



Weekly Legislative Update

1.27.23

Dear {{FirstName or 'Supporter'}},

This week, the [Senate Education Committee](#) held its first meeting of the 113th General Assembly, centering wholly around school turnaround and related pilot programs. The committee heard a [presentation](#) from a panel of stakeholders with a vested interest in turnaround efforts, including representatives from Cognia, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE), and Memphis-Shelby County Schools. Additionally, the Joint Ad-Hoc Committee on Juvenile Justice, chaired by [Sen. Page Walley \(R - Savannah\)](#), also met on Wednesday. The committee [discussed the legislative package](#) emerging from their ongoing deliberations, including proposals to increase clinical supports for juveniles held in state facilities, establishment of a new "second look" commission to study juvenile justice through the Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth, as well as a bill that would [allow a juvenile court to transfer an alleged offender 16 years old or older to a criminal court as an adult for the escape from a DCS youth development center](#).

Next week, the [House Higher Education Subcommittee](#) will meet on Monday, the [House Education Instruction Committee](#) and its [Subcommittee](#) will meet on Tuesday, and both the [House Education Administration](#) and [Senate Education](#) Committees will meet on Wednesday. Of particular note, both chambers' bill filing deadlines also fall next week, with the House on Tuesday, January 31st, and the Senate on Thursday, February 2nd.

We continue to monitor new education legislation being introduced, including proposals that would [establish a TSAC student loan program to support students committed to serving as Tennessee educators otherwise ineligible for in-state tuition](#), [increase the amount of the Minority Teaching Fellowship Program award](#), [require the upcoming TISA formula to fund professional school counselor positions](#), and multiple bills that would impact the Administration-led third- and fourth-grade retention law from 2021. We also continue to update our [retention legislation tracker](#), which analyzes any bills put forward this session related to the existing law. 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

[HB0364/SB0348](#)

Rep. Love / Sen. Campbell

Requires the TISA to fund one full-time licensed professional school counselor position for every 250 student members of the local education agency (LEA), or one full-time position for each LEA and public charter school within the LEA, whichever is greater; requires each LEA and public charter school to employ one full-time licensed professional school counselor for each position funded.

[HB0307/SB00283](#)

Rep. Cepicky / Sen. Hensley

Requires the board to develop and administer a two-year pilot program to award grants to students enrolled in an eligible program and to students pursuing a quality non-degree credential.

[SB0556](#)

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.

[SB0297](#)

Sen. Gardenhire

Requires TSAC to administer a tuition loan program for students who are not otherwise eligible to receive the in-state tuition rate at a public institution of higher education to receive the in-state tuition rate at the institution at which they are enrolled for up to four academic years with no repayment obligation if the student serves as an educator in a public school in this state for no less than five consecutive years.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What's Happening

House Higher Education Subcommittee

Monday, January 30th, 3:00pm CT
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Floor Session

Monday, January 30th, 4:00pm CT
Senate Chamber

House Floor Session

Monday, January 30th, 5:00pm CT
House Chamber

House Education Instruction Committee

Tuesday, January 31st, 9:00am CT
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Education Instruction Subcommittee

Tuesday, January 31st, 3:00pm CT
House Hearing Room III | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Floor Session

Wednesday, February 1st, 9:00am CT
House Chamber

House Education Administration Committee

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

Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, February 1st, 3:00pm CT
Senate Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Floor Session

Thursday, February 2nd, 8:30am CT
Senate Chamber

House Floor Session

Thursday, February 2nd, 9:00am CT
House Chamber

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

[The Sycamore Institute:](#)

[Tennessee State Budget Primer](#)

Tennessee's budget is one of the most significant pieces of public policy our governor and General Assembly tackle each year. Yet understanding what's in it, why it matters, and how it works can be a challenge. [Sycamore's Budget Primer](#) explains Tennessee's finances to help you understand state government and advocate for policies you support.

[3rd Grade Retention:](#)

[Legislative Watch Party](#)

Join The Education Trust in Tennessee for an informative [Legislative Watch Party](#) on February 22nd from 1:00-2:30pm CT. Attendees will hear from legislative and subject matter experts prior to the kickoff of the committee hearing, and then live stream the hearing while we post comments, links and pertinent articles during the deliberation.

[Webinar: Equal is Not Good Enough in School Funding](#)

Check out [The Education Trust's webinar](#) on Wednesday, Feb. 1st at 2pm CT. The event will focus on funding gaps between districts in states, policy options to address those funding gaps, and a new interactive data tool that allows users to explore school-by-school spending data.

[Memo: The Cost of Retention](#)

The Education Trust in Tennessee prepared [The Cost of Retention: Revising The Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act Memo](#). Read the memo for an overview of the retention law, the potential cost and impact, key questions to consider, and recommendations.

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust