



Legislative Report

2023

This report includes all Acts passed by the Tennessee General Assembly impacting education during the 113th Legislative Session. It contains a link to the public chapter and the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) contact who may provide helpful information related to the new law.



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ACADEMICS

Chapter 353 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 353](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Roberts/Fritts: SB1443/HB0727

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 353 revises the law requiring LEAs to provide parental access to review surveys, analyses, or evaluations, and necessitates consent from parents or legal guardians for student participation in these activities, excluding evaluations related to curriculum. Additionally, the chapter updates requirements concerning health screenings, including vision, dental, blood pressure, and hearing screenings, and introduces the need for written requests from parents or legal guardians to excuse their student from these screenings. Furthermore, the chapter mandates written, informed, and voluntary consent from parents or legal guardians, or students aged 18 or older, for the student to receive instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity curricula, allowing for withdrawal of consent at any time. Lastly, it establishes that written consent from a student's parent or legal guardian is required before a minor student can become a member of or participate in any activities of a club or organization.

Chapter 344 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 344](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Powers/T. Hicks: SB0967/HB0662

TDOE Contact: Deborah Knoll, Assistant Commissioner of Career and Technical Education, Deborah.Knoll@tn.gov

Summary: PC 344 requires a LEA to maintain the following on file:

- Added or amended policies and make the policies available in each school library operated by the LEA.
- Notice of deleted policies and make the notices available in each school library operated by the LEA.

PC 344 also establishes that if a person holds an active industry license or credential relevant to a career and technical education (CTE) course, as determined by the TDOE, then the person may provide instruction to students in the CTE course. The instruction provided by the person is supervised at all times in the classroom by a licensed teacher who serves as the teacher of record for the course. It also clarifies such a person providing instruction is subject to investigation pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-413.

Chapter 340 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 340](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Haile/White: SB0355/HB1150

TDOE Contact: Misty Moody, Assistant Commissioner of Early Learning, Misty.Moody@tn.gov



Summary: PC 340 requires the TDOE to:

- conduct a statewide needs analysis of preschool education in Tennessee;
- post the results of the analysis on the TDOE’s website no later than March 31, 2024; and
- establish the Tennessee preschool task force to assist in developing a strategic plan for preschool education.

PC 340 also establishes a preschool pilot program, subject to available funds. The program shall award grant funds to five local education agencies to implement innovative and high-quality preschool programs in the 2023-24 school year.

Chapter 327 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 327](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Massey/White: SB0004/HB0435

TDOE Contact: Shannon Gordon, Chief Operating Officer, Shannon.Gordon@tn.gov

Summary: PC 327 revises the requirements for a deaf mentor program. It stipulates that the program must be available at the following schools:

- The West Tennessee School for the Deaf in Jackson
- The Tennessee School for the Deaf, Knoxville campus
- The Tennessee School for the Deaf, Nashville campus

The program is required to focus on:

- preventing language deprivation or gaps through insufficient language access;
- providing a positive impact on a child’s social and emotional development through a deaf role model and on a parent’s emotional journey of having a deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind child through a parent advisor; and
- ensuring that children who are deaf have equal access to learning opportunities at home and in the community.

Additionally, PC 327 further requires the program use a deaf mentor curriculum and provide parents of deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind children the option of using a deaf mentor and a parent advisor. It also requires the following of deaf mentors and parent advisors to:

- Make regular visits to the homes of young children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind;
- Interact with the children and their families using American Sign Language and spoken English;
- Demonstrate American Sign Language and listening and spoken English techniques to family members; and
- Help families understand and appreciate deafness and deaf culture, as well as support them in understanding how to provide accommodations and access to communication.

Chapter 310 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 310](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Powers/White: SB0971/HB0782

TDOE Contact: Deborah Knoll, Assistant Commissioner of Career and Technical Education, Deborah.Knoll@tn.gov



Summary: PC 310 requires, upon the request of the Tennessee Financial Literacy Commission, each public elementary and middle school, or each LEA on behalf of the schools, to provide information to the commission or TDOE about the financial literacy education provided to public elementary and middle school students during the school year.

