



TENNESSEE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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AFFAIRS

WHO ARE WE TO THE LEGISLATURE?

- **Truth Tellers with Institutional Memory.**
 - We strive to give accurate information and are well respected for our integrity for better or worse.
 - When we make mistakes, we correct the record and take full responsibility.
- **Trusted Partners and Advisors.**
 - Since we are not part of the administration, we can work with members on their vision for education and help them to avoid pitfalls and unintended consequences.
 - We work to understand their individual constituencies and the challenges unique to their areas through frequent contact when we are not needed.
 - Legislative in-district visits.
 - Participation in our Day in The District events for SBE Members.
 - Willingness to meet with local stakeholder groups in their districts.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PARTNER?

- Straightforward analysis about the consequences of legislation.
- Willingness to work on creative solutions that don't always go with the "educrat" way of looking at things.
- Independence in approach and method.
- Guided by what is best for students in an ever-changing education and career prep world.
- Following through.
- Understanding that political realities will drive policies so its better to have competence in these areas to help steer the educational enterprise responsibly.

LEGISLATIVE PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS

- **Our partnership has led to many good initiatives and laws since 2015.**
 - Standards review process in 2015 and 2016 (with a unique dedicated funding stream outside of the budget).
 - Expansions of the legal, research and external affairs teams over the years both in and out of the executive budget.
 - Creation of the Charter Commission.
 - Constant strengthening of our educator licensure laws along with expanding our capacity to handle these matters.
 - Countless ill-advised laws avoided.
 - BEP Review Committee Priorities incorporated into TISA.
 - ERIC Commission attached to the SBE.

THEMES OF THE 2024 SESSION

- Fiscal Constraint and Revenue Collection
- Freedom Scholarships (\$147,000,000 in budget)
- Franchise and Excise Tax Discussion

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BY THE NUMBERS

- There were some **1500 + total bills** introduced with **280 passing**.
- There were at least **275 education bills and resolutions** filed, with roughly **100 K-12 bills** that passed including sunset bills etc.
- Including bills introduced last year the General Assembly took action on 1990 bills or resolutions this year.

2024 SBE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES MADE LAW

- **PC 663** By Sen. Roberts and Rep. Ragan
 - This legislation extended our sunset by 6 years. **Effective 4/17/24.**
- **PC 577** By Sen. Powers and Rep. Slater
 - This act clarifies that pleas of guilt and nolo contendere to certain criminal offenses subject an educator to automatic revocation of an educator license by the state board; specifies that criminal offenses committed in another jurisdiction that are equivalent to those that if committed in this state subject an educator to automatic revocation of an educator license similarly subject an educator to automatic revocation of an educator license by the state board. **Effective 3/15/24.**
- **PC 549** By Sen. Pody and Rep. Carringer
 - This act makes clear that the SBE student member will be counted as present when absent from school for official business in their capacity as a member. **Effective 3/19/24.**

2024 SBE RELATED LEGISLATION (SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED)

- **PC 829** By Sen. Lowe and Rep. Raper
 - This legislation allows parents to retain their students in grade k-2 if the student has a documented behavioral or academic delay. **Effective 7/1/24.**
- **PC 551** By Sen. Hensley and Rep. Cepicky
 - Mathematics Supports Act- DOE identify PD for K-8 math teachers, convene math expert review committee, update to standards for teaching as a profession courses re: math instruction, Requires DOE to conduct a landscape analysis. **Effective 3/11/24.**
- **PC 910** By Sen. Southerland and Rep. Davis
 - This legislation Specifies reporting requirements for LEAs who don't employ nurses at 1:750 ratio. **Effective 5/3/24.**

2024 SBE RELATED LEGISLATION

- **PC 523** By Sen. Swann and Rep. Russell
 - This legislation requires TN history to be taught the first semester of fifth grade. **Effective 3/1/24.**
- **PC 583** By Sen Lundberg and Rep. Tim Hicks
 - Requires SBE in collaboration with TDOE and THEC, to conduct a study to identify math courses that may be substituted for Algebra II for purposes of satisfying high school graduation requirements and to submit a report to the education committees by 1/31/25. **Effective 3/15/24.**
- **PC 543** By Sen. Lowe and Rep. Tim Hicks
 - This legislation increases from three to six the maximum credits a student can earn in a work-based learning program. **Effective 3/7/24.**

