

House Education Committee Information

Meeting times and locations. The House Education Committee meets Mondays at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays upon adjournment in House Committee Room 0112. Occasionally, the committee meets in a different room to accommodate larger crowds or the needs of other committees. Changes to the regular schedule are announced on the House floor prior to adjournment. Schedule and room changes will also be announced through Twitter. You may sign up for these announcements through this website: www.twitter.com/coeducationcomm (if you do not have a Twitter account, you must create one in order to follow the committee).

Committee staff. Each committee is assigned a nonpartisan staff person to assist the chair in managing the committee workload and to serve other committee members and the public. Kristen Johnson staffs the House Education Committee. She is available to answer any of your questions regarding the committee schedule or the legislative process. She may be reached at (303) 866-4918 or Kristen.Johnson@state.co.us.

Committee hearings. Committee meetings are broadcast over the internet. If you are not able to attend the meeting in person, you can listen live over the internet. To access the live feed, go to <http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2011a/cslFrontPages.nsf/Audio?OpenPage>. On the left side of the screen, please select the House Committees drop-down menu and click the link for House Education. From here you may access committee meetings that are in progress, view upcoming committee meeting dates, and listen to archived hearings.

Testifying before the committee. If you wish to testify before the committee, please sign up. The sign-up sheets are available at the start of the committee hearing. The chair oversees the public testimony and recognizes those on the sign-up sheets in an order most conducive to the business before the committee. With rare exception, everyone signed up to testify will be called upon. Please wait to be recognized by the chair prior to beginning your testimony. Because the meetings are taped and broadcast over the internet, it is important for the chair to recognize all those speaking. The appropriate manner of address to the committee chair is "Mr. Chair." The appropriate manner of address to House committee members is "Representative." Once you have been recognized by the chair, begin your testimony by giving your name and the organization you represent, if any. Because committees are subject to tight deadlines and busy schedules, please keep your testimony concise and, to the extent possible, do not repeat testimony that may have already been provided to the committee. This is a courtesy to the legislative members as well as those in the audience waiting to testify. The chair encourages witnesses to limit testimony to three minutes. If you have a written copy of your testimony, please provide it to Kristen. Please observe professional decorum during the committee meetings. Clapping, booing, or otherwise disruptive behavior is not permitted. Witnesses are to avoid any personal attacks or other emotional outbursts. Finally, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices prior to the start of the meeting. Ringing cell phones are highly disruptive to the members and audience during committee hearings.

Joint meetings with the Senate Education Committee. Joint Rule 25 directs committees of reference to keep themselves advised of the activities, functions, problems, new developments, and budgets of the principal departments under their purview. The House and Senate Education committees have direct oversight over the Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education, and the State Board of Land Commissioners. Section 2-7-203, C.R.S., directs committees of reference to conduct hearings and hear presentations from the departments under their purview during the first 15 days of the legislative session. During the first thirty days, the committee is required to meet with the Joint Budget Committee to review these departments' budgets. In addition, the Joint Education Committee meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. as

scheduled by the chairs. Information on these meetings can be found in the daily House and Senate calendars. The committee hears presentations on various education topics that update legislators on past legislative decisions and inform them on future ones. The briefings are for information only, and no legislative action is taken at these meetings.