Chapter 307 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 307](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Reeves/Baum: SB0668/HB0644

TDOE Contact: Deborah Knoll, Assistant Commissioner of Career and Technical Education, Deborah.Knoll@tn.gov

Summary: PC 307 requires the Financial Literacy Commission to study financial literacy in this state. The Commission is required to determine the scope of the study and shall submit a report of the findings of the study and the commission's recommendations to the General Assembly. The report may be completed by a contractor employed by the commission. The contractor may be paid for the contractor's services with funds raised by the commission. Additionally, Public Chapter 307 establishes April as "Financial Literacy Month" in the state of Tennessee.

Chapter 278 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 278](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Hensley/Lynn: SB1059/HB0841

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 278 makes it unlawful for a book publisher, distributors, or seller to knowingly sell or distribute obscene matter to a public school serving any grades kindergarten through twelve. Additionally, Public Chapter 278 establishes a penalty, deeming a violation of the above a Class E felony, accompanied by a minimum fine of \$10,000, but no more than \$100,000.

Chapter 269 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 269](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: White/Slater: SB0838/HB0962

TDOE Contact: David Laird, Assistant Commissioner for Assessment and Accountability, David.Laird@tn.gov

Summary: PC 269 allows an LEA or public charter school that serves students in any of the grades nine through twelve the authority to grant a high school student credit for an eligible course offered by the student's high school for which the student is not enrolled, but for which the student attains a qualifying score on the eligible course's credit exam. An LEA or public charter school shall provide each high school student the opportunity to take a credit exam for an eligible course each semester in which the LEA or public charter school offers an eligible course for which the LEA has developed a credit exam. A student may only take a credit exam once per eligible course. Any credits earned must count toward the high school graduation requirements. A student may earn a maximum of four graduation credits under this public chapter. PC 269 requires the TDOE to provide a list of recommended courses for which an LEA or public charter school may develop a credit exam to the State Board of Education for approval. The list must include courses in math, English language arts (ELA), science, and social studies. Additionally, credit exams developed by an LEA or public charter must cover the entirety of the Tennessee



academic standards for the course. This public chapter further clarifies that any credit exam administered under this chapter shall not affect the evaluation of a teacher, principal, school, or LEA. This chapter further requires any LEA or public charter school serving students in any grade nine through twelve to adopt a policy to implement this public chapter. Additionally, LEAs and public charter schools are required to report various pieces of information to the TDOE including:

- A copy of each credit exam developed by the LEA or public charter school
- The number of credit exams administered
- The course for which credit exams were administered
- The number of students that did and did not receive a qualifying score on each credit exam administered

Lastly, PC 269 requires the TDOE, at the request of the Senate Education Committee and House Administration Education Committee, to submit a report regarding the implementation of this chapter.

Chapter 165 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 165](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Lowe/Cochran: SB0443/HB1271

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 165 requires every LEA and public charter school to offer students transferring in from private schools and home schools, who are in good academic standing, equal access to all academic and arts programs, clubs, events, and opportunities provided to non-transfer students. Students transferring in or re-enrolling in an LEA or public charter school in good academic standing, are immediately eligible to participate in these programs and activities. However, the LEA or public charter school is not obligated to guarantee a place or position on any team, club, or organization, but students must be given the same opportunity to try out or participate as non-transfer students.

Chapter 130 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 130](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Yager/Powers: SB0987/HB0680

TDOE Contact: Christy Wall, Assistant Commissioner of Instructional Strategy, Christy.Wall@tn.gov

Summary: PC 130 increases the amount of credit a student may earn, from half a unit to one unit of credit, for work completed in a released time course if a local board of education has adopted a policy to award students credit for work completed in a released time course.

Chapter 161 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 161](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Niceley/Powers: SB0382/HB0678

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov

Summary: PC 161 deletes the provision repealing the Virtual Public Schools Act, prolonging the statutory authority to operate virtual public schools.



Chapter 127 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 127](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Akbari/Love: SB0872/HB0736

TDOE Contact: Christy Wall, Assistant Commissioner of Instructional Strategy, Christy.Wall@tn.gov

Summary: Previous law only urged the academic standards recommendation committee to include certain academic standards regarding the civil rights movement in the committee's final recommendation of academic standards in the subject of social studies. PC 127 requires the standards recommendation committee to include the events of the Civil Rights Movement in their final standards recommendation for students in grades 9-12 during the next adoption of academic standards in the subject of social studies.

Chapter 111 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 111](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Walley/Gant: SB0225/HB0588

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov

Summary: PC 111 allows an LEA that does not operate a virtual school to enter an agreement with an LEA that does operate a virtual school for the purpose of providing remote instruction to students who have been suspended or expelled from the regular school program.

Chapter 435 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 435](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: White/Hemmer: SB1231/HB1232

TDOE Contact: Brooke Amos, Assistant Commissioner of Human Capital, Brooke.Amos@tn.gov

Summary: PC 435 authorizes a local board of education to contract with a private college or university accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges that has its primary campus domiciled in this state for the college or university to maintain a training school for grades pre-kindergarten through twelve (pre-K-12) to provide practice teaching experience for teachers in training. It also authorizes a college or university that has entered into a contract with a local board of education pursuant to this section to receive all state and federal funds received by the local board of education as a result of this contract, including TISA allocations and any other funds that may be allocated for the operation of public schools of this state.

STUDENT READINESS

Chapter 338 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 338](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Lundberg/White: SB0300/HB0437

TDOE Contact: Christy Wall, Assistant Commissioner of Instructional Strategy, Christy.Wall@tn.gov

Summary: PC 338 revises the law on 3rd grade promotion and retention, by adding a new promotion pathway, a new appeals process for “approaching” students, and new tutoring requirements. Such revisions are effective for the 2023-24 school year.

The new promotion pathway includes the following criteria:

- A student is considered proficient in ELA standards if they score in the 50th percentile on the most recent state-provided benchmark assessment.
- The assessment must be conducted in a supervised testing environment determined by the TDOE, and the LEA must commit to providing tutoring throughout the student’s 4th grade year, following TDOE requirements.
- If a student is promoted through this pathway, the LEA is obligated to inform parents/guardians in writing about the benefits of enrolling their child in a summer learning loss bridge camp and encourage participation.

PC 338 revises the appeals process for students who face retention in 3rd grade due to an “approaching” performance level on the ELA section of the most recent TCAP test by authorizing a student’s parent or guardian to consent for the principal, guidance counselor, teacher, or another administrator of the student’s school to file an appeal to a retention decision.

Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, PC 338 requires a student who is retained in any of the grades kindergarten through three (K-3) to be assigned a tutor through the Tennessee Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps (TN ALL Corps) to provide the student with tutoring services for the entirety of the upcoming school year. PC 338 authorizes the TDOE to procure up to three online tutoring providers for LEAs to use in offering online tutoring services to students.

Chapter 322 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 322](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Akbari/Camper: SB0884/HB1295

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov

Summary: PC 322 mandates the TDOE to conduct a study on 9th grade “on track” indicators in state accountability systems, aiming to prevent high school dropouts. The study will define “on-track” high school success and develop specific indicators to identify at-risk students. It will consider factors such as credit accumulation, course completion, attendance patterns, failure in key subjects, below-proficient scores on assessments, and disciplinary actions. Statewide dropout early warning systems will be developed, and data on “on-track” indicators will be publicly reported through various methods such as state report cards and disaggregated by student



subgroups. Goals will be set to monitor the number of students remaining “on track” in 9th grade, aligning with statewide graduation objectives. The TDOE will provide support and guidance to schools and districts to enhance the number of 9th grade students who meet the “on-track” criteria. The outcomes of the study must be reported to relevant committees by January 31, 2024, and published on the TDOE’s website.

Chapter 321 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 321](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: White/Moody: SB1208/HB1261

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov

Summary: PC 321 requires the TDOE to implement a procedure for informing parents about their child’s potential qualification for participation in the Individualized Education Account program.

Chapter 296 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 296](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Hensley/Barrett: SB0644/HB0252

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 296 exempts students of home schools from providing proof of vaccination to the local director of schools. In the event that a home school student engages in an interscholastic or extracurricular activity sponsored by a LEA, PC 296 authorizes the LEA to ask for and obtain evidence that the student has undergone the necessary health service or examination mandated by law for the LEA’s students to participate in said activity or event.

Chapter 192 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 192](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Lundberg/Hurt: SB0421/HB0896

TDOE Contact: Christy Wall, Assistant Commissioner of Instructional Strategy, Christy.Wall@tn.gov

Summary: PC 192 extends the period of time during which the State Board of Education must ensure that standards review and development committees and advisory teams review the standards for ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies, from six years to eight years after the last adoption. Additionally, the maximum contract term between the state textbook and instructional materials quality commission and a publisher is extended from 73 months to 97 months.

