Weekly Legislative Update

2.4.22

It was an eventful week in the Volunteer State's education policy and politics realm with Governor Bill Lee's fourth annual State of the State Address Monday night in the House chamber, the final of his inaugural term. Touting the theme "Tennessee: America At Its Best," Governor Lee outlined significant investments in public education within his proposed budget. Proposed items include \$1 billion in recurring K-12 and CTE spending, \$750 million of which would be earmarked for the forthcoming studentweighted school funding formula as well as a nearly \$125 million contribution toward the teacher pay component of the BEP. In higher education, Governor Lee made a pledge of no tuition increases at public colleges and universities with a \$90 million investment in our state's outcomes-based funding formula, more than \$75 million to increase HOPE Scholarship awards, and a historic \$250 million commitment to Tennessee State University's campus infrastructure, an important down payment toward the state's chronically underfunded public HBCU.

Despite these encouraging items included in the Governor's recommended

budget, many questions and concerns remain around Lee's announcement

leaning Christian institution in Michigan known for its K-12 "1776" civics

of a planned partnership with Hillsdale College, a private, conservative-

curriculum and affiliated charter schools. On the school funding front, there are outstanding queries on the specific local match components of the imminent revised formula, which would detail the expected fiscal contributions required of local school districts. On Thursday, Governor Lee and Commissioner Schwinn went on the record to preview that legislative language and additional details of the revised formula should debut in mid-February, under the auspices of a bill entitled the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement, or TISA. Many education-related bills with significant implications for both P-12 and higher education were considered in legislative committees this week. An amendment to <u>HB1516</u> - sponsored by House Education Instruction Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Scott Cepicky - that would have granted

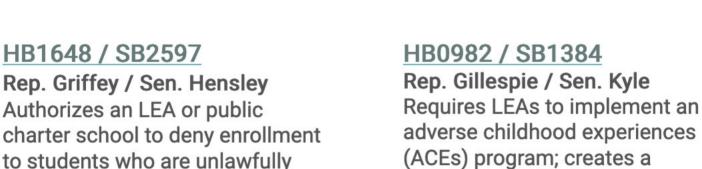
additional school district takeover powers to the state Commissioner of Education failed in full committee on a bipartisan 9-6 vote. A separate bill, HB1681, also sponsored by Rep. Cepicky along with Sen. Briggs in the upper chamber, that prompts the Tennessee Board of Regents to establish a pilot grant program for non-credit workforce training programs advanced in both the Senate Education and House Education Administration Committees. There was also <u>significant discussion</u> in Senate Education on SB1815, sponsored by Sen. Brian Kelsey, which would require the state's public four-year colleges and universities to obtain college entrance exam scores from applicants during the admissions process. The legislation comes as a majority of U.S. institutions of higher education have opted to implement test-optional policies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Knoxville, Martin, and Chattanooga campuses of the University of Tennessee System and Vanderbilt University. The bill advanced out of committee on a 7-2 vote. Bill filing deadlines passed on February 2nd for the House and February 3rd

implications for equity, access, and student achievement. To see all of the legislation up for consideration next week as well as the key bills Ed Trust is actively tracking, please be sure check out the "On Our Radar" section, our updated bill tracker, and the committee calendars each linked below. Reggie Nash **External Relations Manager for Tennessee**

for the Senate, bringing a large influx of education bills this week with major



On Our Radar



specified students to bear sole financial responsibility. 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.

present in the U.S., eliminates

students, and requires LEAs and

state funding for specified

charter schools who enroll

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.

process to refer students who

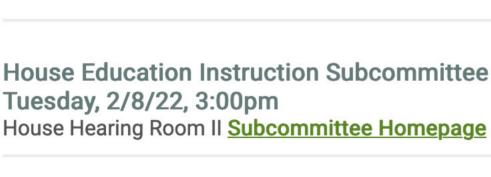
have experience four or more

behavioral health providers.

ACEs to appropriate mental and

House Higher Education Subcommittee

Review Our Bill Tracker



Tuesday, 2/8/22, 12:00pm

House Education Instruction Subcommittee

What's Happening

Tuesday, 2/8/22, 4:30pm House Hearing Room II Subcommittee Homepage

House Education Instruction Committee

House Hearing Room I Committee Homepage

Wednesday, 2/9/22, 11:00am

Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, 2/9/22, 3:00pm

House Committee Calendars

Thrive Fellows and

Community of Practice

is proud to announce the recipients of the Thrive

Fellowship, a cohort of 10

The Education Trust in Tennessee

spend the next year developing or

expanding programs to increase

access and opportunity for high

school students.

Learn more

State

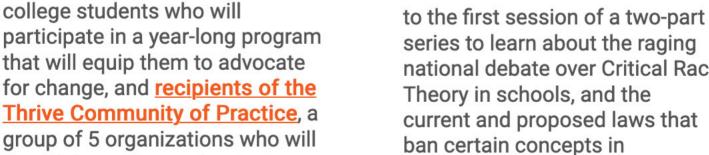
House K-12 Education Subcommittee

House Hearing Room III Subcommittee Homepage

Senate Hearing Room I Committee Homepage **House Education Administration Committee** Wednesday, 2/9/22, 3:30pm

House Hearing Room I Committee Homepage

Noteworthy



The Education Trust in Tennessee issued the following statement in response to key education elements within Governor Lee's State of the State Address and **Budget Proposal for FY2023.**

Ed Trust TN Responds to Governor Lee's State of the

Read here

Upcoming Events

national debate over Critical Race Theory in schools, and the current and proposed laws that

Event: The Debate Over

About It

Critical Race Theory and

Why Students Should Care

The EmpowerEd Network invites

students from across Tennessee

Senate Committee Calendars

classrooms in Tennessee. Join us Tuesday, February 8th, at 5:00pm CT. Register here **FundEd Tool** The Education Trust has completed an update of FundEd, a tool created by EdBuild, that aggregates and standardizes

information regarding each state's K-12 education funding laws by providing easy access to policy descriptions, state-by-state comparisons, and national snapshots to support advocates with the knowledge and tools to help advance funding equity. Learn more

Check Out Our Policy Agenda



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