



# Weekly Legislative Update

02.16.24

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

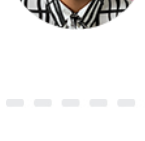
On Tuesday, the Tennessee Department of Education provided a [presentation](#) on chronic absenteeism and its current interventions to the House Education Instruction Committee. While discussing the impact of chronic absenteeism on districts, some legislators discussed the idea of removing the rate of chronic absenteeism as a district accountability metric under the [Tennessee’s Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) State Plan](#), Tennessee’s federal accountability system. Tennessee’s ESSA plan has been revised multiple times since its passage in 2015, and additional accountability for schools was implemented this year with A-F School Letter grades.

In addition to hearing a presentation from [tnAchieves](#), a member of the [TN Alliance for Equity in Education](#), The House Education Instruction Subcommittee heard [HB 2882](#) (Rep. Chris Todd R) which requires school districts to provide students with instruction on firearm safety. After expressing concerns around extending class time and the appropriate age for firearm training, the subcommittee passed [HB 2882](#) to the full Education Instruction Committee. The Education Administration Committee heard and passed an [amended HB 1605](#) (Rep. Gino Bulso R), which bans certain flags in public schools, and heads to the House Calendar and Rules Committee to be scheduled for the floor debate.

As a part of approving Governor Lee’s 2024-2025 [annual budget](#), each administrative department or agency will present their budget to the corresponding legislative committee. During the committee budget hearing, legislators ask probing questions to understand cost increases, reductions, and new expenditures in the department’s budget. On Wednesday, the [Senate Education Committee](#) provided positive recommendations for the budgets from the [Tennessee Lottery Corporation](#), the [Tennessee Public Charter School Commission](#), [Tennessee State Board of Education](#), and the [Tennessee Department of Education](#). The committee also passed [SB 1726](#) (Sen. London Lamar D) that instructs the Tennessee Department of Education to create a conflict resolution program for K-12 students. [SB 1726](#) (Sen. London Lamar D) heads to the Senate Calendar and Rules committee to be scheduled for the floor debate.

As we continue to learn more about Governor Lee’s 2024-2025 budget, I invite you to join The Education Trust Tennessee and [The Sycamore Institute](#) for [Understanding Tennessee’s Education Budget](#) webinar on Monday, February 26th at 2 PM - 3 PM CT / 3PM - 4PM ET.

In partnership,



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



## On Our Radar

[HB2470 / SB2132](#)  
Rep. Raper / Sen. Lowe

As introduced, requires the department of education to contract with a vendor to provide internet security software for school-issued electronic devices in selected LEAs as part of a two-year pilot program.

[HB2676 / SB2713](#)  
Rep. Williams/Sen. Lundberg

As introduced, abolishes the governing board of directors for the Tennessee student assistance corporation and designates the corporation as a division of the commission; revises certain duties and powers of the commission; vacates and reconstitutes the commission on July 1, 2024.

[HB2758 / SB2809](#)  
Rep. Alexander / Sen. Lundberg

As introduced, requires LEAs and public charter schools to prohibit students from displaying, using, or accessing an electronic device during instructional time unless the electronic device is authorized, or provided to the student, by the LEA or public charter school for instructional purposes; requires local boards of education and public charter school governing bodies to develop and adopt a policy to implement the prohibition.

[HB2285 / SB2674](#)  
Rep. Haston/ Sen. White

As introduced, authorizes the issuance of temporary teaching permits for courses for which an end-of-course examination is required.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



## What’s Happening

**House Education Instruction Committee**  
Tuesday, 2/20/24, 9:00am  
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

**House K-12 Subcommittee**  
Tuesday, 2/20/24, 4:30pm  
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

**House Education Instruction Subcommittee**  
Wednesday, 2/21/24, 12:00pm  
House Hearing Room III | [Committee Homepage](#)

**House Education Administration Committee**  
Wednesday, 2/21/24, 1:30pm  
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

**Senate Education Committee**  
Wednesday, 2/21/24, 3:00pm  
Senate Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

**Senate Floor Session**  
Thursday, 2/22/24, 8:30am  
Senate Chamber | [Senate Homepage](#)

**House Floor Session**  
Thursday, 2/22/24, 9:00am  
House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



## Noteworthy

**Webinar: Understanding Tennessee’s Education Budget with The Sycamore Institute**

Join The Education Trust – Tennessee on Monday, February 26th from 2:00 - 3:00 PM CT / 4:00 - 5:00 PM ET for a [Gearing Up Advocacy Training](#) to reflect on Governor Lee’s budget and the important education implications it has for our students and schools communities. This session will be led by policy expert Mandy Spears, Deputy Director of The Sycamore Institute, an independent nonpartisan Public Policy Research Center that works to help Tennesseans understand the complex issues impacting our state by providing accessible, reliable data and research.

[Register here](#)

**Article: Tennessee’s reading law gets pushback again as thousands of students could repeat fourth grade**

Check out this [article](#) in Chalkbeat about the debate around what is adequate growth. The State Board of Education [quarterly meeting](#) was this morning where members voted on what constitutes enough improvement for fourth graders who are at risk.

[Read more](#)

**Webinar: Making it Plain: Advancing Black Student Success in Tennessee**

Join The Education Trust – Tennessee on Friday, March 1, 2024 from 1-2 pm CT for an important conversation as we explore national and state trends related to Black student success, the important role for education advocates, and considerations for policymakers and leaders about how to ensure we are equipping Black students in Tennessee to succeed in school and beyond.

[Register](#)

**Webinar: Stand Against Injustice - Is DEI Dead?**

Join [YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee](#) on Wednesday, February 28th from 12:00-1:00 PM CT as they gather community and industry leaders together to discuss the current state of anti-racism in America and whether DEI can survive.

[Register here](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Legislative Advocacy Hub](#)

