



Weekly Legislative Update

4.29.22

On Thursday night, the 112th Tennessee General Assembly officially adjourned for the year. TN lawmakers advanced several key education-related bills during the 2022 legislative session that will undoubtedly have lasting implications for our state's districts, schools, and students.

The most significant piece of legislation that [successfully passed this week](#) was the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA), Governor Lee's signature education funding proposal. TISA presents a [pivotal opportunity to advance resource equity](#) across our K-12 school systems by establishing a student-weighted formula that better meets the individual needs of our students and districts, a marked improvement upon the Basic Education Program (BEP) that has been in place over the past three decades. Additionally, the Governor has committed to increasing total education funding to approximately [\\$9 billion in state and local funds in 2024](#).

TISA, officially [HB2143/SB2396](#), had different bill versions with several amendments move through each chamber with full floor debates. After heated discussion, the House concurred with [Senate amendments 1 and 2](#). In the Senate, the bill passed with a 26-5 vote. Sen. Bowling (R-Tullahoma), Sen. Campbell (D-Nashville), Sen. Hensley (R-Hohenwald), Sen. Kyle (D-Memphis), and Sen. Yarbro (D-Nashville) opposed. In the House, the bill passed by a 63-24 vote, with Rep. Hulsey (R-Kingsport) marked as present and not voting. After the bill is signed by the Governor, the revamped funding formula will take effect in the 2023-2024 school year. Over the next year, it will be vital for community members to engage and provide feedback on TISA's rulemaking and the policy implementation process. Keep an eye out for an update of our [TISA evaluation tool](#), which will soon include a complete analysis from the bill's final amendments.

For more details about the passage and impact of TISA, join us for a comprehensive analysis as a part of our [2022 Legislative Wrap Up](#) webinar on May 11th from 3:00 - 4:00 PM CT.

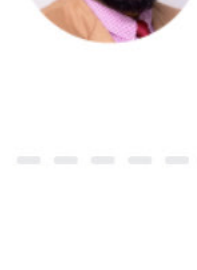
Another key issue this legislative session were the anti-truth and censorship proposals, which resulted in the passing of multiple bills attempting to [censor our K-12 classrooms](#), in addition to [restricting diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts](#) in our public higher education institutions. [HB2666/SB2247](#), a bill sponsored by Rep. Sexton (R-Crossville) and Sen. Lundberg (R-Bristol), continued the censorship debate this week, with a controversial amendment to the bill passed in the House on Wednesday, which would have made librarians submit an inventory of books to the politically appointed commission. However, the House and the Senate made a deal during a Conference Committee that softened that contentious amendment. [The final legislation](#) requires a statewide process in which parents and school employees can appeal the decisions of locally elected officials on books challenged as being "inappropriate for the age or maturity levels" of students who can access them. Additionally, this bill gives Tennessee's textbook commission the power to veto local school board decisions and the ability to ban books in school libraries statewide.

To learn more all of the anti-equity and censorship bills passed by the legislature this year, join the [TN Coalition for Truth in Our Classrooms](#) and the ACLU of Tennessee for a ["Know Your Rights" conversation](#) during a webinar on May 18th from 4:00 - 5:00 PM CT.

Furthermore, our team has been tracking our [Ten for Tennessee](#), recognizing the top ten policy and budget proposals in 2022 that best advance educational justice in the state. Several legislative wins include [improving higher education food access and security](#), requiring the [teaching of Black history and culture](#), and increasing [high school opportunities to complete Tennessee's College of Applied Technologies \(TCAT\) programs](#). This past week, the final Ten for TN bill on our radar, [HB1900/SB2567](#), was unfortunately taken off notice, so will not move forward this year. This bill, sponsored by Rep. Weaver (R-Lancaster) and Sen. Crowe (R-Johnson City), would have created a reimbursement fund for fees for teacher licensure and endorsement exams.

Lastly, the final weeks of session included the Senate and House approval of the final \$52.8 billion budget for fiscal year 2022-23. The budget outlined in various amendments in [SB2897/HB2882](#), sponsored by Leader Rep. Lamberth (R-Portland) and Leader Sen. Johnson (R-Franklin) is on the way to the Governor's desk. We have been following critical educational priorities in the budget highlighted in our Ten for Tennessee list, such as increasing opportunities to career and technical education, addressing gaps in higher education fiscal equity by repaying Tennessee State University, and expanding access to the Tennessee's HOPE scholarship.

Although session has adjourned, our work continues! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at rnash@edtrust.org if you have questions about educational policy and advocacy happenings across Tennessee, and remain on the lookout for event announcements, upcoming summer engagement opportunities, and more from The Education Trust in Tennessee.



Reggie Nash
External Relations Manager for Tennessee



On Our Radar

[HB2666/SB2247](#)

Rep. Sexton / Sen. Lundberg

Requires the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission to provide a copy of the commission's proposed textbook and instructional materials list to the Tennessee General Assembly.

[HB2309/SB2464](#)

Rep. Freeman / Sen. Reeves

Extends the time, from not less than 30 days to 45 days, before a department or agency of state government executes a state professional services management contract for services in a legislative district that would result in the outsourcing of facilities management services to private, nonstate government entities, that the respective department or agency must notify each member of the General Assembly in district of the contract.

[HB2143 / SB2396](#)

Rep. Lamberth / Sen. Johnson

[Caption Bill - TISA 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](#)

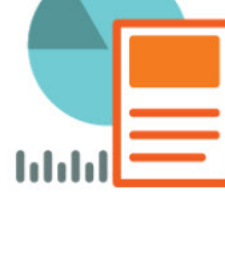


What's Happening

The 112th Tennessee General Assembly adjourned sine die on Thursday, April 28th.

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

EVENT: Know Your Rights: What You Need to Know about Tennessee's latest Censorship Bills (Webinar)

Join the [Tennessee Coalition for Truth in Our Classrooms](#) on May 18th from 4:00 - 5:00PM CT in discussing the anti-truth, censorship bills that have passed through the TN General Assembly this legislative session. The [ACLU TN](#) will guide community members in understanding what they need to know regarding the content and legal implications of two new censorship bills [impacting K-12 school library policies](#), and [restricting diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in public higher education institutions](#). We will also hear directly from students, educators, librarians, and school leaders about their local advocacy efforts and perspectives on these bills.

[Register here](#)

EVENT: Federal & State Policy

Join [the Thrive Network](#) on May 25th from 2:00 - 3:00PM CT for a conversation about how federal and state policies can have positive and negative influences over college and career success. Participants will be provided with an overview of relevant policies that impact college access, affordability and success, and learn advocacy strategies.

[Register here](#)

EVENT: 2022 Legislative Wrap Up (Webinar)

Join The Education Trust in Tennessee on May 11 from 3:00 - 4:00PM CT for a conversation about the 2022 Legislative Session of the 112th General Assembly. We will provide a comprehensive review and analysis of key education legislation with major equity implications for Tennessee schools and students, and will offer opportunities to engage with a bipartisan panel of legislative leaders who are central to the education policymaking process at the State Capitol.

[Register here](#)

EVENT: Improving Education Finance for English Learners

Join The Education Trust in TN and [Bellwether Partners](#) on May 9th from 4:00 - 5:00PM CT 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