



Weekly Legislative Update

01.14.22

The 112th Tennessee General Assembly is back in business! On Tuesday, January 11th, at noon, the state legislature gaveled back in at the State Capitol for the second portion of its two-year session. Our Public Policy Fellow, [Meili Powell](#), and I will be present at the statehouse and actively tracking bills, engaging with elected officials, attending committee hearings, analyzing key developments on policy proposals, and covering all things Tennessee education policy for the duration of this year's session, and will be releasing this update weekly on Fridays.

Since this month marks the reconvening of the 112th General Assembly in regular session, there is no organizational period or inaugural recess, meaning state lawmakers and their staffers quickly resumed the business of legislating at the Capitol. In their first week of business, debates on the recently-released draft state redistricting maps largely dominated conversations at Cordell Hull, with several standing committees opting to hold their first meetings after the state holiday in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. next Monday. The Senate's education committee met this week for [a presentation from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission](#) on the state's postsecondary outcomes-based funding formula. The House's two education committees will gavel in next week - and many other key state education policy developments are also underway.

On the same day the General Assembly reconvened, the Tennessee Department of Education released its initial draft of a weighted, student-based public school funding formula framework after several months of stakeholder engagement. In releasing the [draft framework](#), Governor Bill Lee and Commissioner of Education Dr. Penny Schwinn again extended an invitation to Tennesseans to provide additional feedback on the plan by an extended deadline of Tuesday, January 18th, at noon CT. Public comments should be submitted to tnedu.funding@tn.gov.

With a variety of newly-introduced bills already filed in both chambers, once-in-a-generation conversations on K-12 funding formula reform underway, and significant debates taking place in the public arena on a host of issues affecting education at all levels, we look forward to serving as an advocacy partner and trusted resource as the work of Tennessee's 2022 legislative session continues.



Reggie Nash
External Relations Manager for Tennessee



On Our Radar

HB1671 / SB1674
Rep. Curcio / Sen. Bell
Expands eligibility for an education savings account to students zoned to attend school in an LEA under specified conditions.

HB1669
Rep. Jernigan
Requires THEC to submit a report that identifies issues of food insecurity among students at public higher education institutions.

HB1174 / SB1131
Rep. Baum / Sen. White
Creates the TN Rapid Growth School District (TRGSD) Fund for LEAs experiencing rapid growth in student population.

HB1676
Rep. Cepicky
Authorizes the State Board of Education to reject or revise, instead of only adopt, the academic standards offered by the standards recommendation committees.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What's Happening

House Higher Education Subcommittee
Tuesday, 1/18/22, 12:00pm
House Hearing Room III [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

House Education Instruction Subcommittee
Tuesday, 1/18/22, 3:00pm
House Hearing Room II [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

House Education Instruction Committee
Wednesday, 1/19/22, 11:00am
House Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Education Committee
Wednesday, 1/19/22, 3:00pm
Senate Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

House Education Administration Committee
Wednesday, 1/19/22, 3:30pm
House Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

Dollars & Sense
The Education Trust in Tennessee has developed and compiled a robust set of resources to help inform conversations around equitable, student-centered school funding reform, including recorded webinars, an advocacy guide, one-pagers, policy recommendations, and more.

[Learn more](#)

TN25: Mapping Our Future Together Report Release
Join us on Wednesday, January 19th, as we release our new report, TN25: Mapping Our Future Together, that examines the impact of COVID-19 on students and schools in Tennessee and outlines recommendations for how we can close opportunity and achievement gaps exacerbated by the pandemic.

[Register here](#)

Exploring Race & Gender in TN Teacher Evaluation Scores

Join the Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance (TECA), the Tennessee Education Thursday, and Ed Trust on Thursday, January 27th for a webinar on new research findings on race and gender in evaluation scores by Dr. Jason Grissom of Vanderbilt University's Peabody College of Education and the Tennessee Education Research Alliance.

[Register here](#)

Review & Submit Public Comment on Draft K-12 School Funding Formula Framework

The draft framework, released this past Tuesday, is open for review and the Department of Education is requesting additional public feedback by Tuesday, January 18th, at noon CT.

[Read more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust