



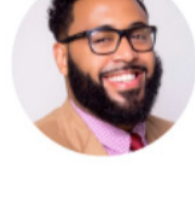
Weekly Legislative Update

4.1.22

The standing education committees of the Tennessee General Assembly continued their march toward the finish line this past week, with the House K-12 Education Subcommittee, House Education Instruction Committee, and Senate Education Committee all moving through their final calendars. The House Education Administration Committee, whose members were entrenched in [over three hours of discussion and debate](#) Wednesday evening on the contents of and amendments to TISA, the pending student-weighted funding formula proposal, will return again next week to hash out outstanding issues and deliberate on other legislation awaiting review. In another move signaling the imminent conclusion of legislative session, Governor Bill Lee introduced his annual budget amendment this week, proposing suggested changes and additions to his original proposed state budget for FY2023. The budget amendment details numerous line items for funds dedicated to both K-12 and higher education in Tennessee, including dollars for a state library coordinator, a new position at the State Board of Education related to school funding reform, one-time funding for minority engineering scholarships at UT Knoxville and UT Chattanooga, various capital improvement projects at public college and university campuses, and more. For full details, check out the Department of Finance & Administration's [budget amendment overview](#) and accompanying [PowerPoint deck](#).

There were several notable developments on bills with major equity implications for students in both K-12 and higher education this week. [HB2343](#), legislation proposed in the House by Rep. Michele Carringer (R-Knoxville) that seeks to improve accountability for teaching reading instruction in educator preparation programs (EPPs) serving Tennessee, advanced out of the House K-12 Sub. A bill opposed by Ed Trust, [HB2569](#), which seeks to challenge affirmative action programs in our state, appeared on the House floor Thursday for a full chamber vote but after [spirited debate with members of the TN Black Caucus](#), sponsoring Rep. John Ragan (R-Oak Ridge) moved to hold the bill at the desk, effectively removing it from consideration. [HB2106/SB2501](#), a Ten for Tennessee bill sponsored by Rep. Yusuf Hakeem (D-Chattanooga) and Sen. Raumesh Akbari (D-Memphis) and 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, advanced out of the Senate Education Committee on 6-2 vote. The bill will now move to be calendared for a floor vote in the Senate and will appear before the full House on April 7. [SB1825](#), another Ten for Tennessee bill which directs the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to produce a report on the issues of food insecurity affecting our state's public colleges and universities, was placed on the Senate calendar for full chamber consideration Monday, April 4. [HB2157/SB2410](#), an Administration bill carried by the Republican leaders in each chamber that would establish an Institute of American Civics at UT Knoxville, cleared the House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee as well as the Senate Education Committee on a 9-0 bipartisan vote this week.

Next week, the final standing education committee still convening, House Ed Administration, is scheduled for two meetings to complete their review of calendared legislation, most notably tackling the proposed school funding formula 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 weekly 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.

[HB1959 / SB2370](#)
Rep. Wright / Sen. Lundberg

Creates an opportunity for high school students to complete a state college of applied technology program by the student's graduation from high school.

[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.

[HB1669 / SB1825](#)
Rep. Jernigan / Sen. Yarbro

Requires the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to submit a report to the Governor and the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Representatives on issues of food insecurity among students at public institutions of higher education in this state and that identifies and describes the efforts to address food insecurity.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What's Happening

Senate Floor Session
Monday, 4/4/22, 4:00PM
Senate Chamber [Schedule](#)

House Floor Session
Monday, 4/4/22, 5:00PM
House Chamber [Schedule](#)

House Education Administration Committee
Tuesday, 4/5/22, 1:00PM
House Hearing Room 1 [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Floor Session
Wednesday, 4/6/22, 8:30AM
Senate Chamber [Schedule](#)

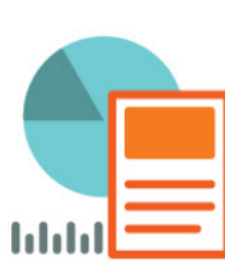
House Education Administration Committee
Wednesday, 4/6/22, 3:30PM
House Hearing Room 1 [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Floor Session
Thursday, 4/7/22, 8:30AM
Senate Chamber [Schedule](#)

House Floor Session
Thursday, 4/7/22, 9:00AM
House Chamber [Schedule](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

#5Things: TN State Board of Education Quarterly Meeting

[#5Things](#) is an Ed Trust TN series that informs advocates who want to stay in the know about the latest meetings, reports, and governing bodies of the Tennessee education policy landscape. Our latest #5Things covers the main takeaways from the most recent TN State Board of Education quarterly workshop and meeting, as reported by our P-12 Policy Fellow, [Fariha Hossain](#).

[Learn more](#)

EVENT: Why Does Having a Diverse Teacher Workforce Matter to Students?

Join [Ed Trust TN's EmpowerED student voice network](#) on Tuesday, April 12th from 5:00 - 6:00PM CT for a panel discussion on the importance of teacher diversity and the need for a diverse teacher workforce in Tennessee. Our keynote speaker, [Dr. Diarese George](#), serves as the founder and Executive Director of the [Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance \(TECA\)](#), and will be interviewed in a fireside chat by our League Leader, Dereke Townsend.

[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](#)

The Sycamore Institute: TISA 101 - Student & School District Characteristics That Boost K-12 Funding

[The Sycamore Institute](#) recently published [a tool](#) that breaks down some of the key variables of the proposed student-weighted school funding formula, including a dashboard that shows how the factors that drive overall funding levels under TISA vary across Tennessee's school districts.

[Learn more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust