



# Weekly Legislative Update

03.11.22

This week was another busy one at Cordell Hull in the education policy realm, with packed subcommittee and committee calendars considering key legislation on both K-12 and postsecondary issues. Tennessee Education Commissioner Dr. Penny Schwinn, Governor Lee's Legislative Director Brent Easley, and Deputy Commissioner Sam Percy were on hand for the House K-12 Education Subcommittee on Tuesday to give a [detailed presentation](#) and answer legislators' questions on the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement, or TISA for short, the Administration's cardinal school funding reform legislation this session. The school finance bill will be moving through the General Assembly as [HB2143/SB2396](#), carried by the Republican majority leaders in each chamber. Also in the K-12 Sub this week, a controversial bill that The Education Trust in Tennessee opposes, [HB2861/SB2278](#), that sought to revise eligibility criteria for education savings accounts (ESAs), otherwise known as school vouchers, failed to advance on a 5-4 bipartisan vote.

Several pieces of legislation related to the teaching of diverse course materials advanced to full committee this week, including [HB2106](#), which requires curricula designed to education students in Black history and culture in grades 5-8, and [HB2291](#), which would require the inclusion of academic standards related to the Civil Rights Movement in grades 9-12. The latter bill was changed by verbal amendment to remove the requirement and replace rather with "urge," a move also proposed on [HB2491](#), which sought to require instruction on the atrocities of the Holocaust. Following the verbal amendment that diluted the intent of his legislation, Rep. Clemmons took the bill off notice. [HB2564](#) by Rep. Yusuf Hakeem of Chattanooga, which would have banned corporal punishment in our state's public schools, failed in committee this week as well. The Education Trust in Tennessee, alongside the TN School Counselor Association, TN Disability Coalition, TN Association of School Social Workers, TN Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and TN Association of School Psychologists, [penned a letter to education leadership](#) in support of this bill. Tennessee remains one of 19 states that allows corporal punishment in its schools.

Next week, several consequential education bills will be up for consideration, including a proposed ban on [PK-2 suspensions and expulsions](#), a bill seeking to [limit affirmative action in Tennessee, school funding reform legislation](#), and more. To see all of the legislation up for consideration next week as well as the other 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

### [HB2569 / SB2440](#)

Rep. Ragan / Sen. Bell

Prohibits the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, an individual or group based on the individual's or group's race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of any aspect of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

### [HB2258 / SB2173](#)

Rep. Harris / Sen. Akbari

Prohibits an LEA from suspending or expelling a student enrolled in any of the grades pre-kindergarten through two unless the student's behavior endangers the physical safety of others; authorizes an LEA to suspend such a student for such behavior for no more than three days if certain measures are taken before the student is suspended.

### [HB2143 / SB2396](#)

Rep. Lamberth / Sen. Johnson

[Caption Bill - School Funding] 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

Excludes local education agencies, public schools, and employees and private contractors of LEAs or public schools from the exception to certain obscenity offenses if the LEA, public school, employee, or private contractor possesses obscene material that is harmful to minors on public school premises; 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.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



## What's Happening

**Senate Education Committee**  
Monday, 3/14/2022, 12:00PM  
Senate Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

**House Higher Education Subcommittee**  
Tuesday, 3/15/2022, 12:00PM  
House Hearing Room III | [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

**House Education Instruction Subcommittee**  
Tuesday, 3/15/2022, 3:00PM  
House Hearing Room II | [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

**House K-12 Education Subcommittee**  
Tuesday, 3/15/2022, 4:30PM  
House Hearing Room II | [Subcommittee Homepage](#)

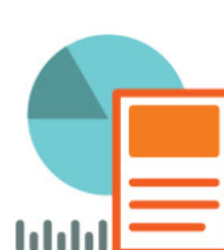
**House Education Instruction Committee**  
Wednesday, 3/16/2022, 11:00AM  
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

**Senate Education Committee**  
Wednesday, 3/16/2022, 1:00PM  
Senate Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

**House Education Administration Committee**  
Wednesday, 3/16/2022, 3:30PM  
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



## Noteworthy

### EVENT: Classroom Conversations: How the CRT Debate and the Culture Wars Impact Tennessee

Join Chalkbeat Tennessee and The Education Trust in Tennessee on Thursday, March 31st, for a panel discussion with students and educators on how the contentious national debates and culture wars are influencing education and affecting students and teachers in our state.

[Register here](#)

### TISA Evaluation Tool

The Education Trust in Tennessee conducted an analysis based on the language in the amendment, [HB2143 / SB2396](#), as well statements made in the [presentation](#) by Governor Lee and Commissioner Schwinn in late February. This analysis is designed to provide stakeholders with the ability to see how TISA measures up to [our recommendations](#), and to provide additional context for each component of the new formula.

[Read more](#)

### Beyond The Ban: A Toolkit for Advancing College Opportunity for Justice-Impacted Students

The Education Trust is pleased to share our new "Beyond the Ban" toolkits, created by our inaugural [Justice Fellows](#) cohort, that scan key metrics, explore critical questions, and examine policies and barriers to education in eight states with high concentrations of incarcerated individuals. The [policy toolkits](#) offer recommendations and advocacy tools to better support justice-impacted students.

[Download the TN toolkit here](#)

### EVENT: EmpowerED Student Voice Network Presents: A Conversation About The Systemic Advancement of Young Women

Join the [EmpowerED Student Voice Network](#) and featured presenters from the [AWAKE TN](#) Student Advisory Board next Tuesday, March 15th, at 5:00 PM CT, to discuss the importance of equitable education and advancement for young women and girls to commemorate Women's History Month.

[Register here](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust