

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
and
SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jimmy Jeffress
Senate Chair

Representative Bill Abernathy
House Chair

September 1, 2010

Senator Robert W. "Bob" Johnson
President Pro Tempore
Arkansas Senate
Room 320, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Representative Robbie Wills
Speaker of the House
Arkansas House of Representatives
Room 350, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

**Re: A REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE 2010 INTERIM STUDY ON
EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY (ACT 57 OF THE SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF 2003 AND
ACT 1204 OF 2007)**

Dear President Johnson and Speaker Wills:

The House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education, pursuant to the provisions of Arkansas Code Annotated 10-3-2101 et seq., are pleased to submit their initial report on the legislative hearings held for the purpose of completing the 2010 interim study on the adequacy of the state's system of public education. The 2010 Adequacy Report consists of two (2) volumes. Volume 1 contains the findings and recommendations of the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education. Volume 2, which is attached as a CD, contains copies of all materials presented to the Adequacy Subcommittee and the Education Committees for this adequacy review.

As you will see in Volume 1, the Committees made a recommendation regarding the creation of a separate funding line item to be known as Enhanced Transportation Funding. The purpose of this funding is to provide additional transportation funding to those school districts whose costs are not covered by the amount of funding provided to them by the current transportation line item in the Matrix.

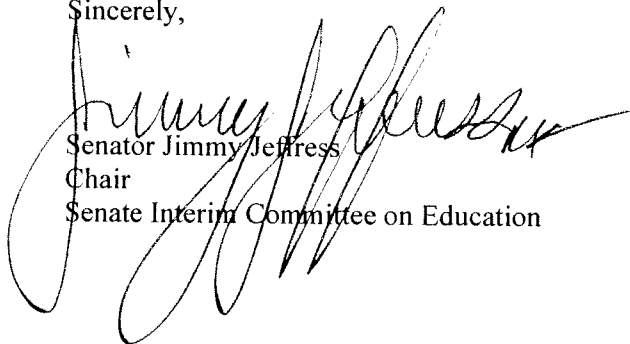
As you review this report, please keep in mind that it is not a static document, but one that is subject to revision or modification by the Education Committees as the situation warrants and as provided for by statute. The Committees have established a deadline of November 1, 2010, to address the issue of inflationary adjustments to the various components of the Funding Matrix.

This report is the result of months of work by the House Interim Committee on Education, the Senate Interim Committee on Education, and the Joint Adequacy Evaluation Oversight Subcommittee. Testimony, recommendations, advice, and input were received from Arkansas educators, agency personnel, and concerned citizens. The staff of the Bureau of Legislative Research, with the assistance of the Arkansas Department of Education, conducted a major portion of the primary research for this report and synthesized the findings in the document we respectfully present to you today.

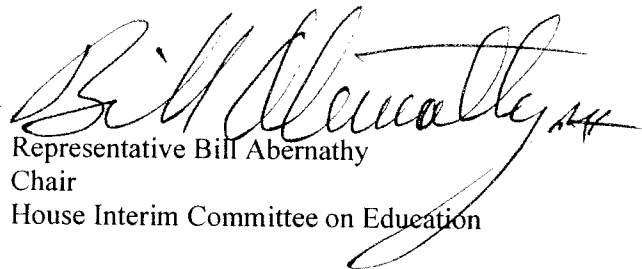
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The members of the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education look forward to working with you, the members of the 87th General Assembly, and the incoming members of the 88th General Assembly to ensure the continued adequacy of our state's system of public education.

Sincerely,



Senator Jimmy Jeffress
Chair
Senate Interim Committee on Education



Representative Bill Abernathy
Chair
House Interim Committee on Education