



Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement

Summary for Parents and Families

On May 2, 2022, Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly enacted the **Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Act** ([Chapter 966 of the Public Acts of 2022](#)), a new approach to K-12 public school funding that prioritizes and funds individual student needs. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, the TISA will replace the current funding formula and invest an additional recurring state investment of \$1 billion for Tennessee public schools, an historic investment in our Tennessee students.

This monumental piece of legislation is designed to meet the needs of your individual child, increase transparency in public school funding, and ensure that parents and families can advocate for the necessary resources for your child's education. Parents deserve to know how much funding their child generates, and how the district utilizes those funds to meet their individual needs. The TISA builds a foundation for the future of Tennessee students, empowering each student to read proficiently by 3rd grade, preparing students for postsecondary success, and providing students with the resources needed to succeed regardless of individual circumstances.

Student-Based Funding Model

Every student has unique strengths and weaknesses and as a student-based public school funding model, the TISA generates education funds based on the individual needs of students rather than district averages and ratios that are used currently. There are 4 key components of funding under the TISA, including:

BASE FUNDING: This is the amount of funding allocated to each student. For each student enrolled, the district or public charter school will receive a base funding amount of \$6,860 per student.

WEIGHTED FUNDING: In addition to the base funding amount, the TISA provides additional dollars to students based on their individual needs. Weights serve as multipliers to the base funding amount and is driven by each individual student. The TISA includes weights for students who are economically disadvantaged (25%), attend a Title I eligible school (5%), attend a sparse district (5%), attend a small district (5%), and have unique learning needs (between 15%-150%). Students with ULN includes students receiving special education services, English learners, and students with characteristics of dyslexia.

DIRECT FUNDING: On top of the base funding and weighted funding, the TISA provides direct funding allocations for students enrolled in public charter schools and certain students participating in high-impact, strategic programming. This includes additional funding for K-3 literacy, 4th grade tutoring, career and technical education (CTE) programs, and the ACT.

OUTCOMES FUNDING: The TISA also provides funding based on student outcomes. Determining the appropriate outcomes to reflect Tennessee values will involve convening public stakeholders, such as directors of schools, local board members, elected officials, teachers, and parents to advise the department on setting outcome goals and funding. The specific outcome funding amounts will be subject to an annual appropriation by the General Assembly, defined annually by the department and approved by the State Board of Education.





Teacher Pay

One of the most important factors in student success is a great teacher, and the TISA ensures that when state dollars are invested for teacher raises, those dollars will go toward teacher raises. The TISA includes a requirement that school districts must spend any state funds allocated for teacher salaries on salary increases for current educators.



Accountability and Transparency

The TISA increases transparency for parents and families to ensure they have the information needed to advocate for additional resources for their child. Parents should know the amount of funds generated for their student, and how the district uses those funds to meet their student's needs. Notably, the department will annually produce a public report starting in 2025 on the academic performance of districts, per-pupil expenditures, and an expert review of the TISA, including cost analyses and recommendations.

Further, all districts will be required to develop an accountability report that establishes a 70% reading proficiency goal and details how the district's strategic use of funds enabled them to progress toward this goal. We know how critical 3rd grade reading proficiency is for long-term student success, and this will help ensure our students are on a path to success. If a district is identified as low performing based on the state's accountability system, they may be required to appear before the State Board of Education and complete a corrective action plan or undergo additional monitoring. This increased reporting, coupled with existing reporting on school and district accountability, helps ensure all Tennessee parents understand how state and local education funds are allocated and spent on their individual student(s) and their peers.