

KATE BARNES

203 Graduate Education Building
Department of Education Reform
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

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EDUCATION

University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR
Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Education Reform Expected May 2025
Doctoral Academy Fellow
Advisor: Dr. Sarah McKenzie

Arkansas State University Jonesboro, AR
M.S., Educational Leadership, Department of Teacher Education and Leadership August 2019
Concentration: Curriculum and Design

University of Tennessee, Knoxville Knoxville, TN
B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies: Sustainability, College of Arts and Sciences May 2014
Minor: Environmental Studies, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
Dean's Students Advisory Council, SACURH Regional Winner of RA of the Month, Dean's List

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Education Reform August 2021 – Present

- Collaborating with EDRE's Office for Education Policy to organize and implement researcher projects with Arkansas public schools focusing on:
 - Impacts of adopting a four-day school week
 - Identifying the early predictors of students placed in alternative learning environments
 - Various structural school models or educational paths available to students
- Communicate research findings to diverse stakeholders, including educators, policymakers, and community members, through presentations, reports, and other media

Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative Fayetteville, AR
Strategic Data Fellow, Office for Education Policy June 2024 – Present

- Collaborate school district leadership to conduct research for and with member schools of the NWA Educational Service Cooperative
- Create tailored reports for districts highlighting growth, achievement, and programmatic outcomes, with breakdowns by school buildings
- Develop clear visualizations and user-friendly reports to communicate key metrics to district stakeholders

- Categorized elementary schools by school type in alignment with high school types for analysis, helping policymakers understand how to best prepare students for success
- Collaborated with educators, policymakers, and communities to provide actionable data on student attainment and lead conversations to help them make meaning and take action
- Participated in peer coding reviews and working groups to develop skills in R and Git

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Djita, R., **Barnes, K.**, McKenzie, S. (In Revision). English Language Learners and Their Postsecondary Education Outcomes: Evidence from Arkansas. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*.

Barnes, K., & McKenzie, S. (Under Review). Professional Learning Communities and Student Outcomes: A Quantitative Analysis of the PLC at Work Model in Arkansas Schools. *Educational Researcher (ER)*.

Barnes, K., & McKenzie, S. (Under Review). We Wanted to Do Something Innovative: Exploring Motivations of Arkansas Districts Adopting Four-Day School Weeks or Year-Round Calendars. *Leadership and Policy in Schools*.

WORKING PAPERS & RESEARCH BRIEFS

Barnes, K., & McKenzie, S. (2024). Professional Learning Communities and Student Outcomes: A Quantitative Analysis of the PLC at Work Model in Arkansas Schools. [Arkansas Education Report](#). Office for Education Policy, University of Arkansas.

Barnes, K., & McKenzie, S. (2023). Exploring Academic Outcomes in Arkansas Schools: A Study of Four-Day School Week and Year-Round Calendar Districts. [Arkansas Education Report](#). Office for Education Policy, University of Arkansas.

Djita, R., **Barnes, K.**, McKenzie, S. (2023). English Language Learners and Their Postsecondary Education Outcomes: Evidence from Arkansas. [Working Paper](#). Department of Education Reform, University of Arkansas.

Barnes, K., & McKenzie, S. (2023). We Wanted to Do Something Innovative: Exploring Motivations of Arkansas Districts Adopting Four-Day School Weeks or Year-Round Calendars. [Arkansas Education Report](#). Office for Education Policy, University of Arkansas.

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S., and Reid, C. (2022). Movin' On Up: An Examination of Value-Added Growth During School Transition Years in Arkansas. [Arkansas Education Report](#).

POLICY REPORTS

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. (2024). Effects of PLC at Work in Arkansas on Student Outcomes (**Policy Brief**). [OEP Policy Brief](#).

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. (2023). Exploring Academic Outcomes in Arkansas Schools: A Study of Four-Day School Week and Year-Round Calendar Districts (**Policy Brief**). [OEP Policy Brief](#).

McGee, J., **Barnes, K.** (2023). Analysis of Arkansas’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs (Arkansas LEARNS Report 4A). University of Arkansas. <https://learns.ade.arkansas.gov/File/5bwqhr1m.pdf>

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. (2023). Explorations of Motivations for Adopting a Four-Day School Week or Year-Round Calendar: Evidence from Arkansas (**Policy Brief**). [OEP Policy Brief](#).

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. (2022). An Examination of School Transitions on Value-Added Growth in Arkansas (**Policy Brief**). [OEP Policy Brief](#).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Barnes, K. (2023, April 27). Bold or Risky? Caution on Changing School Calendar: [Op-Ed]. Arkansas Democrat Gazette. arkansasonline.com/news/2023/apr/27/bold-or-risky/

Barnes, K. (2022, April 6). Building Transitions Lead to Lower Value-Added Growth for Middle-School Students. Blog – Office for Education Policy. oep.uark.edu/building-transitions-lead-to-lower-value-added-growth-for-middle-school-students/

Barnes, K. (2023, March 8). Hot Topic: School Calendars. Hot Topic: School Calendars. Blog – Office for Education Policy. oep.uark.edu/hot-topic-school-calendars/

PRESENTATIONS

Barnes, K., Chabra, P., Medler, A., Molloy, M., Wallace, M. (2024). RPP Insights from Early Career and Student Scholars. Panel Presentation. Presented at National Network of Education Research Practice Partnerships (NNERPP) Annual Forum, Richmond, VA, July 25, 2024.

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. (2024). We Wanted to Do Something Innovative: Exploring Motivations of Arkansas Districts Adopting Four-Day School Weeks or Year-Round Calendars. Paper Presentation. Presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference, Philadelphia, PA, April 11, 2024.

