



Weekly Legislative Update

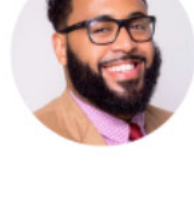
4.22.22

The countdown to the conclusion of Tennessee's 2022 legislative session is well underway, with lawmakers laser-focused on moving remaining bills toward floor consideration and finalizing the work of each chamber's Finance, Ways, and Means Committee on pending budgetary and appropriations items.

The Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA), the Lee Administration's hallmark education funding proposal this session, is still making its way through each chamber's committee infrastructure. The bill, officially [HB2143/SB2396](#), passed successfully through the House Finance, Ways, and Means Subcommittee this past Tuesday on a voice vote. Finance Sub members House Minority Leader Karen Camper (D-Memphis), Rep. Bob Freeman (D-Nashville), and newly independent Rep. John Mark Windle of Livingston all requested to be recorded as voting no. The House legislation will now proceed to the full House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee for consideration next Tuesday, April 26. Action on the Senate version of TISA, SB2396, was again deferred for consideration until next Tuesday in the upper chamber's Finance, Ways, and Means Committee.

[HB1669/SB1825](#), a [Ten for Tennessee](#) bill supported by Ed Trust TN that requires the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to produce a report for the General Assembly on issues of food insecurity among students at public colleges and universities, was signed into law by Governor Lee on Tuesday, April 19. The legislation, carried by Democrats Rep. Darren Jernigan of Old Hickory and Senate Minority Leader Jeff Yarbrow of Nashville, was in large part an advocacy effort supported by student leaders at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Another Ten for Tennessee bill, [HB1900/SB2567](#) sponsored by House Ed Instruction Committee Vice Chair Terri Lynn Weaver (R-Lancaster) and Sen. Rusty Crowe (R-Johnson City), which would create a reimbursement fund for fees for teacher licensure and endorsement exams, is currently under consideration before the House and Senate Finance committees. To encourage its inclusion in the state budget and emphasize its importance as a tool to remove barriers to entry into the education profession, more than 40 student advocates from across Tennessee in the EmpowerED Network [submitted a letter](#) to Senate Finance Chair Bo Watson (R-Hixson), the bill sponsors, and committee members. Ed Trust TN is also closely monitoring [HB0751/SB1158](#), voucher legislation sponsored by House Ed Instruction Committee Chairwoman Debra Moody (R-Covington) and Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Ferrell Haile (R-Gallatin) that seeks to ([as amended](#)) expand eligibility to an additional 30,000+ students for the state's Individualized Education Account Program (IEAP), which is set for floor consideration in the House on Monday, April 25. We are currently opposed to the passage of this legislation.

Next week, continue to look out for developments on school funding reform legislation, 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 to check out the "On Our Radar" section, our updated bill tracker, and the weekly schedule each linked below.



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.

[HB1681 / SB1770](#)

Rep. Cepicky / Sen. Briggs

Directs the Board of Regents to develop a two-year pilot program to award grants to students enrolled in non-credit workforce training programs operating by community college or Tennessee College of Applied Technology governed by the state university and community college system.

[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

Senate Floor Session
Monday, 4/25/22, 4:00PM
Senate Chamber [Schedule](#)

House Floor Session
Monday, 4/25/22, 5:00PM
House Chamber [Schedule](#)

Senate Floor Session
Wednesday, 4/27/22, 9:15AM
Senate Chamber [Schedule](#)

Senate Floor Session
Thursday, 4/28/22, 8:30AM
Senate 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](#)

EVENT: Using Data to Inform College Access:

Join [Ed Trust TN's Thrive Network](#) on April 27th from 2:00 - 3:00PM CT for a session on using data to inform college access decisions. Participants will learn relative data sources, and how analyze data points to inform practice.

[Register here](#)

EVENT: Improving Education Finance for English Learners

Join Ed Trust TN and [Bellwether Partners](#) to learn more about how state school funding systems for English Learners have failed to adapt to learning their learning needs in the Southeast. Today, English Learners are the fastest growing student population and make up 15% of students in the region. Hear from experts on what transformational and equitable funding systems for EL students can look like, and how to advocate for change.

[Register here](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust