



# Weekly Legislative Update

3.18.22

Full calendars and lengthy education committee meetings continued to be the theme at the Tennessee General Assembly this week, with the business of the legislature moving toward its final push prior to an expected adjournment in mid-April. The Governor's public school funding reform bill, the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement, or TISA, continued to be a main topic of discussion within education committees in both chambers this week. Commissioner Schwinn and other representatives from the state Department of Education and Governor Lee's office kicked off the week on Monday with a [presentation on the school funding proposal](#) to a joint convening of members of the Senate Education and Finance, Ways, & Means Committees. Many questions about the specifics of the proposal remain, with legislators on both sides of the aisle inquiring about components such as teacher pay, student weights, local fiscal capacity, and charter schools. Those questions continued in the regularly-scheduled meetings of education committees in both chambers, with both the House K-12 Subcommittee and the Senate Education Committee each deferring legislative action on the bill until next week; in response, the Department [released additional explainer resources](#) to address some of these uncertainties. The Education Trust in Tennessee also updated its [TISA FAQ resource page](#) as well, and will continue to track developments as school funding deliberations continue.

As you continue following legislative developments this session, we are excited for you to take a look at our inaugural 2022 [Ten for Tennessee](#), the top 10 legislative and budget proposals identified by The Education Trust in Tennessee to advance educational equity, access, and justice, several of which are highlighted in this week's newsletter. A bill opposed by Ed Trust, [HB1862](#), which would have required public colleges and universities in the state to require the submission of ACT and SAT test scores by freshman applicants, was taken off notice in the House Higher Education Subcommittee to allow Tennessee schools to continue gathering data and assessing pilot test-optional policies that the majority of higher education institutions across the country are now utilizing. [HB1648](#), a bill hostile to undocumented students that would have eliminated state education funding for their learning against U.S. Supreme Court precedent, failed to advance this week as well. [HB2258](#), a bill that would have prohibited LEAs from suspending or expelling our state's youngest students in pre-K through second grade in most circumstances also failed in the House K-12 Subcommittee. [HB2106](#), a Ten for Tennessee bill supported by Ed Trust that would require curricula in Black history and culture for grades 5-8 and incorporate multicultural diversity frameworks in K-12 education, successfully passed out of the House Education Instruction Committee. A bill considered hostile to LGBTQ+ students, [HB2633](#), that would allow teachers to not refer to students by their preferred pronouns, passed out of the House Ed Administration Committee with Democratic Reps. Love and Clemmons of Nashville voting in opposition. Another bill [opposed by Ed Trust TN](#) and several of its partners, [HB1944](#), commonly known as the "obscene" materials bill, passed the full Education Administration Committee as well.

In the Senate, a set of bills - [SB2163](#) and [SB2181](#) - related to Tennessee education preparation providers and increased accountability on reading instruction requirements advanced this week. [SB2006/HB1723](#), legislation on parental inspection of school instructional materials which Ed Trust opposes, was deferred for consideration until next week. [SB2410/HB2157](#), legislation from the Governor's office related to establishment of an Institute of American Civics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, also had action deferred until next week in both chambers of the legislature.

Next week, several consequential education bills with equity implications will be up for consideration, including [a higher education bill seeking to censor DEI trainings and facilitations](#), legislation seeking to [eliminate affirmative action and diversity programs across the state](#), [school funding reform](#), and more. To see all of the legislation up for consideration next week as well as the other key bills Ed Trust is actively tracking, please be sure check out the "On Our Radar" section, our updated bill tracker, and the committee calendars each linked below.



**Reggie Nash**  
External Relations Manager for Tennessee



## On Our Radar

### [HB1944 / SB1944](#)

Rep. Cepicky / Sen. Hensley

Excludes local education agencies, public schools, and employees and private contractors of LEAs or public schools from the exception to certain obscenity offenses if the LEA, public school, employee, or private contractor possesses obscene material that is harmful to minors on public school premises; prohibits LEA or public school from making obscene materials or materials harmful to minors available to students in the school libraries controlled by the LEA or public school.

### [HB2569 / SB2440](#)

Rep. Ragan / Sen. Bell

Prohibits the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, an individual or group based on the individual's or group's race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of any aspect of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

### [HB2143 / SB2396](#)

Rep. Lamberth / Sen. Johnson

[Caption Bill - School Funding]

Changes the date, from November 1 to September 1, by which the BEP review committee must submit its annual report on the BEP to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the Finance, Ways and Means Committees, the Senate Education Committee, and the House Education Administration Committee.

### [HB2106 / SB2501](#)

Rep. Hakeem / Sen. Akbari

Requires, rather than recommends, that the course of instruction for students in grades five through eight include curricula designed to educate students in black history and black culture; requires the department of education, rather than the state board of education, to include multicultural diversity in frameworks and curricula for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



## What's Happening

### House K-12 Subcommittee

Tuesday, 3/22/22, 3:00PM

House Hearing Room II [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

### House Education Instruction Committee

Wednesday 3/23/22, 11:00AM

House Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

### Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, 3/23/22, 1:00PM

Senate Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

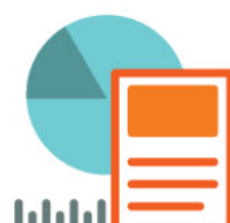
### Education Administration Committee

Wednesday, 3/23/22, 3:30PM

House Hearing Room 1 [Committee Homepage](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



## Noteworthy

### Inaugural 2022 Ten for Tennessee Honorees

Ten for Tennessee celebrates the [top ten policy and budget proposals](#) in 2022 that best advance educational equity and justice in our state. Beginning this year, Ed Trust TN is excited to annually recognize the ten proposals that have the greatest potential to improve opportunity and access for students of color, students from low-income communities, students with disabilities and English Learners.

[Learn more](#)

### EVENT: Classroom Conversations: How the CRT Debate and Culture Wars Impact Tennessee

Join Chalkbeat Tennessee and The Education Trust in Tennessee on Thursday, March 31st, 4:00 - 5:00PM CT, for a panel discussion with students and educators on how the contentious nature of debating and culture wars are influencing education and affecting students and teachers in our state.

[Register here](#)

### TISA Evaluation Tool & FAQ

The Education Trust in Tennessee conducted [an analysis of TISA](#), designed to provide stakeholders with the ability to see how TISA measures up to [our recommendations](#), and to provide additional context for each component of the new proposed funding formula. As [HB2143 / SB2396](#) moves through the legislature, you can [submit questions and see our updated FAQ](#) on TISA.

[Read more](#)

### TDOE Releases Next Round of Explainer Resources on TISA

This past Tuesday, March 15th, TDOE released [additional resources](#) about [TISA](#) to provide more information about how the proposed student-based public education formula meets students' needs, funds students for success, and encourages transparency and accountability.

[Read more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust