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**The State Board of Education’s Master Plan (2026-2028)**

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**The Background:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-302 requires the State Board to “develop and maintain current a master plan for the development of public education, kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12).”

The State Board’s Master Plan is updated at least every three years and provides a lens through which stakeholders can examine state-level efforts to determine if rules and policies are positioning schools and school districts to prepare students for workforce, post-secondary success, and engaged citizenship.

The Master Plan broadly contains actions and goals designed to be reflective of Tennessee’s educational priorities, responsive to pivotal changes in education, and crafted to serve all students in Tennessee. The priorities outlined in the Master Plan highlight key areas for greater focus and attention over a three-year period but are not inclusive of all interests or responsibilities of the State Board as the rule and policy-making body for public education in Tennessee. The State Board regularly collaborates with the Tennessee Department of Education and Tennessee Higher Education Commission to ensure alignment across agency priorities and engages with the executive branch, general assembly, local boards of education, and director of schools to accomplish its mission.

After nearly nine months of stakeholder engagement, member discussions, and revisions, this item contains a refreshed Master Plan for the 2026 through 2028 calendar years. State Board staff initiated an update of the Master Plan with a workshop presentation from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) on strategic planning in May 2025. From there, the State Board appointed a Strategic Planning Committee comprised of three board members to oversee the work over the next several months. The Committee met publicly to approve and issue a stakeholder survey, review the results of the survey, and discuss multiple drafts of the Master Plan, providing updates to the full State Board along the way. The item enclosed is the final version recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee for approval today.

The Master Plan for 2026-2028 builds upon the actions and goals of the State Board’s current Master Plan by expanding its academic focus to include literacy and numeracy and establishing goals to increase the percentage of students demonstrating college, career, and military readiness, decrease the percentage of teaching positions that are either vacant or filled by an educator on an emergency credential, and to further increase member engagement with constituents to ensure accountability for the effective implementation of State Board rules and policies to achieve its mission.

**Connection to the [Master Plan](#):**

This item is the newly updated Master Plan for 2026 through 2028 calendar years.

**The Recommendation:**

State Board staff recommends approval of this item on first and final reading.