



Weekly Legislative Update

01.28.22

As the week closes, one of the biggest political stories was the redistricting maps that were released, and the subsequent [announcement](#) by U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper of his retirement. The announcement marks an end to his 32 years serving in Congress upon completion of his term next January. Cooper announced his decision amidst Nashville's continued [redistricting battle](#) that will [split Davidson County](#) into three congressional districts. Redistricting plans have moved swiftly through the state's [House](#) and [Senate](#), and are waiting for the Governor's signature. Cooper, along with other groups, continues to shed light on the disproportionate impact these redistricting plans could have on [diluting the vote](#) and [representation](#) of the Black community across the state.

Next Monday, January 31st, there will be a joint convention of the General Assembly for [Governor Lee's Annual State of the State Address](#), which will premiere at 6:00pm CT. The event will be streamed on Governor Lee's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels, where he will preview his upcoming policy priorities for the year and highlight the key elements of his 2022-23 budget proposal. Education advocates will be paying close attention, looking for signals about his administration's ambitious reform of the [BEP funding formula, which is expected to be shared soon](#).

On the legislative front, the House's Higher Education subcommittee advanced [HB1681 / SB1770](#) to full committee next week, which creates grants for non credit workforce training programs, and the Education Instruction subcommittee moved [HB1676 / SB1775](#), which gives the State Board of Education the authority to reject, adopt, and advise standards recommendations. Additionally, many new education bills were filed for introduction, with an influx expected soon with the filing deadline approaching on February 2nd for the House and February 3rd for the Senate. To see all of the legislation we are actively tracking, check out what is "On Our Radar" and the updated bill tracker below.



Reggie Nash
External Relations Manager for Tennessee



On Our Radar

HB1671 / SB1674
Rep. Curcio / Sen. Bell
Expands eligibility for an education savings account to students zoned to attend a school in an LEA under specified conditions.

HB1862 / SB1815
Rep. Sexton / Sen. Kelsey
Requires each four year public institution of higher education to obtain a student's score on nationally recognized college admissions test prior to offering admission.

HB1944 / SB1944
Rep. Cepicky / Sen. Hensley
Prohibits an LEA or public school from making obscene materials or materials harmful to minors available to students in school libraries controlled by an LEA or public school.

HB0800 / SB1216
Rep. Griffey / Sen. Niceley
Prohibits LEAs and public charter schools from adopting or using textbooks or materials that promote, normalize, support, or address lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgender issues or lifestyles.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What's Happening

Governor Bill Lee's State of the State Address
Monday, 1/31/21, 6:00pm
House Chamber, Tennessee State Capitol [Watch Here](#)

House Higher Education Subcommittee
Tuesday, 2/1/22, 12:00pm
House Hearing Room III [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

House Education Instruction Subcommittee
Tuesday, 2/1/22, 3:00pm
House Hearing Room II [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

House Education Instruction Committee
Wednesday, 2/2/22, 11:00am
House Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Education Committee
Wednesday, 2/2/22, 2:00pm
Senate Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

House Education Administration Committee
Wednesday, 2/2/22, 3:30pm
House Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

Ed Trust TN Funding Publications & Data Tools
The Tennessee Department of Education and Governor Lee are currently reviewing input on their [draft funding formula framework](#) on revamping the BEP. Check out The Education Trust in Tennessee's [feedback](#), in addition to other resources on specific funding recommendations for English learners, rural schools, students with disabilities, and students from low-income backgrounds.

[Learn more](#)

SCORE Report: Funding for Learning
[SCORE \(State Collaborative on Reforming Education\)](#) released an "Analysis of K-12 Education Finance in Tennessee" last fall, which offers four student-focused principles to guide changes in our state's education funding formula to meet modern expectations and student needs.

[Learn more](#)

TN25: Mapping Our Future Together Report Release
Last Wednesday, January 19th, we released our report, TN25: Mapping Our Future Together, that examines the impact of COVID-19 on students and schools in Tennessee and outlines recommendations for how we can close opportunity and achievement gaps exacerbated by the pandemic.

[View our report here](#)

Exploring Race & Gender in TN Teacher Evaluation Scores

Yesterday, January 27th, the Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance (TECA), the Tennessee Education Association, and The Education Trust in Tennessee hosted a webinar on research findings on race and gender gaps in evaluation scores by Dr. Jason Grissom of Vanderbilt University's Peabody College of Education and the Tennessee Education Research Alliance.

[Watch here](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust