



# Weekly Legislative Update

04.19.24

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

As [protesters marched](#) to express their [opposition to recent proposals](#), Tennessee’s lawmakers contended with the last pieces of legislative business for the year which include passing Governor Lee’s FY24 proposed budget and deciding the fate of the universal private school voucher proposals.

On Tuesday, both universal private school voucher proposals, [HB1183](#) and [SB503](#), were quietly removed from consideration in the [House Finance Ways and Means](#) and [Senate Finance Ways and Means](#) Committees. With both committees closed for the 2024 legislative session, neither proposal, [HB1183](#) or [SB503](#), is expected to be taken up for a floor vote in either chamber.

[HB390](#) has been elevated to the universal private school vouchers conversation due to its ability to carry an amendment that proposes a universal private school program. However, as of this writing on Friday afternoon, no amendments creating a universal private school voucher program have been filed or attached to [HB390](#).

Even though [HB1183](#) is not expected to be heard further in this session or become law, both the House and Senate Finance Ways and Means Committee included Governor Lee’s proposed universal voucher funding of \$144.5 million in the appropriations bill. In the instance that a universal private school vouchers proposal does not pass, the \$144.5 million would remain in the budget until the following session. Governor Lee does not have authority to spend those dollars at his discretion, as the General Assembly is the appropriating authority for state funds.

With the universal private school voucher debate seemingly concluded, the Tennessee General Assembly executed its only constitutional legislative responsibility: passing an appropriations bill that funds Tennessee’s government based on the current Governor’s proposed budget. Governor Lee’s FY24 proposed budget, [HB2973](#), passed both the Senate and House Finance Ways, and Means Committees before being heard in a lengthy debate on the floor of the House chamber and Senate chamber where the budget passed in a 78-18 vote and 26-4 vote respectively.

Other key legislation heard this week include, [HB902](#), [HB1914](#), [HB2184](#), [HB785](#), all [2024 Ten for Tennessee](#) awardees, unfortunately did not receive the funding needed to pass and will not be considered further this year. As a win, [HB1632](#), which gives parents the right to sue public schools over the enforcement of the Age Appropriate Materials Act of 2022, was taken off notice and is not expected to be considered further this legislative session. [HB1202](#), which allows 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, is still held on the desk in the House Chamber. Join The Education Trust - Tennessee and stand in opposition to [HB1202](#) by signing on to this [letter of opposition](#).

With the universal private school vouchers proposals in a dormant posture and the appropriations bill passed through the House and Senate, the 2024 legislative session is expected to adjourn next week.

In partnership,



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



## On Our Radar

[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 funds 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.

[HB1605 / SB1722](#)  
Rep. Bulso / Sen. Hensley

As introduced, prohibits LEAs and public charter schools from displaying in public schools flags other than the official United States flag and the official Tennessee state flag.

[HB1202 / SB1325](#)  
Rep. Williams / Sen. Bailey

As introduced, authorizes a faculty or staff member of a school to carry a concealed handgun on school grounds subject to certain conditions, including obtaining an enhanced handgun carry permit and completing annual training.

[HB0390 / SB0191](#)  
Rep. Cepicky / Sen. Lundberg

As introduced, deletes a provision authorizing the state board of education to, in its discretion, waive the requirement that a person employed as a supervisor for the supervision of teaching grades 1-12 have a license of qualification issued by the board if the supervisor was employed and serving in that capacity in a nonequalizing local school district as of January 1, 1957.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



## What's Happening

**House Floor Session**  
Monday, 4/22/24, 12:00pm  
House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

**House Floor Session**  
Tuesday, 4/23/24, 1:00pm  
House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

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

**House Floor Session**  
Thursday, 4/25/24, 9:00am  
House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



## Noteworthy

**Article: Tennessee budget keeps \$144 million for statewide school voucher program that’s still in limbo**

Tennessee lawmakers approved a state budget Thursday that includes \$144 million to create a statewide school voucher program that Republican leaders say they’re still working to pass. Check out [this article](#) in Chalkbeat to learn more.

[Read more](#)

**Article: Tennessee schools would have to out transgender students to parents under bill heading to governor**

Tennessee would join the ranks of states where public school employees have to [out transgender students to their parents](#) under a bill advancing in the Republican-supermajority Legislature

[Read more](#)

**Article: Want to see how Tennessee measures third grade reading? Try a TCAP practice test**

The standardized Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program tests, also known as TNReady or TCAPs, kick off this week statewide. Check out [this article](#) in the Tennessean to try a TCAP practice test.

[Read more](#)

**Article: New Title IX Rules Are Out. Here’s What You Need to Know**

Designed to protect college and university students and employees from sex-based harassment and sexual violence, the regulations will overhaul how institutions respond to reports of sexual misconduct, among other changes.

[Read more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Legislative Advocacy Hub](#)

