



Weekly Legislative Update

04.12.24

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

After a harrowing and emotional [floor debate](#), Tennessee received [national attention](#) as, [SB1325](#), a bill that would allow a school faculty or staff member to possess and carry a concealed handgun on the grounds of their assigned school if they meet certain requirements, passed along a party line vote (26-5) in the Senate despite fierce opposition from the Senate Democrats and public pressure from a full gallery. The House companion to [SB1325](#), [HB1202](#), is currently held on the desk in the House Chamber meaning that the bill is parked on the House floor. To bring [HB1202](#) up for consideration, the House bill sponsor must make a motion to send [HB1202](#) back to the [House Calendar and Rules Committee](#) to be scheduled for floor debate. The Education Trust - Tennessee stands firmly opposed to the legislation and urges you to join over 350 Tennesseans to sign on to our [statement of opposition](#).

Tennessee’s lawmakers are expected to take up the vehicle for Governor Lee’s proposed budget, [HB2973/SB2942](#), next week signaling that the 113th General Assembly will adjourn in the next few weeks. Top of mind for education advocates is whether or not legislators will increase the funding for the universal private school vouchers proposals, approve the initial \$141.5 million proposed by Governor Lee, or choose to spend those dollars on other legislative appropriations. As leadership and key legislators meet to negotiate a joint proposal for universal private school vouchers this week, the discussions for [HB1183](#) and [SB503](#), the House and Senate proposals for universal private school vouchers were postponed to Wednesday, April 16 in the [House Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee](#) and the [Senate Finance Ways and Means Committee](#) on Tuesday, April 15.

The last education committee closed this week as the House Education Administration Committee considered its last calendar of the 2024 legislative session. The committee passed HB2326 which creates an alternative pathway to fifth grade for fourth graders who were promoted to fourth grade using an alternative pathway. Other key legislation considered this week includes:

- [HB902](#), a [2024 Ten for Tennessee Awardee](#), that creates public dashboards capturing education to workforce data passed out of the House Government Operations Committee and is headed to the House Finance Ways and Means Committee.
- [HB1914](#), [HB2184](#), and [HB785](#), all [2024 Ten for Tennessee Awardees](#), were placed behind the budget this week in the House Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee but are expected to be considered next week during the [House Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee](#) on Wednesday, April 16.
- [HB1632](#), which gives parents the right to sue public schools over the enforcement of the Age Appropriate Materials Act of 2022, will be heard in the [House Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee](#) on Wednesday, April 16. Join [The Tennessee Coalition for Truth in Our Classrooms](#) and stand in opposition to HB1632 by signing on to this [statement of opposition](#).

In partnership,



MaKenzie L. Mosby, MPP
Senior Manager of Government Relations for Tennessee



On Our Radar

[HB0785 / SB0750](#)
Rep. White / Sen. Massey

As introduced, requires the department to create and implement a promising futures program to provide scholarships to children who are not school age to assist them in developing early language and literacy skills in a high-quality early care and learning program; redirects, from the lottery for education account to an account administered by the department to provide funding for the promising futures scholarship program, a certain percentage of the privilege tax collected from sports wagering licensees for certain fiscal years.

[HB1183 / SB0503](#)
Rep. Lamberth / Sen. Johnson

As introduced, extends from October to November, the time within which a public institution of higher education that receives funding from the distribution of credit cards to students or any percentage from the use of cards bearing the college or university name or logo must report the amount of such funds or percentage received as well as how the funds were expended during the previous fiscal year to the education committee of the senate and the education administration committee of the house of representatives.

[HB0902 / SB0461](#)
Rep. Hurt / Sen. Watson

As introduced, establishes the future of work commission to govern the activities of the Tennessee education and workforce data center established in the department of finance and administration's office of evidence and impact to collect, conduct research using, respond to public records requests for, and publish reports regarding certain education and workforce data to create a web-based platform to provide an overview of progress from education into the workforce.

[HB1632 / SB1858](#)
Rep. Bulso / Sen. Haile

As introduced, gives a parent of a child who attends, or who is eligible to attend, a school operated by a local education agency or a public charter school standing to file a civil action against the LEA or public charter school in a chancery court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What’s Happening

House Floor Session
Monday, 4/15/24, 3:00pm
House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

House Finance, Ways, and Means Subcommittee
Tuesday, 4/16/24, 2:00pm
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Floor Session
Thursday, 4/18/24, 8:30am
Senate Chamber | [Senate Homepage](#)

House Floor Session
Thursday, 4/18/24, 9:00am
House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

Event: "Can't Be Erased" An Event to Rally Against Book Bans and Curriculum Censorship

Join [EdTrust](#) and renowned leaders in education and civil rights on Wednesday, April 17, 6 – 7:30 p.m. ET for an essential conversation on how to push back against efforts to suppress the teaching of honest history and diversity of identities and ideas. EdTrust - Tennessee’s [Meili Powell](#), Assistant Director of Advocacy & Engagement, will be speaking at the virtual event.

[Register here](#)

Article: Amid clamor from protesters, Tennessee Senate passes bill to arm some teachers

[SB1325](#) which would allow teachers to carry guns, cleared the Senate in Tennessee. If it passes the House, Tennessee will be on the verge of enacting a law that most teachers and parents oppose. Check out [this article](#) in Chalkbeat to read more.

[Read more](#)

Report: How Student, Family, and Community Engagement Impacts Students’ Social, Emotional, and Academic Development (SEAD)

[This report](#) from EdTrust discusses how schools can better communicate with families, caregivers, and communities to support students’ academic development and overall wellbeing, the numerous barriers that can get in the way of such engagement, and offers recommendations for federal, state, and local policymakers to help schools improve the ways in which they respond to their community’s needs.

[Read more](#)

Fact Sheet: Understanding Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment (DE), in which high school students take college courses, has great potential to help make the high-school-to-college transition more effective and equitable—and to do so on a large scale. Check out this fact sheet to learn more.

[Read more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Legislative Advocacy Hub](#)

