



# Weekly Legislative Update

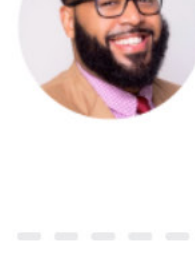
4.8.22

This week, the last of the legislature's education committees concluded their bill calendars for this session, officially ushering in the final weeks of the 112th Tennessee General Assembly. Key education legislation still in play in the legislative process will now proceed to other relevant committees, such as Finance, Ways, and Means or Government Operations, or alternatively head for a final vote on each respective chamber's floor. The final weeks of the legislative session will be focused on finalizing budget items and advancing remaining legislation prior to adjournment.

Notably, the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement, or TISA for short, the Lee Administration's signature education legislation this session that proposes a significant shift to a student-weighted public school funding formula, continues to make its way through the General Assembly. The bill, officially [HB2143/SB2396](#), cleared an important hurdle this week with its bipartisan [passage](#) out of the full House Education Administration Committee on Tuesday on an 11-4 vote. Rep. Scott Cepicky (R-Culleoka) joined Democratic Reps. John Ray Clemmons and Harold Love, Jr. of Nashville and Rep. Yusuf Hakeem of Chattanooga in opposing the bill. The House legislation will now proceed to the Government Operations Committee on Monday, while the Senate's version will be considered in their Finance, Ways, and Means Committee on Tuesday.

[HB2343](#), legislation proposed in the House by Rep. Michele Carringer (R-Knoxville) that seeks to improve accountability for teaching reading instruction in educator preparation programs (EPPs) serving Tennessee, advanced out of the full House Education Administration as well this week. The bill will now be scheduled for full chamber consideration by the Calendar & Rules Committee. Its Senate companion, [SB2163](#) as carried by Sen. Bo Watson of Hamilton County, previously cleared the upper chamber on a unanimous 30-0 vote. [HB2106/SB2501](#), a Ten for Tennessee bill sponsored by Rep. Yusuf Hakeem (D-Chattanooga) and Sen. Raumesh Akbari (D-Memphis) and supported by Ed Trust that would require curricula in Black history and culture for grades 5-8 and incorporate multicultural diversity frameworks in K-12 education, cleared the full House floor on an 80-2-2 vote. Rep. Kelly Keisling (R-Byrdstown) and Rep. Paul Sherrell (R-Sparta) voted in the negative, while Rep. Bud Hulseley (R-Kingsport) and Rep. Iris Rudder (R-Winchester) both opted to abstain as Present, Not Voting. The Senate version of the bill is calendared for full floor consideration on Tuesday, April 12. [SB1825](#), another Ed Trust Ten for Tennessee bill which directs the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to produce a report on the issues of food insecurity affecting our state's public colleges and universities, cleared the Senate on a 27-6 bipartisan vote and will now be transmitted to Governor Lee for his signature. [SB1944](#), a bill opposed by Ed Trust which aimed to use state-level obscenity laws as a means to censor library books and instructional materials, was deferred to summer study in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. Flags on the bill were raised by the Lee Administration due to its potential duplicative impact as [prior "age-appropriate materials" legislation passed into law](#) this session in addition to concerns about legal ramifications for public school librarians. [Powerful student testimony](#) was also offered by high school organizers from the TN Youth Coalition, who stood in staunch opposition to the bill as well.

Next week, stay on the lookout for developments on school funding reform legislation, [Ten for Tennessee](#) bills, finance and state budget process activity, and other education-related issues as the 112th General Assembly moves toward adjournment. 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 weekly schedules each linked below.



**Reggie Nash**  
External Relations Manager for Tennessee



## On Our Radar

[HB2201 / SB2179](#)  
Rep. Alexander / Sen. Haile

Redirects 80% of privilege tax collected from sports wagering licensees from lottery for education account to a new account created to provide supplementary funding for voluntary pre-K programs; requires the TN Department of Education to implement a grant program to provide LEAs with a voluntary pre-K program with supplemental funding.

[HB2152 / SB2405](#)  
Rep. Lamberth / Sen. Johnson

Changes the annual reporting date from October 1 to October 15 by which the Tennessee Higher Education must report to the education committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding data concerning scholarship and grant programs.

[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.

[HB0751 / SB1158](#)  
Rep. Moody / Sen. Haile

Expands the Individual Education Act to allow a child with dyslexia to be eligible for the individualized education account program.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



## What's Happening

**Senate Floor Session**  
Monday, 4/11/22, 4:00PM  
[Senate Chamber Schedule](#)

**House Floor Session**  
Monday, 4/11/22, 5:00PM  
[House Chamber Schedule](#)

**Senate Floor Session**  
Tuesday, 4/12/22, 2:00PM  
[Senate Chamber Schedule](#)

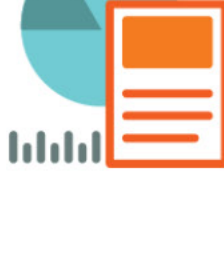
**Senate Floor Session**  
Wednesday, 4/13/22, 8:30AM  
[Senate Chamber Schedule](#)

**Senate Floor Session**  
Thursday, 4/14/22, 8:30AM  
[Senate Chamber Schedule](#)

**House Floor Session**  
Thursday, 4/14/22, 9:00AM  
[House Chamber Schedule](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



## Noteworthy

**Tennessee Youth Coalition Testifies Against SB1944**

Salina Shamsuddin and Milana Kumar, both sophomores from Collierville High School and lead organizers for the Tennessee Youth Coalition, testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee last Wednesday in opposition to SB1944, the school library censorship bill. [Watch their testimony](#) that held their SB1944 to summer study, and check out a [past press rally](#) they had in Memphis on this important issue.

[Watch here](#)

**TISA Evaluation Tool & FAQ**

The Education Trust in Tennessee conducted [an analysis of TISA](#), 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 proposed funding formula. As [HB2143 / SB2396](#) moves through the legislature, you can [submit questions and see our updated FAQ](#) on TISA.

[Read more](#)

**EVENT: Why Does Having a Diverse Teacher Workforce Matter to Students?**

Join [Ed Trust TN's EmpowerED student voice network](#) on Tuesday, April 12th from 5:00 - 6:00PM CT for a panel discussion on the importance of teacher diversity and the need for a diverse teacher workforce in Tennessee. Our keynote speaker, [Dr. Diarese George](#), serves as the founder and Executive Director of the [Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance \(TECA\)](#), and will be interviewed in a fireside chat by our League Leader, Dereke Townsend.

[Register here](#)

**REPORT: How Black Women Experience Student Debt**

45 million Americans collectively owe \$1.7 trillion in student loan debt, and women hold nearly two-third of it. This crisis especially impacts Black women who live at the intersection of two marginalized identities. Check out [The Education Trust's brief](#) on how Black women experience student debt.

[Learn more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)

