

## Status Update

# Legislative Threat to Education for All

[HB793/SB836](#) | Rep. Lamberth/Sen. Watson

Last Updated: February 26, 2026

Introduced in 2025, this [bill](#) was openly discussed by both sponsors as a vehicle to overturn the *Plyler v. Doe* precedent, which guarantees all children living in the United States access to free public education regardless of immigration status. Advocacy by thousands of Tennesseans halted the bill's progress in 2025, but sponsors are bringing it back in 2026.

## Legislative Path

- The bill passed the Senate in 2025 but stalled in the House Finance, Ways, and Means Subcommittee, where it is scheduled to be heard on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.
- In the House, the bill must additionally pass the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee and a full floor vote.
- The Senate and House versions of the bill and proposed amendments differ from one another in significant ways, and the two chambers will have to agree on one version of the bill for it to pass. The bill must also be signed into law by Governor Lee.

Key Provisions	House Version		Senate Version
	Current Version <u>Amendment 1</u>	Proposed Amendment 013823	
Public schools collect information on student immigration status as part of school enrollment.	<p>Schools choose if they want to collect documentation.</p> <p>Requires schools to report the number of students who enroll without supplying a birth certificate.</p>	<p>Requires schools to collect information to show students' citizenship, liminal status, or lawful presence.</p> <p>Schools must report aggregated data to the TN Dept. of Education (TDOE), including types of documentation provided, student counts, and the reason given for those who do not produce documentation.</p> <p>TDOE must report annually to immigration authorities and various state agencies on student counts and documentation.</p>	Requires schools to collect information.
Public schools charge tuition to students who cannot prove lawful presence.	Schools choose if they will deny enrollment outright or after attempting to charge tuition.	Tuition not mentioned.	Schools choose if they want to charge tuition.
Public schools deny enrollment to students who cannot prove lawful presence.	Schools choose if they will deny enrollment outright or after attempting to charge tuition.	This is not mentioned specifically but the documentation provision implies undocumented students cannot enroll.	Schools can choose to deny enrollment only if the student is unable to pay tuition.

For more information about protecting undocumented student access to public school, check out the [Education for All - Tennessee](#) campaign.