Chapter 144 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 144](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Johnson/Lamberth: SB0249/HB0068

TDOE Contact: Tess Yates, Senior Director of Learning Acceleration, Tess.Yates@tn.gov

Summary: PC 144 revised the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act (Chapter 1 of the Public Acts of 2021, 1st Extraordinary Session). Starting in the summer of 2021, the law required all LEAs in Tennessee to offer in-person learning loss remediation and student acceleration programs, including summer learning camps, after-school learning mini-



camps, and learning loss bridge camps. The law only required implementation of summer learning camps and after school summer learning mini-camps for students entering grades 1-5 and grades 6-8, respectively, for the summers of 2021 and 2022 and required implementation of learning loss bridge camps indefinitely for students entering grades 4-8. PC 144 extended funding for all camps indefinitely and allows students entering kindergarten to participate in summer learning camps and STREAM mini-camps. In addition, PC 144 authorizes students entering 9th grade to participate in the learning loss bridge camps.

Chapter 114 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 114](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Johnson/Lambeth: SB0255/HB0074

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 114 revises the terms “general education development credential,” “high school equivalency test,” and variations of the terms to “high school equivalency credential.”

Chapter 472 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 472](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Powers/ Hicks, T.: SB0966/HB0663

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 472 revised the Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022 by requiring LEAs or public charter schools to create a procedure for the LEA or public charter school staff to receive and evaluate feedback from a student, student’s parent/guardian, or school employee regarding 1 or more materials contained in the schools’ library. The procedure must require that if the LEA or public charter school does not reach a resolution with the complainant, the local board of education or charter school governing body must evaluate the material to determine its appropriateness of age and maturity levels of students. Previously, the law required all feedback to be initially evaluated and a decision made by the board of education or charter school governing body, rather than LEA or charter school staff.

Chapter 444 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 444](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Campbell/McKenzie: SB0346/HB0933

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 444 requires each high school to inform each high school senior that, upon reaching the age of eighteen, the student may be eligible to vote. It further requires high schools to provide information from the secretary of state about voter eligibility and how to register to vote, including the date and time of the supplemental voter registration conducted at the student’s high school. No punitive measures may be taken against the person tasked by the high school to provide the information.



Chapter 439 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 439](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Lundberg/Haston: SB0198/HB0250

TDOE Contact: Deborah Knoll, Assistant Commissioner of Career and Technical Education, Deborah.Knoll@tn.gov

Summary: PC 439 requires LEAs and public charter schools to provide high school seniors with the opportunity to take nationally recognized assessments, to assess and certify their career readiness and provide them with more choices in identifying career pathways. The assessments must be standardized, criterion-referenced tests designed to measure a broad range of foundational workplace skills, and must adhere to specific standards for educational and psychological testing. The assessments must measure skills in a broad range of areas, including applied mathematics, workplace documents, and graphic literacy, and align with research-based skill requirement profiles for specific industries and occupations. Students who meet the minimum proficiency requirements on the component assessments will receive nationally recognized work-readiness certificates or credentials. The assessments must be available in paper and computer-based formats and aligned with a self-paced, modular skills curriculum that allows for skill remediation.

Chapter 285 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 285](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Hensley/Bulso: SB1237/HB0306

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 285 requires that in connection with an interscholastic athletic activity or event where membership in the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association is required, a student enrolled in a private school in this state is eligible to participate in such athletic activity or event only in accordance with the student's sex. The law defines sex to mean, a person's immutable biological sex as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth. Evidence of a person's biological sex includes, but is not limited to, a government-issued identification document that accurately reflects a person's sex listed on the person's original birth certificate.

Chapter 257 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 257](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Powers/Ragan: SB0317/HB1416

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: Requires the state, each LEA, and each public school to remove barriers to educational success imposed upon children of military families by extending the benefits provided by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to school-aged children in the household or any reserve military member. This included the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard.



EDUCATORS

Chapter 93 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 93](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Pody/Carringer: SB0578/HB0358

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov

Summary: PC 93 removes the requirement for the annual training course of a charter school governing body to be certified by the Tennessee Charter School Center. Instead, it mandates that all training for the governing body of a public charter school should be approved by the State Board of Education.

