



Weekly Legislative Update

4.15.22

As we enter the final weeks of the 112th Tennessee General Assembly, it is important to closely watch key education legislation still moving through relevant committees - such as Finance, Ways, and Means or Government Operations - and to track that bills are also headed to their final debate and vote on the full Senate or House chamber floors. The General Assembly will also be working closely to finalize annual budgetary items, with an expected goal of passing the legislation by Thursday, April 21.

One of the most consequential bills education advocates are tracking is the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA), the Lee Administration's signature education legislation this session that proposes a significant shift to a student-weighted public school funding formula. The bill, officially [HB2143/SB2396](#), passed through the House Government Operations Committee this past Monday on a voice vote. Rep. Torrey C. Harris (D-Memphis), Rep. Vincent Dixie (D-Nashville), Rep. Gloria Johnson (D-Knoxville), and Rep. Mike Stewart (D-Nashville) requested to be recorded as voting no. The House legislation will now proceed to the House Finance, Ways, and Means Subcommittee next Tuesday. In the Senate Chamber this week, action on SB2396 was deferred in the Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee, and will now also be considered next Tuesday.

[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 TN that would require curricula in Black history and culture for grades 5-8 and incorporate multicultural diversity frameworks in K-12 education, cleared the full Senate floor on a 27-3 vote this week. Sen. Joey Hensley (R-Hohenwald), Sen. Brian Kelsey (R-Germantown), and Sen. Mark Pody (R-Lebanon), voted in the negative. After clearing the full House floor on a 80-2-2 vote last week, this bill was signed by the House Speaker Cameron Sexton and following signature by Lt. Gov. Randy McNally will go to Governor Lee for passage into law. Another Ten for Tennessee bill, [HB2291/SB2508](#) sponsored by Rep. Harold M. Love, Jr. (D-Nashville) and Sen. Raumesh Akbari passed the full Senate floor as amended on a 28-0 vote. This bill previously passed the full House with a 82-2-3 vote.

Another notable bipartisan bill that Ed Trust TN supported, [HB2309/SB2464](#), sponsored by Rep. Bob Freeman (D-Nashville) and Sen. Shane Reeves (R-Murfreesboro) passed through the full Senate yesterday with a vote of 20-7, after passing through the full House earlier this week with a vote of 56-35-3. This bill represented a huge win for the over 7,000 DACA recipients who live in Tennessee by providing them with an opportunity to access state professional licenses and enter important roles in our workforce from schools to hospitals and beyond. This advocacy victory was in large part a result of the tireless work of the [Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition](#), a key partner of Ed Trust in the TN Alliance for Equity in Education.

Lastly, a bill that Ed Trust TN was in opposition to, [HB1895/SB1861](#), sponsored by Rep. John Ragan (R-Oak Ridge) and Sen. Joey Hensley (R-Hohenwald), passed through the full Senate this week with a vote of 26-5-1. This bill would require the Commissioner of Education to withhold funds from an LEA if the LEA fails or refuses to determine a student's gender, for purposes of participation in school sports, by the student's sex at the time of birth. This bill had already passed the House earlier on a 66-22 vote.

Next week, continue to lookout for developments on school funding reform legislation, [Ten for Tennessee](#) bills, finance and state budget process activity, and other education-related issues as the 112th General Assembly moves toward adjournment. 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 schedules each linked below. To all of our Tennessee educators following our newsletter, we wish you all the best of luck and ease of administration with state testing windows opening on April 18!



Reggie Nash
External Relations Manager for Tennessee



On Our Radar

[HB1900 / SB2567](#)

Rep. Weaver / Sen. Crowe

Requires the Tennessee Department of Education to establish a fund to reimburse educators in an amount equal to the cost of an assessment required for licensure if the educators receives a qualifying score on the required assessment.

[HB2152 / SB2405](#)

Rep. Lamberth / Sen. Johnson

Changes the annual reporting date from October 1 to October 15 by which the Tennessee Higher Education must report to the education committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding data concerning scholarship and grant programs.

[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.

[HB0751 / SB1158](#)

Rep. Moody / Sen. Haile

Expands the Individual Education Act to allow a child with dyslexia to be eligible for the individualized education account program.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What's Happening

House Floor Session
Monday, 4/18/22, 5:00PM

House Chamber [Schedule](#)

Senate Floor Session
Wednesday, 4/20/22, 10:00AM

Senate Chamber [Schedule](#)

Senate Floor Session
Thursday, 4/21/22, 10:30AM

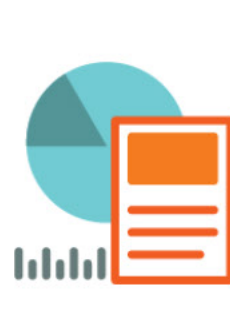
Senate Chamber [Schedule](#)

House Floor Session
Thursday, 4/21/22, 9:00AM

House Chamber [Schedule](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

The Sycamore Institute: How Does TISA Affect School Districts' Local Funding Requirements?

TISA relies in part on [prioritizing money for students with particular characteristics](#). Based on Sycamore's analysis, this report explains how the new formula could affect what local governments are required to spend on public schools.

[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](#)

Why Does Having a Diverse Teacher Workforce Matter to Students?

Last Tuesday, [Ed Trust TN's EmpowerED student voice network](#) hosted 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 was interviewed in a fireside chat by our League Leader, Dereke Townsend.

[Watch here](#)

REPORT: How Black Women Experience Student Debt

45 million Americans collectively owe \$1.7 trillion in student loan debt, and women hold nearly two-third of it. This crisis especially impacts Black women who live at the intersection of two marginalized identities. Check out [The Education Trust's brief](#) on how Black women experience student debt.

[Learn more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust