State Identified 2021-22 Priority Schools

The Background:

In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-1-602 and Tennessee's accountability system as approved in its Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, the Tennessee Department of Education is charged with presenting to the State Board of Education a listing of schools to be placed in Priority school status. A Priority school list must be identified, at a minimum, every three (3) years and the last Priority list was identified in 2018. The U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 waiver and Chapter 2 of the Public Acts of 2021, First Extraordinary Session allowed the Department to postpone the identification of Priority schools for one year. The purpose of this item is to identify schools that received Priority status based on the 2021-22 accountability data.

Priority identification is typically based on three (3) years of assessment data. However, due to missing data in 2019-20 and the prohibited use of 2020-21 data for Priority school identification pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-228 and TCA. § 49-1-602(a)(6), the Department identified Priority schools in 2021-22 based on the two-year success rates using 2018-19 and 2021-22 achievement data. Further, schools with a graduation rate less than 67% during the 2021-22 school year earned Priority status. Schools with a TVAAS Combined Literacy and Numeracy Composite score of 4 or 5 in 2020-21 and 2021-22 were removed from Priority identification.

Pursuant to TCA. § 49-1-228 and TCA. § 49-1-602(a)(6), no school was identified as a Priority school using 2020-21 achievement data. Schools that are identified as Priority may not be identified as Reward.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on first and final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.