Chapter 84 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 84](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: White/Martin: SB0244/HB0062

TDOE Contact: Maryanne Durski, Chief Financial Officer, Maryanne.Durski@tn.gov

Summary: PC 84 revised the required salary structure for teachers serving in a Department of Children's Services (DCS) youth development center that is part of the Department of Children's Services special school district. PC 84 requires teachers starting their employment in the special school district to receive a compensation that is equal to or higher than the average annual pay rate for teachers in the county where the respective DCS youth development center is situated. Moreover, teachers in the special school district who have completed an annual performance review cycle by July 1, 2023, are eligible for various forms of additional compensation such as merit pay, salary increases, bonuses, and other benefits, following the same guidelines as other state preferred service employees. Lastly, teachers in the special school district are entitled to receive longevity pay.

Chapter 343 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 343](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Niceley/Farmer, SB0906/HB1357

TDOE Contact: Maryanne Durski, Chief Financial Officer, Maryanne.Durski@tn.gov

Summary: Pursuant to PC 343, if a teacher is absent from their assigned duties due to a personal injury caused by a physical assault or violent criminal act during their employment activities, the LEA must continue paying the teacher's full salary and full benefits, including health insurance, until the teacher is released by their physician to return to work or is determined to be permanently and totally disabled. If the teacher is eligible for workers' compensation or similar benefits, they must file a claim for those benefits, and the LEA will supplement the difference between the full salary and the received benefits. The leave taken for personal injury due to an assault or violent act does not deplete the teacher's sick leave, personal leave, or professional leave. The LEA is not obligated to provide full salary and benefits beyond one year, and this provision does not invalidate any existing policies or contracts that offer greater benefits or leave for injured teachers.



Chapter 311 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 311](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Hensley/Fritts: SB0724/HB0786

TDOE Contact: Brooke Amos, Assistant Commissioner of Human Capital, Brooke.Amos@tn.gov

Summary: PC 311 creates a new pathway for honorably discharged veterans to receive an occupational teaching license.

Chapter 284 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 284](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: White/Stevens: SB1221/HB0424

TDOE Contact: Brooke Amos, Assistant Commissioner of Human Capital, Brooke.Amos@tn.gov

Summary: PC 284 authorizes the Commissioner of Education to grant a temporary permit to teach to an individual pursuing clinical experience in an educator preparation program, under certain conditions to teach in a position in which the LEA or public charter school is unable to find a qualified teacher with a valid license for a vacancy that exists in a particular school.

Chapter 280 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 280](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Hensley/Hurt: SB1070/HB0897

TDOE Contact: Brooke Amos, Assistant Commissioner of Human Capital, Brooke.Amos@tn.gov

Summary: PC 280 authorizes the Commissioner of Education to issue a 1 year endorsement exemption to a teacher, according to state board rules, to teach physical education classes that are mandatory for elementary school students, at the request of a director of schools or the director of a public charter school.

Chapter 275 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 275](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Powers/Stevens: SB0972/HB0995

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: Previous law limits when a student with a disability may be subjected to corporal punishment. PC 275 revised the law requiring that before any corporal punishment is administered to a student, the student's teacher or school principal must document specific information in the student's educational record, including whether there is a need to conduct an initial evaluation to determine whether the student has a disability. If an initial evaluation is conducted and the student is found to have a disability, then corporal punishment may only be administered if certain conditions are met under the law.



Chapter 267 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 267](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: White/Slater: SB0744/HB0529

TDOE Contact: Brooke Amos, Assistant Commissioner of Human Capital, Brooke.Amos@tn.gov

Summary: PC 267 updates various provisions related to the automatic revocation of educator licenses.

Chapter 222 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 222](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: White/Slate: SB0743/HB0459

TDOE Contact: Brooke Amos, Assistant Commissioner of Human Capital, Brooke.Amos@tn.gov

Summary: PC 222 clarified that public charter schools and the state board of education are prohibited from employing individuals found by DCS to have committed an act of child abuse in the same manner as other educational entities. Previously, the law only included LEAs and the TDOE in this prohibition. Additionally, PC 222 clarifies that the state board of education is prohibited from granting, reactivating, or restoring an educator license or temporary teaching permit for such individuals. PC 222 also clarified that public charter schools and the state board of education are prohibited from employing individuals whose names have been placed on the state's vulnerable person's registry or the state's sex offender registry. Previously, the law only included LEAs and the TDOE in this prohibition

Chapter 181 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 181](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Roberts/Barrett: SB1438/HB0695

TDOE Contact: Brooke Amos, Assistant Commissioner of Human Capital, Brooke.Amos@tn.gov

Summary: PC 181 updated the requirements for the occupational educator scholarship. The occupational educator scholarship covers the tuition and mandatory fees of the postsecondary institution attended, with the deduction of all other gift aid. The gift aid should be applied first to the eligible prospective educator's tuition and mandatory fees before the scholarship amount is determined.

