

EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes

October 15, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

A meeting of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee was held on October 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Stephen West, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair; Senators Matthew Deneen and Mike Wilson; Representatives Kim Banta, Tina Bojanowski, and Steve Riley.

Guests: Dr. Deborah Nelson, Research Division Manager, Office of Education Accountability (OEA); Sabrina J. Cummins, Research Analyst, OEA; Allison Stevens, Research Analyst, OEA; Bryan Jones, Acting Deputy Director, OEA.

LRC Staff: Lauren Busch, Peter Wright, and Sasche Allen.

Approval of July 16, 2024 Minutes

Senator Deneen moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Representative Bojanowski. The motion passed by voice vote.

Office of Education Accountability Report: School District Governance Models and Interventions

Dr. Deborah Nelson, Research Division Manager, OEA; Ms. Sabrina Cummins, Research Analyst, OEA; and Ms. Allison Stevens, Research Analyst, OEA, discussed the School District Governance Models and Interventions research report, including the major findings and conclusions. Research indicates improvement to district financial health, while academic performance remained generally unchanged.

In response to a question from Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Nelson testified that concerns of district stakeholders regarding deconsolidation are documented in OEA's report.

Responding to a question from Senator Wilson, Ms. Cummins said comparisons made to out-of-state school districts did not account for the size of a given administration or cost associated with district operations.

In response to a question from Senator West, Dr. Nelson stated research on a correlation between school district consolidation and student achievement is inconclusive.

Responding to a question from Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Nelson noted there are no examples of state-mandated deconsolidation of large urban districts available for study.

In response to a question from Representative Banta, Dr. Nelson said school districts in other states that attempted to introduce specific regional control, faced many implementation challenges.

Responding to a question from Senator Deneen, Ms. Stevens cited an example of six suburban districts in Shelby County, Tennessee that seceded from Memphis-Shelby County Schools in 2016.

In response to Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Nelson testified that on average districts that secede have higher populations of white students, compared to the district from which they seceded.

Responding to a question from Senator Wilson, Ms. Stevens said districts that consolidated had supportive leadership and administration to guide the process.

Office of Education Accountability: 2025 Study Agenda

Bryan Jones, Acting Deputy Director, OEA, and Dr. Deborah Nelson, Research Division Manager, OEA, presented the committee three studies for approval: The Annual District Data Profiles, Comprehensive Analysis of Student Discipline Data, and an Examination of the Funding Policies and Students Served in Kentucky's Early Childhood Regional Training Centers.

In response to Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Nelson confirmed OEA studies consider the local impact of federal laws, conduct conversations with department staff, and report challenges associated with identified issues.

Chair West made a motion to accept the study topics for OEA, seconded by Representative Banta. The motion passed by voice vote.

Chair West made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Senator Wilson. The motion passed by voice vote.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 AM.