

Weekly Legislative Update

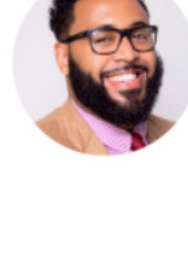
2.25.22

This week Tennesseans were finally able to take their first detailed look at the newly-proposed state public school funding formula legislation, the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement, or TISA, the first major reform of the Basic Education Program (BEP) in three decades. The proposal as currently written would invest \$1 billion in new annual recurring K-12 education funding, beginning with a one-time \$750 million allocation incorporated into Governor Lee's FY23 recommended budget this year. Highlights of the new student-based plan include an increased base funding of \$6,860 per pupil, plus a series of weights, or additional dedicated funding for specific student groups, such as economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, English language learners, and students with dyslexia. Additional financial supports are also included for rural and sparse districts and those with schools with concentrated levels of poverty, among other unique identifiers. You can view the Tennessee Department of Education's comprehensive breakdown of the bill [here](#). The Education Trust in Tennessee is currently conducting a thorough review of the legislation and will be releasing a host of informative resources next week, to be shared at our upcoming webinar, Analyzing TISA: A Dollars and Sense Guide to the Proposed Formula Tuesday, March 1, at 1:00pm CT - register [here](#).

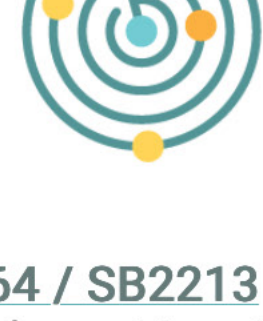
At the General Assembly, many bills with significant implications for equity within both K-12 and higher education are continuing throughout the legislative process. In the House, the Administration-led Age-Appropriate Materials Act, [HB2154](#), passed out of the K-12 Subcommittee. Several teacher licensure bills, [HB1899](#), which would grant a practitioner license under specific conditions to teachers who have temporary permits, and an amended [HB1901](#), which would grant temporary teacher permits that would last no longer than three years, also passed out of the K-12 Subcommittee. In the Higher Education Subcommittee, Rep. Robin Smith's controversial [HB2417](#), which would have severely limited academic freedom and social thought on Tennessee's public campuses, was withdrawn by the sponsor after a significant discussion on the bill's contents and implications for colleges and universities.

[HB2670/SB2290](#), another higher education bill seeking to place prohibitions and limitations on public colleges and universities in the realm of diversity, equity, and inclusion training and conversations among other components, advanced out of both the Senate Education and House Education Administration Committees. [SB1954](#), which would have created a pilot program for elected school district superintendents, failed in the Senate Education Committee. [HB2166/SB2416](#), an Administration-led bill that seeks to make largely technical changes to provisions in code related to the Department of Education and its commissioner, passed out of both the Senate Education Committee and House Education Administration Committee with an [amendment](#) endorsed by Ed Trust and the TN Disability Coalition. The amendment removed language that would have removed critical reporting requirements related to the harmful practice of corporal punishment in public schools. Public institutions of higher education continued their budget hearings before the legislative committees with education jurisdiction, including the University of Memphis, Middle Tennessee State University, Austin Peay State University, and Tennessee State University.

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



On Our Radar

[HB2564 / SB2213](#)
Rep. Hakeem / Sen. Campbell

Prohibits the use of corporal punishment against students; deletes various provisions relative to the use of corporal punishment.

[HB2143 / SB2396](#)
Rep. Lamberth / Sen. Johnson

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.

[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 the school libraries controlled by the LEA or public school.

[HB2833 / SB2168](#)
Rep. White / Sen. Stevens

Reduces amount of time within which certain decisions must be made concerning applications for public charter schools; creates process for authorization of replications of a public charter school; establishes a fund to assist public charter schools in obtaining favorable financing.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What's Happening

House Higher Education Subcommittee
Tuesday, 3/1/22, 12:00PM
House Hearing Room III [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

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

House K-12 Education Subcommittee
Tuesday, 3/1/22, 4:30PM
House Hearing Room II [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

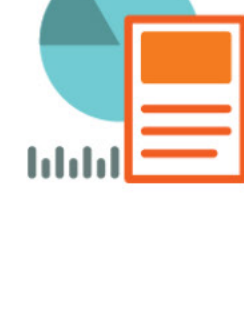
House Education Instruction Committee
Wednesday, 3/2/22, 11:00AM
House Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Education Committee
Wednesday, 3/2/22, 3:00PM
Senate Hearing Room I [Committee Homepage](#)

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

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

The Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement(TISA)

The Tennessee Department of Education is exploring [a new student-based funding formula](#) for the state's public schools to replace the Basic Education Program (BEP) formula. Yesterday, Governor Bill Lee and Commissioner Penny Schwinn unveiled their full new proposal, including a base of \$6.6 billion to provide per-pupil funding.

[Read more](#)

Analyzing TISA: A Dollars and Sense Guide to the Formula

A modern and equitable funding formula is essential for student and school success and we are optimistic about the historic K-12 investment. Join Ed Trust TN on Tuesday, March 1st at 1p.m. CT for a webinar to learn about the different components of the bill, see our analysis, and learn about ways to share your perspective with policymakers.

[Register now](#)

Save the Date: Legislative Watch Party

Ed Trust TN invites you to join us and our partners in the TN Alliance for Equity in Education during our Day of Education Advocacy. We will tune into the House Education Administration Committee on Wednesday, March 2nd, from 3:15 - 4:30p.m. CT, offering play-by-play commentary with links to relevant bills, amendments, and policy resolutions to build understanding of the state legislative process. At 3:15p.m. CT we will begin with a preview, and the Committee will kick off at 3:30p.m. CT and will be considering [these bills](#).

Report: Equity in Childcare is Everyone's Business

New research by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Education Trust finds compounding inequities that magnify challenges for Black and Latina care providers regarding how their work has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This new report highlights challenges reported by early education professionals - from accessing financial and health resources, to racial inequalities undermining participation in the business community.

[Read more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)