Chapter 153 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 153](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Stevens/Reedy, SB1155/HB0892

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 153, adds the director of schools as a person to whom a principal must report the principal's direct knowledge of an offense of assault and battery or vandalism committed by a student on school property endangering the life, health, or safety of others. PC 153 also expands the educator's bill of rights to include the educator's right to report an offense of assault and battery or vandalism committed by a student on school property and the educator's right to receive benefits if the educator is a teacher who is absent from their assigned duties due to injuries caused by a criminal act committed against the teacher in the course of the teacher's employment activities.



Chapter 437 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 437](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Johnson/Lamberth: SB0281/HB0329

TDOE Contact: Maryanne Durski, Chief Financial Officer, Maryanne.Durski@tn.gov

Summary: PC 437 increases the minimum state salary to \$50,000 by 2026. The minimum salary shall increase in increments based on the following schedule:

- 2023-24: \$42,000
- 2024-25: \$44,500
- 2025-26: \$47,000
- 2026-27: \$50,000

PC 437 also prohibits automatic dues deduction by LEAs for professional organizations.

Chapter 425 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 425](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Yarbro/Glynn: SB0414/HB0975

TDOE Contact: Maryanne Durski, Chief Financial Officer, Maryanne.Durski@tn.gov

Summary: PC 425 revises some of the requirements for a retiree to be employed by a public school without loss of retirement benefits including that a retired member of the Tennessee consolidated retirement system is permitted to work beyond the limit of 120 days as a substitute teacher in a public school system if the compensation received by the retired member for this work does not exceed the rate set by the public school system for similar vacant positions and the total salary earned by the retired member for teaching during a twelve-month period does not exceed a proportionate share of the average salary being paid in the relevant academic discipline at the institution.

Chapter 399 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 399](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: White/Sexton: SB1458/HB0983

TDOE Contact: Maryanne Durski, Chief Financial Officer, Maryanne.Durski@tn.gov

Summary: PC 399 authorizes 6 weeks of paid leave and 100% of the employee's regular compensation to employees of an LEA for birth, stillbirth, or adoption of the employee's minor child. Employees must give 30-days' notice prior to their leave date, when possible. Employees eligible for such leave are not required to use sick, annual, or any other type of leave. Employees may only receive 6 weeks of paid leave once per 12-month period, and such leave must count toward an employee's entitled leave under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Chapter 382 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 382](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Lamar/Hakeem: SB0773/HB0457

TDOE Contact: Shannon Gordon, Chief Operating Officer, Shannon.Gordon@tn.gov



Summary: PC 382 requires each LEA and public charter school to encourage all employed and volunteer coaches to annually complete training in physical conditioning and the use of training equipment. It further requires all LEAs and public charter schools to have an emergency action plan that facilitates, organizes, and rehearses the actions of coaches and athletes in an emergency. Additionally, LEAs, public charter schools, and non-public schools providing youth athletics in which the participants are 14 years of age or younger must create a code of conduct for coaches and are encouraged to visit the Department of Health's website to review the safety standards recommended for each level of recognition provided as part of the TDOE's "Safe Stars Initiative", and to communicate with the TDOE to ensure that all safety measures are up to date. Non-public schools providing youth athletics to students older than 14 years are also required to meet these requirements if the athletic activity takes place on property owned by the state of a political subdivision.

Chapter 381 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 381](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: White/White: SB1220/HB0432

TDOE Contact: Brooke Amos, Assistant Commissioner of Human Capital, Brooke.Amos@tn.gov

Summary: PC 381 enacts the "Tennessee Future Teacher Scholarship Act of 2023," a last dollar scholarship to be administered via a 5-year pilot program managed by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). Students enrolled at an approved education preparation program (EPP), receiving the HOPE scholarship, and in their junior or senior year of coursework may qualify for this scholarship. Students must sign a promissory note agreeing to teach in an LEA or public charter school in the state of Tennessee for at least 4 consecutive years in a targeted setting.

