

**Minutes
State Board Meeting
August 13, 2025**

Present: Leigh Keener; Jeff Wood, and Jacob Oliva, ADE Secretary

Present via Zoom: Adrienne Woods, Chair; Ken Bragg; and Randy Henderson

Absent: Lisa Hunter, Vice-Chair; Gary Arnold; Jeanie Wilcoxon, 2025 ATOY

Call to Order

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Wednesday, August 13, 2025. Adrienne Woods called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Changes to Agenda

None

Action Agenda

III.1. Rules for Final Approval

Items III.a.–III.c. were presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requested the State Board of Education's final approval of the following rules:

III.a. DESE Rules Governing Maternity Leave Cost Sharing

III.b. DESE Rules Governing Public School Choice

III.c. DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline

A motion for final approval of the DESE Rules Governing Maternity Leave Cost Sharing; the DESE Rules Governing Public School Choice; and the DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline was made by Jeff Wood, seconded by Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

III.2. Update to Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Program Renewal Grants 2025-2026 Program Year

Item III.2. was presented by Tonya Williams, Director, Office of Early Childhood. Attending via Zoom was Dr. Joe Staton, Superintendent, Mansfield School District.

The Office of Early Childhood requested approval to transfer 60 ABC slots previously assigned to the Mansfield ABC agency to the Mansfield School District. Currently, the Mansfield School District is in the process of purchasing the Mansfield ABC building and, pending approval, will become a new ABC agency.

A motion to approve the transfer of 60 ABC slots from Mansfield ABC agency to Mansfield School District was made by Leigh Keener, seconded by Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

III.3. Blytheville School District Transformation Contract

Item III.3. was presented by Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner. Also attending via Zoom from the Academies of Math and Science were Erik Greenberg, Chief Executive Officer and Kristina Winters, Superintendent.

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education made the recommendation for the Blytheville School District to enter a transformation contract with AMS Impact Group.

A motion to authorize Blytheville School District to enter a transformation contract with the AMS Impact Group was made by Randy Henderson, seconded by Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Ms. Adrienne Woods, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 9:25 AM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Jacob Oliva, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education

Adrienne Woods, Chair
State Board of Education