



# ALABAMA COMMISSION ON THE EVALUATION OF SERVICES

## Meeting Minutes

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### Date and Location

The Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services met on July 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 825 of the Alabama State House, 11 S. Union Street, Montgomery, AL.

### Attendance

| Member  | Present                             | Teleconference           | Absent                              |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chairman Orr  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Vice-Chair Filmore  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Commissioner Albritton  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Commissioner Carlton  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Coleman-Madison  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Green  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Commissioner Gray   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Sawyer   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Sells  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Commissioner White  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Commissioner Whitt  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Commissioner Poole, <i>ex officio</i> (Finance Director)                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Fulford, <i>ex officio</i> (LSA Fiscal Division Deputy Director) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |



A lawful quorum of voting members is present to conduct business.

### **Notice of Meeting:**

Sufficient notice of the meeting was posted on July 6, 2023, to the Secretary of State's Open Meeting Act Posting Board.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting on April 18, 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Albritton to adopt the minutes as written. Commissioner Sells seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

### **Reports and Presentation:**

Director Morgan introduced the recent report on the TEAMS program emphasizing the difference in this work product from previous evaluations. This evaluation was focused on implementation and provides an opportunity to take early corrective action in order to assess the programs impact in the future.

#### Presentation of the Implementation of the Teacher Excellence and Accountability for Mathematics and Science Program.

Amber Bullock and Savana Griffin delivered a presentation on the TEAMS program implementation with a question-and-answer period following the presentation.

Questions and Answers provided following the presentation:

Commissioner White reiterated a point from the presentation that we were unable to determine the programs impact or if it was accomplishing the goals and that we don't have the scores to measure if the program is working. He went on to ask how are we going to address these issues and who is going to address them? Ms. Bullock deferred to Director Morgan for a response. Director Morgan reiterated that this was an implementation evaluation and as the program is currently operating, nobody would be able to gauge the program's success. However, this would be an opportunity to take corrective action and require benchmarking and success measures be created. Commissioner White asked again, but who should be responsible. Director Morgan responded, ALSDE should be responsible and if they were not willing to do so that legislation could be drafted, or the Governor's office could intervene.

Chairman Orr asked what the staff would suggest we measure to determine whether or not the program is working and offered a comparison of TEAMS teachers to NON-TEAMS teachers. Director Morgan responded and said that students are not tested every year, only in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades, so it would be difficult to measure improvement year over year then attach those metrics to a teacher. Director Morgan further clarified the NAEP and ACAP testing but suggested there may be another test that looks at pre and post results that may or may not be universally applied.

Vice-Chair Filmore asked who makes the recommendations and would the staff make the recommendations. Director Morgan responded that the report includes recommendations to ALSDE on how the program can be improved. He walked through the publicly stated goals and the absence of benchmarks or defined performance standards.

Chairman Orr asked for further clarification on the expansion of the TEAMS program and if it was related to other grades or additional subjects. Ms. Griffin responded that administrators suggested expanding TEAMS to both grade and subjects. Director Morgan also provided a response, mentioning the addition of certain subjects due to schedule limitations in certain parts of the state. As an example, some rural schools require teachers to teach multiple disciplines which prevents them from becoming a TEAMS teachers.



Commissioner Fulford made a statement on the ability to measure something that hasn't been explicitly defined. There needs to be an identification of what is a success or failure. Don not let someone else guess what the goal was or what the legislation was trying to do. Measures need to be placed in the legislation.

Commissioner Albritton added to Commissioner Fulford's statement and said the ultimate goal of this program needs to be student improvement.

Commissioner White suggested the ACES Chair and Vice-Chair write a letter to ALSDE noting how much money is going into this program and the propose they establish a metric to measure student achievement. Chairman Orr said if there is no objection from the commission members then they would endeavor to do that.

Commissioner Whitt asked about the responsiveness of the agencies involved in the evaluation. Ms. Griffin responded that of the 59 LEAs that were included in the cohort, 55 participated.

#### Ongoing Work Update

Director Morgan provided a status report on the work related to Teacher Workforce follow-up work, the data request of the Department of Labor that would inform objectives related to where teachers go after leaving the field as well as where recipients of correctional education are employed post-release. In addition, we are wrapping up commissioner interviews for the FY24 workplan and will likely circulate a survey to the commissioners in early August for them to prioritize what the staff works on in FY24.

#### **Old Business:**

None

#### **New Business:**

##### Proposed FY24 Budget and FY25 Funding Request

Director Morgan offered a proposed budget that was similar to the FY24 request that was approved the year prior. He also explained the slight increases in general and pointed to a summary explanation document located on the back of the proposed budget document. He went on to discuss the FY25 request of level funding and that the staff was operating efficiently.

With there being no questions the discussion on the budgets was closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Whitt to adopt the proposed budgets. Commissioner Albritton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

#### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, at 2:32 p.m. Chairman Orr moved that the meeting be adjourned.