Chapter 448 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 448](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Rose/Cochran: SB0466/HB1269

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 448 provides that a teacher or other employee of a public school or LEA is not required to use a student's preferred pronoun when referring to the student if the pronoun is not consistent with the student's biological sex. It is further provides that a teacher or other employee of a public school or LEA is not civilly liable for using the pronoun consistent with a student's biological sex even if it is not the student's preferred pronoun. Additionally, PC 448 provides that a teacher or other employee of a public school or LEA may not be subject to an adverse employment action for not using a student's preferred pronoun if the preferred pronoun is inconsistent with the student's biological sex.

Chapter 438 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 438](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Gardenhire/Zachary: SB0102/HB0158

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 438 prohibits an LEA or public charter school from requiring an educator or other employee of the LEA or public charter school from completing or participating in implicit bias training as defined in the law. LEAs or public charter schools may not take adverse action against



an employee for failure or refusal to complete implicit bias training. Additionally, the TDOE and state board of education are prohibited from requiring completion of implicit bias training as a condition for licensure, professional development, or program participation.

CHOICE

Chapter 92 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 92](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Pody/Carringer: SB0577/HB0359

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov

Summary: PC 92 removes the requirement that the annual training course for a charter school governing body be certified by the Tennessee Charter School Center and requires all training for the governing body of a public charter school to be approved by the state board of education.

Chapter 328 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 328](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Gardenhire/White: SB0012/HB0433

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov

Summary: PC 328 expands the Education Savings Account program to eligible families in Hamilton County.

Chapter 290 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 290](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Akbari/Hardaway: SB0881/HB0036

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov

Summary: PC 290 revises the requirement for automatic revocation of a public charter school agreement to apply only if certain conditions exist and prohibits the 2022 and 2023 priority school list from being considered as one of the priority school cycles required for automatic revocation of a public charter school agreement.

Chapter 206 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 206](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Gardenhire/Baum: SB0980/HB1086

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov



Summary: PC 206 revises various provisions related to public charter schools. The revisions include:

- adding new requirements for evaluating charter school applications; requiring local boards of education to provide public charter schools notice before implementing any changes to the grade bands of schools;
- authorizing charter schools to enroll a percentage of students residing outside of the geographic boundaries of the LEA if the LEA has a policy allowing out-of-district enrollment;
- authorizing public charter schools to give enrollment preference to economically disadvantaged students;
- authorizing public charter schools to prioritize the enrollment of children of school employees or governing body members, up to a maximum of 10% of the school's total enrollment or 25 students, whichever is less; and
- clarifying the circumstances under which a charter agreement may be revoked by the authorizer.

Chapter 171 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 171](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Lundberg/Todd: SB0638/HB0559

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov

Summary: PC 171 expands Education Savings Account eligibility requirements to include students who attended or were eligible to attend for the first time a Tennessee public school during the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Chapter 87 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 87](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Niceley/Faison: SB0315/HB1456

TDOE Contact: Shannon Gordon, Chief Operating Officer, Shannon.Gordon@tn.gov

Summary: PC 87 provides that a county or municipality may enter a contract with a nonpublic school for the purposes of allowing a local law enforcement agency to provide school resource officers to the nonpublic school.

Chapter 299 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 299](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Lundberg/Cepicky: SB0190/HB0340

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 299 added a fourth offense to the list of zero tolerance offenses, that when committed by a student, require a mandatory calendar year expulsion that may only be modified on a case-by-case basis by the director of schools. PC 299 added that a student has committed a zero-tolerance offense if the student, "Threatens mass violence on school property or at a school related activity pursuant to § 39-16-517."



Chapter 279 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 279](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Hensley/Gillespie: HB0826/SB1069

TDOE Contact: Shannon Gordon, Chief Operating Officer, Shannon.Gordon@tn.gov

Summary: Pursuant to PC 279, a director of schools, or the director's designee, is not required, for grades 7-12, to assign a student to alternative school if the student was suspended for more than 10 days or expelled due to acts of violence or threatened acts of violence and the alternative school is on the same grounds as the regular school program or the director of schools determines that assigning the student to an alternative school may endanger the safety of students and staff at the alternative school.

Chapter 210 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 210](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Roberts/Heltoon-Haynes: SB1434/HB1321

TDOE Contact: Shannon Gordon, Chief Operating Officer, Shannon.Gordon@tn.gov

Summary: PC 210 allows for the use of a portable electronic device on a school bus for navigation and accurate student accounting, as long as certain conditions are met.

