



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

April 16, 2026, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Call to order: 9:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

Present: Carmel Perry, Jennifer Morrow, Nathan Morris, Camille Richoux, Elaine Prewitt, Jennifer Wessel, Patrick Casey, Shannon Borchert

Absent: Ashten Black, Wendy Blount, Lisa Mundy, Ray Samaniego, Anna Strong, Bala Simon, Carole Garner, Dave Oberembt, Teresa Henson

Staff: Shanetta Agnew & Shy Whitley-Smith

Guests: Sarah Brisco, Amy Davidson, Courtney Erick, Sarah Labuda, Shae Martin, Madison Morris, Desiree Palculict, Ariel Rogers, Hattie Scribner

Review of March minutes: Due to no quorum being present the March minutes will be tabled for approval until the May meeting.

Act 1220 & Coordinated School Health Reports: Due to no quorum being present the March reports will be tabled for approval until the May meeting.

Act 1220 Coordinator Report (Shanetta Agnew & Shy Whitley):

- S. Agnew attended the Arkansas Delta Community Connections 1st Quarter Meeting on March 4, 2026. The theme was *“Addiction, Recovery, Community Impact, and What Local Leaders Can Do to Help”*.
- School Health Staff (ADE & ADH) meeting was held March 10, 2026. The Wellness & Prevention Team provided content area updates on the following:
 - AR App: 2024-2025 Data and 2025-2026 Updates and Webinars
 - Student Wellness Advocacy Groups
 - CHAC updates: Mental Health Recommendations
 - Surveillance News: 2026 School Health Profile Districts; 2025 YRBS Trends
 - CSH: Blytheville Priority District; new and Existing Partners
- S. Agnew attended Concord High School Wellness & SWAG meeting on March 19, 2026
- S. Agnew toured the El Dorado SBHC on March 30, 2026

AR App technical assistance webinars:

- Session 1 was held on Wednesday March 18, 2026, at 2:00p.m. 170 registrants attended.
- Session 2 was held on Thursday March 19, 2026, at 10:00a.m. 132 registrants attended.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

April 16, 2026, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

The technical assistance sessions included:

- Guidance related to completing the Safe & Healthy Schools section of the AR App (Sections 2.1-2.7)
- Guidance on how to utilize the SHI Assessment results to inform the district-level health and wellness goals
- Q&A

The Public Health 2026: Read, Set, Action Conference was held April 9-10 at the NLR Event Center.

Hosted by the following:

- Arkansas Chronic Disease Coordination Council (ACDCC)
- Arkansas Society for Public Health Education (ARSOPHE)
- Arkansas Public Health Association (ArkPHA)

Coordinated School Health Advisor Report (Lisa Mundy & Ariel Rogers):

The Coordinated School Health Quarterly Statewide Meeting will be held via Zoom May 13, 2026, from 8:30a.m.-11:30a.m. **Number of attendees:** Pending **Presentations included the following:** Pending

Old Business:

No updates were provided.

New Business:

Presentation: Desiree Palculict, Education Professional, DESE Facilities and Transportation “Public school requirements for cafeterias, gymnasiums, playgrounds, etc.” **(Slides are below)**



Child Health Advisory Committee
Minutes



K-12 Public Schools Facilities Requirements & Recommendations

Department of Education
Facilities & Transportation



Required Spaces Standard Sizes

Non-variable Occupancy Spaces

- Classrooms

Enrollment-based Occupancy Spaces

- Science
- Workforce Development
- Art
- Music
- PE
- Dining
- Performing Arts





Child Health Advisory Committee
Minutes

Minimum Sizes for Non-variable Spaces (Classrooms)

Room sizes are based on both the maximum class size and the minimum area per student that the building code allows.

Example: For new construction, the minimum classroom size is 850 sf, based on the maximum classroom size of 25 students for Elementary, 28 students for Middle, and 30 students for High School.

ACADEMIC CORE			
Kindergarten Classroom	1000		Maximum class size 20 students
Kindergarten Restroom	45		One per kindergarten classroom
Elem Classroom Grades 1-3	850		Maximum class size 25 students
Elem Classroom Grades 4-5	850		Maximum class size 28 students
MS Classroom Grade 6	850		Maximum class size 28 students.
MS Classroom Grades 7-8	850		Maximum class size 30 students.
Workforce Development	1,300		Two required for 700 or more students.
HS Classroom	850		Maximum class size 30 students.
Science Clrm/Lab-Gen/Physics	1,440		Minimum one plus one per each 500 students
Science Clrm/Lab-Chemistry	1,440		One per each 500 students above 1,000 students.
Science Clrm/Lab-Biol/Life Sci	1,440		One minimum to 1000 students. Additional for each 500 above 1000 students.



Minimum Sizes for Non-variable Spaces (Libraries, Music/Art, PE, Dining, Auditorium)

Room sizes are based on both the total number of students and building code occupancy

Example: For new construction, a 1200 SF Music room is required for a school with 550 or more students. A PE Area for a High School is computed as 15 SF per student, and a minimum of 6000 SF per student.

