



# Weekly Legislative Update

03.15.24

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},  
The [Tennessee Alliance for Equity in Education](#), powered by [The Education Trust-Tennessee](#), kicked off this week by hosting their third annual Ten for Tennessee Award Ceremony and Day of Education Advocacy at Tennessee's State Capitol on Monday, March 11-Tuesday, March 12. Over 100 Alliance partners and students conducted over 50 legislative meetings uplifting the Alliance's shared [policy agenda](#) and their legislative priorities. Check out The Education Trust-Tennessee's Instagram page, @edtrusttn, to see highlights from the two-day convening.

With committee discussion of [HB1183/SB503](#) on pause this week, the [House K-12 Subcommittee](#) turned its attention to a themed calendar that exclusively featured bills addressing school safety. Key bills on the school safety calendar included:

- [HB1664](#) by Rep. Todd Warner (R-Chapel Hill), which allow local law enforcement agencies to place school resource officers at local education agencies without a memorandum of understanding with the local education agency
- [HB1633](#) by Rep. John Ragan (R-Oak Ridge), which requires Tennessee's Department of Safety to create a de-escalation training to disarm school shooter for school staff and requires local education agencies to provide the training annually
- [HB1899](#) by Rep. Tim Rudd (R-Murfreesboro), which allows retired law enforcement officers to serve as school resource officers
- [HB2528](#) by Rep. Ron Gant (R-Piperton), which establishes a grant program for schools to purchase mobile panic alert system

9 of the 10 bills on the [House K-12 Subcommittee](#) school safety calendar received favorable votes and passed out of the subcommittee. These bills will be heard in the [House Education Administration Committee](#) on Wednesday, March 20.

On Wednesday, the [House Education Administration Committee](#) considered a short but impactful calendar including [HB2472](#) by Rep. Kevin Raper (R-Cleveland) that requires local education agencies to assist a school employee who have been assaulted by a student in prosecution. Despite an unclear definition for how the local education agencies should assist, [HB2472](#) passed out of committee and will head to the [House Calendar and Rules Committee](#) to be scheduled for the House floor debate. The committee also heard [HB2758](#) by Rep. Rebecca Alexander (R-Jonesborough) which prohibits students from displaying, using, or accessing an electronic device during instructional time and requires local education agencies to adopt this policy. To address legislators' concerns about LEA's autonomy and students' ability to access devices in case of an emergency, [HB2758](#) was rolled one week and will be heard next in the House Education Administration Committee. Finally, the committee passed [HB902](#) by Rep. Chris Hurt (R-Halls) which creates public dashboards capturing education to workforce data. Shout out to [Tennessee SCORE](#), a member of the [Tennessee Alliance for Equity in Education](#), for leading the strategy on this bill. [HB902](#) heads to the [House Government Operations](#) to be heard next week.

In partnership,



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



## On Our Radar

[HB2472 / SB2682](#)  
Rep. Raper / Sen. White

As introduced, requires LEAs and public charter schools to advise an employee who is assaulted by a student of the employee's rights as a result of the assault; requires, instead of authorizes, the suspension of a student who commits an assault against an employee of the LEA or public charter school in which the student is enrolled from attendance at school and from attendance at all school-sponsored events for at least one calendar year

[HB2468 / SB2787](#)  
Rep. Lamberth / Sen. Johnson

As introduced, requires the department of education to study the school choice programs available in other states and to submit a report of the department's findings at the conclusion of the study to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the speaker of the senate no later than January 1, 2025.

[HB2132 / SB1672](#)  
Rep. Powers / Sen. Massey

As introduced, reduces, from 23 to 21, the minimum age required for a student to be eligible for the Tennessee reconnect grant.

[HB2184 / SB1783](#)  
Rep. White / Sen. Lundberg

As introduced, reallocates 5 percent of the privilege tax collected from licensees that offer sports wagering in this state from the lottery for education account to a new Tennessee Promise completion grant special account created to assist the commission in awarding completion grants to certain Tennessee Promise scholarship students; makes the four-year pilot program established by the commission to award completion grants to certain Tennessee Promise scholarship students permanent.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



## What's Happening

**House Higher Education Subcommittee**  
Monday, 3/18/24, 3:00pm  
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

**House Floor Session**  
Monday, 3/18/24, 4:00pm  
House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

**House Education Instruction Committee**  
Tuesday, 3/19/24, 9:00am  
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

**House K-12 Subcommittee**  
Tuesday, 3/19/24, 4:30pm  
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

**House Education Instruction Subcommittee**  
Wednesday, 3/20/24, 12:00pm  
House Hearing Room III | [Committee Homepage](#)

**House Education Administration Committee**  
Wednesday, 3/20/24, 1:30pm  
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

**Senate Education Committee**  
Wednesday, 3/20/24, 3:00pm  
Senate Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

**House Floor Session**  
Thursday, 3/21/24, 9:00am  
House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



## Noteworthy

**Webinar: Stand Against Injustice - Frontline Activists Against Gun Violence**

During this Women's History Month on Friday, March 29th at 12 PM CT, [YWCA](#) is lifting up the leaders in the fight against gun violence in our city, state, and nation . With the one-year anniversary of The Covenant School shooting happening later this month, we'll gather activists - many of whom have dedicated decades to this mission- to update us on the efforts to end gun violence. You'll learn from the women leaders who are driving change and how you can join them to keep our communities safe from violence.

[Register here](#)

**Op Ed: Keeping Learning Recovery Going When Federal Pandemic Funds Dry Up**

Check out [this op-ed](#) in The 74 from Executive Director of The Education Trust, [Denise Forte](#). Forte calls on policymakers to continue the solutions that support students and to increase federal funding as school leaders deal with the end of ESSER and the looming fiscal cliff.

[Read more](#)

**Article: Tennessee lawmaker looking to establish college food pantry grant program**

Sen. Becky Massey (R-Knoxville) is moving a bill through the Senate that would address the "ever-growing" issue on college campuses, she said during a Senate Education Committee meeting this week. Check out this article about [SB1977](#) to find out more.

[Read more](#)

**Article: Senate Education panel vacates Tennessee State University Board of Directors**

On Wednesday, the [Senate Education Committee](#) voted Wednesday to clear out the Tennessee Black university's board of directors. The measure moves next to the full Senate, charging Gov. Bill Lee with appointing eight new members by June 30 to the 10-member body that runs one of the state's two land grant universities.

[Read more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Legislative Advocacy Hub](#)

