

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2026 Regular Session

February 17, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 5th meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education and Workforce Development was held on February 17, 2026, at 10:00 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Kim Banta, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Kim Banta, Chair; Representatives Scott Lewis, Tina Bojanowski, and Mike Clines.

Guests: Andrew McNeill, President, Kentucky Forum for Rights, Economics, and Education (KYFREE); Richard Nelson, Executive Director, Commonwealth Policy Center; Mike Harmon, State Outreach Director, Commonwealth Policy Center; CD Morton, Executive Director, Teach for America Appalachia; Rosie Ballinger, Senior Managing Director, Multi-State Strategy and Operations, Teach for America Appalachia; and Brian Gupton, Chief Executive Officer/Founder, Dataseam.

LRC Staff: Liz Columbia, Mariah Derringer-Lackey, David Talley, and Benjamin Thompson.

Approval of Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes of the February 10, 2026 meeting of the subcommittee were not approved.

Line-Item Recommendations

Andrew McNeill, President, Kentucky Forum for Rights, Economics, and Education (KYFREE); Richard Nelson, Executive Director, Commonwealth Policy Center; and Mike Harmon, State Outreach Director, Commonwealth Policy Center presented an argument for not providing line item funding for Teach for America or Dataseam.

In response to Representative Lewis, Mr. McNeill noted that former Governor Bevin line item vetoed language and funding for Dataseam in 2016. The General Assembly added Dataseam back into the budget in the 2018 Regular Session and former Governor Bevin chose not to line item veto the program at that time.

Teach for America Appalachia

CD Morton, Executive Director, Teach for America Appalachia; and Rosie Ballinger, Senior Managing Director, Multi-State Strategy and Operations, Teach for America Appalachia provided information regarding the work Teach for America Appalachia does and its budgetary requests.

In response to Representative Bojanowski, Ms. Ballinger stated that sixty percent of Teach for America teachers remain in education after three years. Ms. Ballinger noted that the \$700,000 request was not a strict per teacher allocation.

In response to Representative Lewis, Mr. Morton noted that he had worked with and for Teach for America for over a decade. In that time Mr. Morton noted that he had not seen anything to raise diversity, equity, and inclusion concerns.

Dataseam

Brian Gupton, Chief Executive Officer/Founder, Dataseam provided information regarding the work and funding of Dataseam.

In response to Representative Bojanowski, Mr. Gupton stated that technology contracts that Dataseam has with school districts does not include a professional development component, which is an additional cost to the district. Mr. Gupton said that Dataseam's professional development cost is roughly eighteen cents on the dollar.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM.