

KATE BARNES

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Department of Education Reform
University of Arkansas
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EDUCATION

University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR
Ph.D. Student, 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
- Investigating the effects of various school models either structurally or alternative paths available to students
- Identifying the early predictors of students being placed in an Alternative Learning Environment in Arkansas public schools
- Examining the effects of grade level transitions on student value-added growth in literacy and mathematics in Arkansas public schools

To&Through Project, Uchicago Consortium on School Research Chicago, IL
Data and Research Intern

June 2023 – September 2023

- Categorized elementary schools by school type in alignment with high school 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

WORKING PAPERS & RESEARCH BRIEFS

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

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. (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/

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

PRESENTATIONS

Djita, R., **Barnes, K.,** McKenzie, S. (2022). 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.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Motivators and Outcomes of Adopting a Non-Traditional School Calendar

This mixed method research project examines the rationale behind why districts in Arkansas adopt non-traditional school calendars such as 4-day school weeks, or year-round/balanced school calendars. This project has been done in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education.

Alternative Learning Environments (ALEs):

ALEs are an intervention program designed to provide guidance, counseling, academic, or emotional support to students experiencing barriers to success in a traditional education setting. Relatively little research has been done focusing on the outcomes of these students. Previous projects have focused on early predictors for students placed in ALEs from characteristics in middle grades. Upcoming projects focus on the long-term outcomes of students who graduated from an ALE, and the effects of different state funding policies on ALE students.

Career and Technical Education Audit (CTE):

CTE provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. Per a recent executive order from the governor of Arkansas, the CTE audit will focus on the various CTE pathways, an analysis of existing CTE program offerings in the state, as well as the long-term outcomes of students in the labor market.

HONORS & AWARDS

Fayetteville Public Schools Above and Beyond Award 2019

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

University of Arkansas Doctoral Academy Fellowship 2021 - Present

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Lecture Series Coordinator, EDRE 2022 - Present

Graduate and Professional Student Congress 2021 – 2022

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development 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

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
AmeriCorps Volunteer, Recycling & Trash Collection

Fayetteville, AR
October 2014 – August 2015