

Approved: _____
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Cindy Empson at 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: A quorum was present

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the committee: Majority Leader Kent Glasscock
Representative Ralph Tanner

Others attending: See Attached List

The meeting of the joint House and Senate Education committee was called to order by Senator Lawrence, Chairperson. She called on Nancy Lindberg, Attorney General's office, to request a bill introduction to the House Education Committee. The legislation was introduced.

Chairperson Lawrence stated the purpose of the joint meeting was to complete the cycle of new reform plans for education. She welcomed Representatives Glasscock and Tanner to present their plan.

Representative Glasscock led off the testimony and referred to the blue book that had been distributed. (Attachment 1) He stated that each of the tabs would delineate one part of the plan which covers the four topics of basic research, early childhood education, teacher performance and school choice research.

Representative Glasscock took the committee through the basic skills and early childhood components of the plan and stated that Representative Tanner would speak on teacher preparation. He said that the school choice portion of the plan is the only plan that is not backed by research, and that is because there is no definitive research on school choice. Because of this, he and Representative Tanner have proposed a research-based study that will create a level playing field so that at the end of the study there will be no excuses.

Representative Tanner referred the committee to the tab dealing with teacher preparation and performance and stated that he would speak of bill introduction. Several bills will be introduced in this component of the plan. He began with teacher competency which would be established by regulation of the State Board of Education. If it is determined by a school system that a newly graduated teacher from one of the teacher training institutions has a deficiency in background or training, that teacher could return to the school and receive appropriate instruction without further fees. Another bill introduction would deal with certification examination. There could possibly be another test which would determine the general knowledge capability of a teacher. Legislation will also be introduced regarding school building report cards, teacher mentoring, background checks for all certification renewal applications, and a teacher service scholarship program.

Representatives Glasscock and Tanner stood for questions. After questions and comments, the meeting was adjourned.