said major changes realized under the new law include: schools no longer have to use Indistar, however, it will remain the tool that all school districts must use to apply for federal funds; districts no longer develop improvement plans; and ADE no longer works directly at the school level without district input. She commented that the draft of the rules for the new accountability and school planning systems are currently in the public comment phase of approval.

Contributors to the Discussion:

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

**Mr. Johnny Key**, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ❖ metrics used to determine whether facilities are up to standard,
- ❖ ADE bringing the department together as a team to take a broader approach to school improvement,
- ❖ facilities advisory group has an August 1 deadline to bring recommendations to the Governor, and
- ❖ legislators having an opportunity to weigh in on recommendations because facilities funding is a chief component of Adequacy.

Handouts:

School Improvement Planning Under Act 930 of 2017, Highlights, Bureau Brief  
School Improvement Planning Under Act 930 of 2017, Research Report

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, May 21, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 151, State Capitol, Little Rock (*Joint Education*)  
Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 151, State Capitol, Little Rock (*Joint Education/Adequacy*)  
Thursday, July 12, 2018 and Friday, July 13, 2018, PLC Conference, Rogers High School, Rogers, AR

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

*Approved: 05/21/2018*