Chapter 142 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 142](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Hensley/Capley: SB0172/HB0159

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 142 clarifies that it is not unlawful for an adult nonstudent to possess a concealed pocketknife on school grounds if they are on school grounds for the sole purpose of voting in an election.

Chapter 122 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 122](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Pody/Moody: SB0579/HB0258

TDOE Contact: Shannon Gordon, Chief Operating Officer, Shannon.Gordon@tn.gov

Summary: PC 122 makes various changes to laws related to school buses and school bus drivers including:

- changing from the state board of education to local boards of education, as the entity responsible for requiring certain examinations of school bus drivers, for requiring certain reports, and for revoking the certificates of school bus drivers found to be unfit;
- expanding the types of convictions for which a school bus driver's certificate must be revoked; and
- changing from the state board of education to the department of safety, as the entity responsible for adopting specifications for school buses.



Chapter 367 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 367](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Johnson/Lamberth: SB0274/HB0322

TDOE Contact: Shannon Gordon, Chief Operating Officer, Shannon.Gordon@tn.gov

Summary: PC 367 revises various provisions of present law relative to the safety of public and private schools and the Schools Against Violence in Education Act.

Chapter 179 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 179](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Taylor/Whitson: SB1281/HB0818

TDOE Contact: Shannon Gordon, Chief Operating Officer, Shannon.Gordon@tn.gov

Summary: PC 179 revises present law provisions relative to cameras on school buses. It revises the requirements and penalties for driving violations involving a school bus.

GOVERNMENT

Chapter 48 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 48](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Johnson/Lamberth: SB0011/HB0002

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 48 makes permanent various requirements that were temporary regarding COVID-19.

Chapter 350 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 350](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Akbari/Camper: SB1268/HB1324

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 350 revises the requirements for when a local board of education member may participate in a board member electronically.

Chapter 316 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 316](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Roberts/Darby, SB1426/HB1004

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 316 requires an appointed member of a governing body for a state entity to serve in such capacity until the member's successor is duly appointed and qualified and authorizes the removal of such member by the member's appointing authority with or without cause. PC 316 also removes term limits for members of the advisory council on state procurement.



Chapter 300 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 300](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Lowe/Davis: SB0551/HB0448

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 300 adds a requirement that governing bodies reserve a period of public comment for each public meeting and lists reasonable restrictions that may be included for the period and exceptions to the requirement.

Chapter 151 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 151](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Haile/White: SB0533/HB1151

TDOE Contact: Maryanne Durski, Chief Financial Officer, Maryanne.Durski@tn.gov

Summary: PC 151 allows sick leave to be used for the purposes of caring for a state employee's minor child.

Chapter 136 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 136](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Roberts/Ragan: SB0055/HB0221

TDOE Contact: Christy Wall, Assistant Commissioner of Instructional Strategy, Christy.Wall@tn.gov

Summary: PC 136 extends the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission to June 30, 2027.

Chapter 106 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 106](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Roberts/Ragan: SB0064/HB0230

TDOE Contact: Trudy Hughes, Senior Director of Choice, Trudy.Hughes@tn.gov

Summary: PC 106 extends the Tennessee Public Charter Commission to June 30, 2026.

Chapter 486 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 486](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Roberts/Bulso: SB1440/HB0239

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 486 adds "sex" as a defined term throughout the Tennessee Code. PC 486 defines "sex" as a person's immutable biological sex as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth and evidence of a person's biological sex.



Chapter 433 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 433](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Stevens/Farmer: SB 1038/HB1365

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 433 revises provisions relating to background checks for persons considered for appointment to or employment in various positions in state government and for administrators and employees of childcare agencies.

Chapter 462 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 462](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Gardenhire/Vital: SB0815/HB1144

TDOE Contact: Shannon Gordon, Chief Operating Officer, Shannon.Gordon@tn.gov

Summary: PC 462 clarifies that for one school bus owned by an individual under contract with an LEA to provide transportation services, that the registration fee is equal to that of the fee charged for a school bus owned by an LEA.

Chapter 332 of the Public Acts of 2023 ([PC 332](#))

Senate and House Sponsors with bill numbers: Roberts/Ragan: SB0068/HB0234

TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard, General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov

Summary: PC 332 clarifies that permanent rules filed with the secretary of state between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, that are in effect on the effective date of PC 332 (5/5/23) continue in effect until repealed or amended by subsequent rule of the appropriate rulemaking agency or until otherwise superseded by legislative enactment.

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