



Weekly Legislative Update

2.10.23

Dear {{FirstName or 'Supporter'}},

The past week proved to be momentous at the State Capitol in Nashville, kicking off with Monday's [State of the State Address](#) in the House chamber. Governor Bill Lee laid out his top policy and fiscal priorities for the next year in delivering remarks to a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly, outlining a [\\$55.6 billion proposed budget for FY2024](#). Though his plans centered heavily around transportation and infrastructure, the governor also highlighted several proposals related to education, including raising teacher minimum salaries to \$50,000 over the next four years, \$60 million to expand summer learning opportunities, and dedicated funds to launch the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA), the state's recent school funding formula overhaul. For more details on the FY2024 proposed budget, please refer to the [Department of Finance & Administration's budget presentation](#) and [overview](#).

Legislation also began being debated and advancing out of education committees, with several bills moving with implications for both P-12 and postsecondary contexts. In the House Education Instruction Subcommittee, [HB29](#) from [Chairman Scott Cepicky \(R - Culleoka\)](#), a bill that would allow Tennessee's four-year colleges and universities to offer corequisite remedial coursework, advanced on a voice vote. Due to previous legislation enacted in 2012, only Tennessee's community colleges are currently permitted to offer remedial courses in higher education. In the Senate, the education committee discussed [SB12](#), a bill authored by [Sen. Todd Gardenhire \(R - Chattanooga\)](#), which aims to expand Tennessee's education savings account (ESA) program to include students zoned in a district with at least five schools identified in the bottom 10 percent. After debate, the bill advanced out of the committee on a 6-2-1 vote, with [Sens. Raumesh Akbari \(D - Memphis\)](#) and [Joey Hensley \(R - Hohenwald\)](#) voting in opposition and [Sen. Rusty Crowe \(R - Johnson City\)](#) abstaining as present and not voting.

Next week, we anticipate a number of important education bills up for discussion in committees, notably legislation related to retention in a special calendar in the House K-12 Subcommittee on February 14th. The Education Trust in Tennessee continues to remain engaged on the issue of retention, and we encourage you to review our regularly-updated [retention legislation tracker](#) and [Cost of Retention memo](#). Education committees will also review bills including proposals to [develop a two-year pilot program for workforce training](#), [increase the Minority Teaching Fellowship Program award](#) from \$5,000 to the cost of tuition and fees, and [to establish a fund to reimburse educators for the cost of licensure and endorsement assessments](#) in the event of passage. To see all of the education-related legislation Ed Trust is actively tracking and other key information, please be sure to check out the "On Our Radar" section, our updated bill tracker, and the committee calendars each linked below.

In partnership,



Reggie Nash
External Relations Manager for Tennessee



On Our Radar

[HB0784/SB0556](#)

Rep. White / Sen. Powers

Requires the 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 educator receives a qualifying score on the required assessment and receives a license to teach in this state or an endorsement while currently employed by a local education agency or public charter school.

[HB0276/SB0231](#)

Rep. McKenzie / Sen. Yarbro

Changes the amount of a minority teaching fellowship award for a recipient who is enrolled in a degree program leading to licensure as a teacher in an institution of higher education with an approved educator preparation program from \$5,000 to the cost of tuition and fees at the respective institution.

[HB0294/SB0350](#)

Rep. Freeman / Sen. Campbell

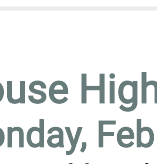
Expands the Save Tennessee Students Act to require public institutions of higher education that issue new student identification cards to students enrolled in the institution to include contact information for certain crisis and suicide prevention lifelines on the cards; requires the institutions to post the contact information for certain crisis and suicide prevention lifelines in a conspicuous place on each campus operated by the institution.

[HB0983/SB1458](#)

Rep. Sexton / Sen. White

Requires local education agencies (LEAs) to provide licensed employees of the LEA 12 paid workweeks after a birth or stillbirth of the employee's child or employee's adoption of a newly placed minor child.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What's Happening

House Higher Education Subcommittee

Monday, February 13th, 3:00pm CT
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Floor Session

Monday, February 13th, 4:00pm CT
Senate Chamber | [Senate Homepage](#)

House Floor Session

Monday, February 13th, 5:00pm CT
House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

House Education Instruction Committee

Tuesday, February 14th, 9:00am CT
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Children & Family Affairs Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 14th, 12:00pm CT
House Hearing Room IV | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Civil Justice Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 14th, 1:30pm CT
House Hearing Room III | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Education Instruction Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 14th, 3:00pm CT
House Hearing Room III | [Committee Homepage](#)

House K-12 Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 14th, 4:30pm CT
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Civil Justice Committee

Wednesday, February 15th, 12:00pm CT
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Education Administration Committee

Wednesday, February 14th, 1:30pm CT
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, February 14th, 3:00pm CT
Senate Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Floor Session

Thursday, February 16th, 8:30am CT
Senate Chamber | [Senate Homepage](#)

House Floor Session

Thursday, February 16th, 9:00am CT
House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

[Chalkbeat TN: Gov. Lee aims to raise minimum salary for TN teachers to \\$50,000 by 2027](#)

In his State of the State Address on February 6th, Gov. Bill Lee announced his desire to put forth legislation that would increase the minimum salary of public school teachers from \$41,000 to \$50,000 over the next four years. Learn more about his proposal from Chalkbeat TN [here](#).

[The Cost of Retention Memo](#)

As retention continues to be discussed, visit this resource from The Education Trust in Tennessee, [The Cost of Retention: Revising The Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act Memo](#). This resource provides an overview of the retention law, the potential cost and impact, key questions to consider, and recommendations.

[AP: Tennessee House speaker mulls rejecting U.S. education money](#)

[TN Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton \(R - Crossville\)](#) made national headlines and drew criticism from education and disability rights advocates this week for announcing his exploration of legislation to reject nearly \$1.8 billion in federal education funds that provide critical support for low-income students, English learners, and students with disabilities.

[Retention Bill Tracker](#)

Visit The Education Trust in Tennessee's [retention bill tracker](#) to stay up to date on developing legislation around the important issue of third grade retention throughout session.

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust

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