



July 15, 2022
Chair Lillian Hartgrove
Tennessee State Board of Education
Davy Crockett Tower
500 James Robertson Pkwy
Nashville, TN 37243

Letter for Necessity for Standard Setting for Alternative Social Studies and 2022-23 BEP Allocations

Madam Chair,

We request the State Board of Education hear the Standard Setting for Alternative Social Studies Assessments and 2022-23 Basic Education Program (BEP) allocation items, both on first and final reading, at the Board's July 22nd quarterly meeting despite their delayed submission in advance of the meeting.

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(2), it is the duty of the State Board of Education to "set policies for evaluating individual student progress and achievement, evaluating individual teachers, and measuring the educational achievement of individual schools." The Department of Education administered updated alternate social studies assessments, which are part of the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP), in Spring 2022. In order to complete the reporting of test scores for these assessments, it is necessary for the State Board to adopt cut scores that will be used to assign students to performance levels on the assessments. The recommended cut scores are based on recommendations from Tennessee educator panels. The methodology approved by the state's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for these educator panels included the review of student profiles for different score points. The timing of the standard setting meetings, therefore, had to be scheduled after the results of these tests were available, which delayed these meetings until late June 2022 after the item submission deadline to the State Board. The submission of this item was delayed due to the timing of the panel and generation of cut scores from Pearson, the Department's assessment vendor.

Additionally, pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(1), the State Board has the duty to study the use of funds for Tennessee's public schools. Each year, the Department recommends to the State Board the BEP allocations for the upcoming school year. The submission of the 2022-23 BEP allocations item was delayed due to the need to finalize average daily membership (ADM) of LEAs and ensure accuracy in BEP calculations for the upcoming school year.

In order to ensure these requirements are met and districts have timely information ahead of the 2022-23 school year, it is in the best interest of the State Board and the Department to have these items heard at the July quarterly meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this item,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny Schwinn". The signature is stylized with large, flowing letters.

Penny Schwinn
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Education