

JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

January 14, 2026
11:30 AM

Hearing Room G

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Sen. Lew Frederick
Sen. Suzanne Weber

Rep. Ricki Ruiz, Co-Chair
Rep. Zach Hudson
Rep. Susan McLain
Rep. Dwayne Yunker

GUEST MEMBER:

Rep. Emily McIntire

MEMBER(S) EXCUSED:

Rep. Boomer Wright

STAFF PRESENT:

Wendy Gibson, Legislative Fiscal Office
Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office
Ron Nalley, Committee Assistant

EXHIBITS:

Exhibits from this meeting are available [here](#)

00:00:05 [Meeting Called to Order](#)
00:00:06 Representative Ruiz, Presiding Co-Chair
00:01:06 Wendy Gibson, Legislative Fiscal Office
00:01:25 Co-Chair Ruiz

00:01:49 [5. Department of Education - SSF Modernization](#)
00:01:57 Tenneal Wetherell, Deputy Director of Operations, Department of Education
00:03:07 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:03:22 Rep. McLain
00:03:31 Tenneal Wetherell
00:04:41 Rep. McLain
00:04:53 Tenneal Wetherell
00:05:05 Rep. McLain

00:05:09 Tenneal Wetherell
00:05:20 Rep. Yunker
00:05:32 Tenneal Wetherell
00:06:13 Rep. Yunker
00:06:18 Tenneal Wetherell
00:06:19 Rep. Yunker
00:06:22 Wendy Gibson, Legislative Fiscal Office
00:06:54 Rep. McLain
00:07:35 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:07:46 Ben DeYoung, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Administrative Services
00:07:59 Wendy Gibson
00:08:23 MOTION: Co-Chair Sollman moves the Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation to the Full Committee

00:08:27 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:08:34 Rep. Emily McIntire, House District 56
00:09:10 Amber Forester, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education
00:09:48 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:10:13 VOTE: 7-0-1
Ayes: Sens. Frederick, Sollman, Weber; Reps. Hudson, McLain, Ruiz, Yunker
Exc: Rep. Wright
MOTION CARRIES
Carrier: Sen. Sollman

00:10:25 Co-Chair Ruiz

00:10:29 **6. Department of Early Learning and Care - Systems Alignment**
00:10:32 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:10:41 Wendy Gibson, Legislative Fiscal Office
00:11:35 Cooper Brown, Deputy Director of Operations, Department of Early Learning and Care

00:17:48 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:17:55 Rep. McLain
00:18:13 Cooper Brown
00:18:31 Co-Chair Sollman
00:18:46 Cooper Brown
00:19:31 Co-Chair Sollman
00:19:47 Cooper Brown
00:19:59 Co-Chair Sollman
00:20:31 Cooper Brown
00:20:50 Co-Chair Sollman
00:21:41 Rep. Emily McIntire, House District 56
00:22:07 Cooper Brown
00:22:35 Rep. McIntire
00:22:52 Cooper Brown
00:23:10 Rep. McLain

00:23:49 Cooper Brown
00:24:00 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:24:08 Ben DeYoung, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Administrative Services
00:24:15 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:24:19 Wendy Gibson
00:24:26 MOTION: Co-Chair Sollman moves the federal grant application to the Full Committee with the LFO recommendation to approve the request
00:24:30 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:25:15 VOTE: 7-0-1
Ayes: Sens. Frederick, Sollman, Weber; Reps. Hudson, McLain, Ruiz, Yunker
Exc: Rep. Wright
MOTION CARRIES
Carrier: Sen. Frederick
00:25:25 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:25:28 **4. Higher Education Coordinating Commission - Improvement of Postsecondary Education**
00:25:33 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:25:45 Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office
00:26:42 Tom Reil, Director of Operations, Higher Education Coordinating Commission
00:27:36 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:27:42 Stacy Chase, Chief Financial Office, Department of Administrative Services
00:27:52 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:27:57 Kim To
00:28:06 MOTION: Co-Chair Sollman moves the federal grant application to the Full Committee with the LFO recommendation to approve the request
00:28:10 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:28:16 Rep. Emily McIntire, House District 56
00:28:21 Tom Reil
00:28:29 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:28:40 VOTE: 7-0-1
Ayes: Sens. Frederick, Sollman, Weber; Reps. Hudson, McLain, Ruiz, Yunker
Exc: Rep. Wright
MOTION CARRIES
Carrier: Rep. Ruiz
00:28:57 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:29:12 Co-Chair Sollman
00:29:33 Rep. Yunker
00:29:51 Kim To
00:30:10 Rep. Yunker
00:30:15 Co-Chair Sollman
00:31:11 Rep. Yunker
00:31:19 Co-Chair Sollman
00:31:30 Rep. Yunker

00:31:35 Co-Chair Sollman
00:31:38 Rep. Yunker
00:31:45 Co-Chair Sollman
00:32:07 Rep. Yunker
00:33:06 Co-Chair Sollman
00:34:37 Rep. Yunker
00:35:14 Co-Chair Sollman
00:35:44 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:36:14 Rep. McLain
00:36:53 Sen. Frederick
00:37:35 Sen. Weber
00:38:07 Co-Chair Ruiz
00:39:05 Co-Chair Sollman
00:39:53 Rep. Yunker
00:40:36 Co-Chair Sollman
00:40:42 Rep. Yunker
00:40:54 Co-Chair Ruiz

00:41:44 Meeting Adjourned