SBE RELATED LEGISLATION (RULES)

- **PC 693** By Sen. Powers and Rep. White
 - This clarifies requirements around computer science courses for middle school.
Effective Date 7/1/24.
- **PC 571** By Sen. Taylor and Rep. Doggett
 - This adds internet crimes against children to list of topics required to be covered in family life curriculum; requires DCS joint task force on children's justice and child sex. abuse to recommend family life curriculum to TDOE annually; requires schools to annually submit to DCS name of person providing instruction in family life and name of adopted curriculum.
Effective Date 7/1/24.
- **SB 2557** By Sen. Taylor and Rep. White
 - This creates the "Innovative School District Act". This legislation, brought at the request of the University of Memphis has been **signed by the Governor but not assigned a public chapter.**

SBE RELATED LEGISLATION

- **PC 876** by Sen. White and Rep. Haston
 - Authorizes teachers teaching on permits to teach EOC courses and causes reports on the same to be generated. **Effective 7/1/24.**
- **SB 2820** by Sen. Haile and Speaker Sexton
 - This act creates “Opportunity Charter Schools”. **Signed by the Governor but not yet assigned a public chapter.**
- **PC 843** by Sen. Hensley and Rep. Hurt
 - Authorizes the issuance of temporary teaching permits to teach physical education classes in elementary schools. **Effective 4/15/24.**
- **PC 960** By Sen. Taylor and Rep. White
 - This authorizes a local board of education to contract for services with a nonprofit or for-profit entity for the operation and management of an adult high school. **Effective 4/23/24.**

REVISIONS TO THE 4TH GRADE RETENTION LAW FOR NEXT YEAR

- **SB2183** by Sen White and Rep. Gary Hicks
 - This legislation provides pathways to fifth grade for students who would have otherwise been retained. Those students must be provided with tutoring their 5th grade year. **The bill has been signed by the Governor but not yet assigned a public chapter.**

SAFETY RELATED LEGISLATION

- **PC 738** By Sen. Hensley and Rep. Bulso
 - This act allows private schools to adopt a handgun policy as public schools can. **It took effect on 4/22/24.**
- **PC 800** by Sen Bailey and Rep. Todd
 - Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, this bill requires each LEA and public charter school to annually provide students with age-appropriate and grade-appropriate instruction on firearm safety. The instruction must begin with the earliest appropriate grade, as determined by the departments above, and must continue in each subsequent grade through grade 12. **This act took effect on 4/4/24.**
- **PC 801** by Sen. Bailey and Rep. Williams
 - This legislation authorizes a faculty or staff member of a school to carry a concealed handgun on school grounds subject to certain conditions, including obtaining an enhanced handgun carry permit and completing annual training. **Effective 4/26/24.**
- **PC 658** By Sen. Nicely and Rep. Faison
 - This act sets forth procedures schools must follow after a fire alarm goes off to ensure the cause is legitimate. **This act took effect on 4/17/24.**

MORE LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

- **SB 191** by Sen. Lundberg and Rep. Cepicky
 - The conference committee report: deleted reference to nonexistent bullet resistant window coatings, outlawed grading policies which guaranteed students any grade higher than zero, extends the life of a “professional” teaching license to eight years, requires school improvement plans to be approved by TDOE no more frequently than once a triennium, limits which students growth data is used for letter grade decisions, changes how the state will deal with chronic absences due to health related matters while requiring TDOE to submit a request to USDOE to change provisions of the ESSA plan thereunto related. **This legislation has been signed by the Governor, but no public chapter has been assigned.**
- **PC 954** by Sen. Hensley and Rep. Bulso
 - This legislation authorizes therapy dogs in schools. **Effective 5/9/24.**

QUESTIONS?

- A complete list of all education legislation is available.