



Meeting Date	Thursday July 6, 2023
Attendees	Alexandrea Galleur
Tonya Williams	Anna Strong
Lori Bridges	Bill Sims
Alicia Atwood	Brandy Wolfenbarger
Danita Pitts	Dr. Joe Fisher
Sarah Shepherd	Fredricka A Tabor
Nasha Patel	Gwen Couthren
Lizzie Cosse	Jamie M. Ward
FOIA Representative	Jennifer Garrison Barber
	Leigh Keener
	Richard T. Atkinson
	Shelley Ray
	Tara Leigh Armstrong

Draft Rule/Policy Component	Work Group Feedback	

Notes

Meeting 1 - Kick Off		
Introductions of Work Group Facilitators: Tonya Williams, Lori Bridges Introductions of Work Group Members		
Set Meeting Norms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tonya will send out agenda and materials at least 3 business days in advance of each meeting ● Members will review all materials and come prepared to share feedback ● During meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mute yourself when not speaking ○ Keep feedback centered on topic at hand ○ Stay engaged ○ Be mindful of “air time” each member receives. ○ All ideas are valued 	
FOIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Legislative Intent ● All government entities are subject to FOIA ● FOIA - Public Records 	
Review of LEARNS Act	LEARNS stands for Literacy, Empowerment, Accountability, Readiness, Networking, and Safety. Signed into law March 8, 2023.	
Review of Executive Order Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partner with those closest to children and classrooms with a strong state-local partnership to improve access to quality early care and education options in all communities in AR ● Collect an accurate count of all children served by publicly funded early care and education in partnership with local leads to provide leaders with information to guide decision making ● Establish a single vision for quality early care and education that is tied to kindergarten readiness and 	

Notes

	<p>drives improvement for all sites, in partnership with local leads.</p>	
<p>LEARNS Early Learning Requirements</p>	<p>The LEARNS Act sets up Arkansas to improve the experience of families and providers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unifying early childhood programs into the Arkansas Department of Education. • Establishing local early childhood lead organizations • Convening stakeholders to advise on the unification • Establishing an accountability system indicative of child outcomes • Reducing bureaucracy and burdensome licensing regulations • Increasing transparent, family-friendly reporting 	
<p>Review Milestones and Timelines</p>	<p>Milestones</p>	<p>Timeline</p>
	<p>Transition plan in place</p>	<p>July 2023</p>
	<p>Pilot group of local leads identified</p>	<p>September 2023</p>
	<p>CCDF lead authority transfers to ADE</p>	<p>By October 1, 2023</p>
	<p>Revise licensing requirements, following a review and revision for burdensome requirements and incorporation of academic approval</p>	<p>December 2023</p>
	<p>Academic approval required for all licensed centers accepting public funds</p>	<p>By January 1, 2024</p>
	<p>Report to legislature on local early childhood lead selection and training process</p>	<p>By March 1, 2024</p>
	<p>Local early childhood leads are selected, trained, and have developed community plans (following a pilot and scale up process)</p>	<p>By October 1, 2024</p>
	<p>Pilot year of practice ratings for uniform accountability system based on child outcomes</p>	<p>Fall 2024</p>
<p>Work Group Purpose and Charge</p>	<p>The Arkansas Department of Education is convening work groups around key areas of LEARNS for external stakeholders to provide ideas, expertise, and feedback to ADE as they develop rules and policies.</p> <p>For Early Learning, the key areas that LEARNS requires new rule/policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition of programs to ADE (<i>by October 2023</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of all early learning rules previously overseen by ADHS ○ CCDF State Plan • Definition of K readiness • Licensing review (<i>by January 2024</i>) 	



Notes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local leads (<i>by August 2024</i>)• Uniform accountability system based on child outcomes (<i>by August 2024</i>)

Next Steps	Work Group members review background materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LEARNNS Act• CCDF State Plan• ABC Governing Rules and Regulations Next meeting July 20, 2023
-------------------	---