



# Weekly Legislative Update

3.25.22

Tennessee educators, parents, school district officials, advocates, and other stakeholders finally saw movement this week on the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA), the first significant reform of the state's public school funding formula in three decades. After a host of amendments in each chamber's version with proposed changes related to accountability, shifting the charter weight, integration of the State Board of Education, professional development for local officials, and more, the bill passed out of the House K-12 Education Subcommittee on a voice vote with Rep. John Ray Clemmons of Nashville in dissension, and out of the Senate Education Committee on a 6-1-1 vote, with Sen. Joey Hensley of Hohenwald voting in opposition and Sen. Raumesh Akbari of Memphis marked as Present, Not Voting. For the proposed student-weighted formula to become a law, each chamber's versions will have to reconcile their differences as it moves through the legislative process. In the House, their TISA bill ([HB2143](#)) will now be considered before the full House Education Administration Committee next Wednesday, March 30. In the Senate, their version ([SB2396](#)) will now move for consideration before the upper chamber's Finance, Ways, and Means Committee. You can review the past week's recorded discussion and presentations of the bill in the House [here](#) and the Senate [here](#).

There were several notable developments on bills with major equity implications for students in both K-12 and higher education this week. A bill opposed by Ed Trust, [SB2440](#), which seeks to challenge and end affirmative action programs in Tennessee, was sent to the General Subcommittee of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, essentially blocking its path to passage in that chamber. The House version will be heard before the full chamber next Thursday, though without passage of its companion, has no real path to advancement to the Governor's desk. You can view the Senate sponsor, retiring Sen. Mike Bell (R-Riceville), give his committee remarks on the legislation and its intent [here](#). Another bill opposed by Ed Trust and several of its partners, [SB1216](#), often described as one of the "Don't Say Gay" legislation that would ban the inclusion of books and instructional materials that have content related to the LGBTQ community, was sent to the General Subcommittee of the Senate Education Committee. [HB2451](#), the "Parent Bill of Rights Act," Tennessee legislation sharing a similar structure to bills tracked in other states in the anti-equity, anti-truthful history movement, failed this week in the Health Subcommittee for lack of a second for motion forward. [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 Finance Subcommittee, headed for consideration before the full committee on Tuesday. A set of Senate bills - [SB2163](#) and [SB2181](#) - related to Tennessee education preparation providers and increased accountability on reading instruction requirements passed out of the full Senate this week.

Next week, education committees in both chambers will continue their final sprint toward closing out their business for this year's regular legislative session, most notably school funding reform. 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.

### [HB2157 / SB2410](#)

Rep. Lamberth / Sen. Johnson

Requires the University of Tennessee to develop and submit a report to the governor and speakers of the Senate and the House of Representatives that identifies opportunities and challenges in civic education and engagement in Tennessee on or before December 31st, 2022.

### [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.

### [HB2291 / SB2508](#)

Rep. Love / Sen. Akbari

Requires the Standards Recommendation Committee to include certain academic standards regarding the civil rights movement in the committee's final recommendation of academic standards in subject of social studies for students in grades 9 to 12.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



## What's Happening

### Senate Education Committee

Tuesday, 3/29/22, 10:30AM  
Senate Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

### House K-12 Subcommittee

Tuesday, 3/29/22, 3:00PM  
House Hearing Room II [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

### House Education Instruction Committee

Wednesday 3/30/22, 11:00AM  
House Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

### Senate Education Committee

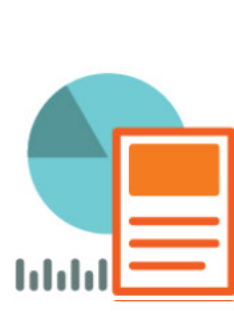
Wednesday, 3/30/22, 1:30PM  
Senate Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

### Education Administration Committee

Wednesday, 3/30/22, 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](#)

### 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](#)

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

The 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 national debates and culture wars are influencing education and affecting students and teachers in our state.

[Register here](#)

### TN Coalition for Truth in Our Classrooms

[The TN Coalition for Truth in Our Classrooms](#) is a group who believes in promoting the teaching of truthful history and honoring and valuing the diversity of our students, staff, and institutions. To support students, teachers, and advocates with understanding and navigating the complexities of how the anti-truth, censorship movement is impacting Tennessee, we have created a hub of resources including factual information, helpful toolkits, and tangible guides to take action.

[Learn more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust