



Teacher Pay

Summary of Teacher Pay in the Appropriations Bill

for Legislative and Advocacy Partners

On January 22, 2021, during the 1st Extraordinary Session of the 112th General Assembly, the Tennessee General Assembly passed an Appropriations Bill (SB7009/HB7020), which included critical pay increases for Tennessee teachers during an unprecedented school year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Educators are critical for the success and safety of our students. Throughout these unprecedented times, Tennessee teachers continue to rise to the occasion to meet the needs of all students and provide them with a quality education. Increasing teacher pay was a priority for the Governor and the General Assembly prior to COVID-19, as we know our educators have worked especially hard through the pandemic to adapt to new challenges, dynamics, and instructional environments.

By passing this appropriations bill, the General Assembly appropriated funding to provide an increase equivalent to a one-time, 2% increase of the instructional component of the BEP for this school year (dating back to January 1, 2021).

While this important effort marks a partnership between the Governor and the General Assembly to support our educators, it is only the beginning. Governor Lee has already committed to proposing a recurring 4% increase in the instructional component for the next fiscal year.

Tennessee teachers work hard in their classrooms every day to support all students; the Governor and the General Assembly are proud to fight for our teachers.