Barnes, K., (2024). Exploring the Impact of Four-Day School Weeks on Educational Choice and Access: A Quantitative Analysis in Arkansas. Paper Presentation. Presented at the International School Choice and Reform (ISCRC) Conference, Madrid, Spain, January 7, 2024.

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. (2023). We Wanted to Do Something Innovative: Exploring Motivations of Arkansas Districts Adopting Four-Day School Weeks or Year-Round Calendars. Paper Presentation. Presented at the Annual Mid-South Educational Research Associates (MSERA) Conference, Pensacola, FL, November 10, 2023.

Barnes, K. (2023). We Wanted to Do Something Innovative: Exploring Motivations for Arkansas Districts Adopting Four-Day School Weeks. Presented at the Four-Day School Week Conference, Corvallis, OR, October 20, 2023.

Djita, R., **Barnes, K.**, McKenzie, S. (2023). English Language Learners and their Post Secondary Education Outcomes: Evidence from Arkansas. Roundtable Presentation. Presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference, Chicago, IL, April 14, 2023.

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. (2023). Impacts of Categorical Funding Policies on Alternative School Placements. Paper Presentation. Presented at the Annual Association for Education Finance & Policy (AEFP) Conference, Denver, CO, March 23, 2023.

Djita, R., **Barnes, K.**, McKenzie, S. (2022). English Language Learners and their Post Secondary Education Outcomes: Evidence from Arkansas. Paper Presentation. Presented at the Annual Association for Education Finance & Policy (AEFP) Conference, Denver, CO, March 23, 2023.

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. (2023) We Wanted to Do Something Innovative: Exploring Motivations of Arkansas Districts Adopting Four-Day School Weeks or Year-Round Calendars. Paper Presentation. Presented at Moving Arkansas Education Forward Conference, Little Rock, AR, February 16, 2023.

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. (2022). Understanding the Early Predictors for Alternative School Placement: Evidence from Arkansas. Paper Presentation. Presented at the annual Mid-South Educational Research Associates (MSERA) Conference, Little Rock, AR, November 10, 2022.

Djita, R., **Barnes, K.**, McKenzie, S. (2022). English Language Learners and their Post Secondary Education Outcomes: Evidence from Arkansas. Presented at the Annual Mid-South Educational Research Associates (MSERA) Conference, Little Rock, AR, November 9, 2022.

Barnes, K. (2022). Movin' On Up: An Examination of Value-Added Growth During School Transition Years in Arkansas. Paper Presentation. Presented at the Arkansas Department of Education Summit, Hot Springs, AR, July 12, 2022.

Barnes, K. (2022). Predictors for Entering an Alternative Learning Environment in Arkansas. Poster Presentation. Presented at the Annual Association for Education Finance & Policy (AEFP) Conference, Denver, CO, March 17, 2022.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. (2023) We Wanted to Do Something Innovative: Exploring Motivations of Arkansas Districts Adopting Four-Day School Weeks or Year-Round Calendars. Poster Presentation. Four-Day School Week Conference, Corvallis, OR, October 20, 2023.

MISCELLANEOUS

RADIO INTERVIEWS

- Moore, M. (Reporter). (2024, June 27). [No statistically significant results” from Solution Tree’s program according to recent study](#). In *Ozarks at Large*. KUAF, National Public Radio.
- Travis, J. (Reporter). (2023, November 22). [Lincoln Consolidated School District trims school week to benefit mental health](#). In *Ozarks at Large*. KUAF, National Public Radio.
- Kellams, K. (Director). (2023, March 3). [Why Schools Consider Four-Day Weeks](#). In *Ozarks at Large*. KUAF, National Public Radio.

PRESS MENTIONS

- Snyder, J. (2024a, May 25). [Report on 7-year Arkansas education contract finds no significant gains; state considering \\$99.4M renewal](#). *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*.
- Hardy, B. (2024, June 3). [Education vendor Solution Tree abandons ship on hefty state contract](#). *Arkansas Times*.
- Snyder, J. (2024b, June 3). [Solution Tree CEO requests that Arkansas Department of Education withdraw proposed contract from state’s review process](#). *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*.

HONORS & AWARDS

- | | |
|---|------|
| James E. McLean Distinguished Research Paper Award, MSERA | 2023 |
| Above and Beyond Award, Fayetteville Public Schools | 2019 |

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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| University of Arkansas Doctoral Academy Fellowship | 2021 - Present |
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ACADEMIC SERVICE

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| Brownbag Lecture Coordinator, EDRE | 2024 – 2025 |
| Lecture Series Coordinator, EDRE | 2022 – 2024 |
| Graduate and Professional Student Congress | 2021 – 2022 |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) | 2019 - Present |
| Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) | 2021 - Present |
| Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA) | 2022 - Present |
| American Educational Research Association (AERA) | 2023 - Present |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Quantitative Analytical Techniques for Education Policy Fall 2023

PhD in Education Policy, University of Arkansas

Research Seminar in Education Policy Spring 2023, Spring 2024

PhD in Education Policy, University of Arkansas

K-12 TEACHING

Owl Creek School Fayetteville, AR

5th and 6th Grade Teacher, Science and Mathematics August 2018 – May 2021

Decatur Middle School Decatur, AR

5th Grade Teacher, Science and Mathematics August 2016 – May 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ozark Natural Science Center Huntsville, AR

Teacher Naturalist August 2015 – May 2016

City of Fayetteville Fayetteville, AR

AmeriCorps Volunteer, Recycling & Trash Collection October 2014 – August 2015