H-VA-1	Art Room	1200	Minimum one, plus one for each 500 students
M/H-VA-3	Art Material Storage	100	
E-MU-1	Music Room	1,200	Required for 550 or more students.
E-MU-2	Music Storage	100	Required for 550 or more students.
M-MU-2	Music Storage	100	Required for 550 or more students.
M/H-MU-1	Instrumental Room	1,400	Minimum one plus additional room for more than 1000 students.
H-MU-2	Instrument Storage	Computed	Minimum 200 SF. One-half SF per student.
M-MU-8	Vocal Room	1,200	Required for 700 or more students
H-MU-8	Vocal Room	1,200	Minimum one for 500 students plus additional room for more than 2000 students.
H-MU-9	Vocal Storage	150	One per vocal room.
E-PE-1	PE Area	Computed	10 SF per student. Minimum 2,500 SF, Maximum 10,000 SF. Minimum single space size 900 SF.
M-PE-1	PE Area	Computed	15 SF per student. Minimum 4,000 SF, Maximum 10,000 SF. Minimum single space size 900 SF.
H-PE-1	PE Area	Computed	15 SF per student. Min 6,000 SF, Max 30,000 SF. Includes aux gym above 1000 students. Minimum 900 SF.
H-PE-3	Student Locker Room	Computed	Minimum 2 @ 400 SF. Maximum 6 @ 850 SF.
H-PE-4	Student Restroom/Shower	Computed	Minimum 2 @ 150 SF. Maximum 6 @ 350 SF.





Child Health Advisory Committee
Minutes
April 16, 2026, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Site Selection & Design

The recommended minimum site size should be considered to provide room for adequate **bus and parent drop off, greenspace, and playfields/playgrounds.**

Recommended minimum site sizes:

- **Elementary School:** 10 acres plus 1 acre per 100 students
- **Middle School:** 20 acres plus 1 acre per 100 students
- **High School:** 35 acres plus 1 acre per 100 students
- **K-12 School:** 40 acres plus 1 acre per 100 students
- **K-8 School:** 20 acres plus 1 acre per 100 students

Consideration should be given regarding the configuration of type and quantity of athletic and recreation fields to be accommodated.



Site Selection & Design

Play equipment should be in compliance with the most current version of the **Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use** and the current guidelines for public play equipment.

Provide a firm, stable, slip-resistant, and resilient soft surface under and around play equipment.

Provide an accessible route of travel through soft-surface play are.





Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

April 16, 2026, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

The website link to Program of Requirements (POR) [Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation - Facilities- Program of Requirements](#)

POR: is divided into total dining and total kitchen. A self-funded school can combine utilizing the cafeteria and gymnasium for multi-functioning purposes. If they are applying for partnership the spaces are required to be separated.

The presentation presented today is considered best practice, but school districts are not forced to meet these requirements. One requirement is if a school district is building on a new site, they are required to have a traffic study completed. Which includes taking their plans to construction and showing the site blueprint and submitting it to Arkansas Department of Transportation for review and approval. Furthermore, if a school district is building a new facility or new addition, they are required to have an architect and an engineer design those spaces. Elementary schools are not required to have an auditorium included in their development.

S. Agnew will follow up with D. Palculict, to gain feedback on the tabled FY24 nutrition recommendations.

Data Updates: Courtney Erick, DESE Education Program Supervisor, School lunch and breakfast program changes for 2025-2026 school year vs. previous years. (**Presentation points are below**)

Federal & State Funding Structure

- Act 123 -To provide each student with one breakfast at no cost each school day upon request without consideration of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal, and to declare an emergency.
- Schools receive federal reimbursement through the **National School Lunch Program** and the **School Breakfast Program**.
- Schools must continue to count and claim students by **free, reduced price, or paid** status.
- The state covers the remaining cost difference after federal reimbursement and household contributions.
- Schools receive **\$0.30** in federal reimbursement for each reduced-price breakfast.
- The state provides an additional **\$2.06** per qualifying meal to ensure full cost recovery.

Arkansas' Support for School Breakfast

- Arkansas has a long history of supporting the **School Breakfast Program**.
- Advocacy groups have consistently promoted breakfast access and provided grant opportunities.
- Universal free breakfast has significantly expanded access by allowing all students to eat at no cost.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

April 16, 2026, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

- State level marketing and strong media attention have reduced administrative burden on schools.

Participation Data & Trends

- Data comparisons use the same timeframe — **July 1 to December 31** — to ensure accurate evaluation. During this period, breakfast participation increased by **11.7%**. Participation is expected to continue rising as the school year progresses.
- Additional data will be collected at year-end to allow for a full year to year comparison.

National School Breakfast Month (March)

- March was recognized as **National School Breakfast Month** in Arkansas.
- Participation typically increases during this period due to statewide promotional efforts. The month includes a major outreach push to school districts.
- Schools often implement special activities or themed initiatives that contribute to increased participation.

Member & Non-Member Updates/Announcements:

- ADE DESE released an RFA for the new 2026-2027 Arkansas Underserved Community School-Based Health Center Initiative. If you would like to receive the announcement, please let Amy know and she will forward the information to you. She can be reached at Amy.Davidson@arkansas.gov.
- Kenley Money, Director of Information Systems Architecture/Arkansas APCD Director at ACHI, is retiring at the end of June. Kenley has played a major role in ACHI's data work over the years, including the collection of BMI data that supports the annual report.
- Partnership for Health Literacy in Arkansas (ArPHA section) will have a kickoff meeting on May 20, 2026, at 3:00p.m. Link to register <https://healthliteracy.uams.edu/blog/>



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

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Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82188157602?pwd=cMg1WAWAkNknHOSmxbWQTUWac2tOKA.1>

Meeting ID: 835 8229 5337 Passcode: 229369

One tap mobile: +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

State Board of Education are held monthly on the 2nd Thursday and Friday of each month.

May 13-14 at 9:00 am

June 9-10 at 9:00 am

State Board of Health meetings are held quarterly on the 4th Thursday of each month.

June 25 at 10:00 am