



Education Legislation Introduced in 2020

Week of January 27, 2020

SB1879 Changes the date a child care program must submit an annual report.

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff ,
Summary: Changes the date that a child care program must submit an annual report to the commissioner of education from October 1 to October 15. Broadly captioned.
Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20

SB1880 Policy governing background procedures for contract workers to be posted on local board of education's website.

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff ,
Summary: Requires each local board of education and each governing body of a charter school to adopt a policy governing background check procedures for contract workers and volunteers and to post the policy on the local board's or governing body's website. Broadly captioned.
Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20

SB1881/HB1999 Deletes investment requirement of the board of trustees.

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Lynn, Susan
Summary: Deletes the requirement of the board of trustees to use an investment policy in accordance with the laws, guidelines and policies that govern investments by the Tennessee consolidated retirement system.
Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20, H: 01/30/20

SB1886/HB1935 Location of local board of education's administrative offices.

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky , Rep. Dunn, Bill
Summary: Authorizes an LEA's local board of education to locate the board's administrative offices within a building owned by the United States government, or an agency or instrumentality of the United States government, pursuant to a lease or easement authorized by the United States government.
Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20, H: 01/29/20

SB1893 Apprenticeship program contacts for high schools.

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff ,
Summary: Requires each public high school, including public charter high schools, to designate a teacher, principal, or other school employee to serve as an apprenticeship training program contact for the school. Requires the department of education to compile and publish on its website a directory of the name and contact information for the apprenticeship training program contact for each public high school.
Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20

SB1897 Allows LEAs to withhold alternative school assignments.

Sponsors: Sen. Robinson, Katrina ,
Summary: Allows LEAs to withhold assigning a student to an alternative school if the student has been suspended for ten days or less.
Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20

SB1908 Requires the department of education to adopt a uniform unpaid meal charge policy.

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff ,
Summary: Requires the state board of education to adopt a policy that ensures uniform administration of unpaid meal charges in LEAs and does not prevent a child from receiving meals due to unpaid meal charges.
Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20

SB1916/HB2026 Use of basic education program funds in LEAs.

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff , Rep. Johnson, Gloria
Summary: Requires the Tennessee basic education program (BEP) to fund the employment of at least one full-time school counselor in each local education agency (LEA), as well as one full-time teacher for every 20 kindergarten through grade 12 students enrolled beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Allows the BEP sufficient funds beginning with the 2020-2021 school year for the employment of one full-time public school nurse for each LEA school. Removes requirement that executive director of the department of health give priority assignment of school nurses to health departments or LEAs experiencing the greatest levels of poverty, unemployment, underemployment, and are medically underserved.
Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20, H: 01/30/20

SB1917/HB2025 Basic education program teacher funding.

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff , Rep. Johnson, Gloria
Summary: Requires the basic education program to fund at least one full time teacher for every 20 ADM in kindergarten through grade 12.
Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20, H: 01/30/20

SB1918 Tennessee second chance scholarship program.

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff ,
Summary: Creates the Tennessee second chance scholarship program to assist persons who have been placed in the custody of the department of children's services with pursuing a postsecondary degree. Requires the Tennessee higher education commission to administer the scholarship program. Creates an advisory board for the scholarship program and establishes requirements of the board.
Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20

SB1922 Creates task force on the equitable and adequate funding of education services for special needs populations.

Sponsors: Sen. Yager, Ken ,

Summary: Creates the task force on the equitable and adequate funding of education services for special needs populations to examine the state's funding mechanism and the levels of financial support for providers of education services to children who are: (1) At-risk; (2) In the custody of the department of children's services; (3) Receiving residential care for mental and behavioral health conditions; or (4) Receiving homebound services.

Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20

SB1937 Requirements for school safety drills.

Sponsors: Sen. Jackson, Ed ,

Summary: Revises and consolidates provisions relating to requirements for school safety drills, including fire drills and armed intruder drills.

Intro Dates: S: 01/29/20

SB1947/HB1966 Rural at-risk pre-kindergarten fund.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Haston, Kirk

Summary: Creates a rural at-risk pre-kindergarten fund within the general fund to increase the number of seats available in approved pre-kindergarten programs. Authorizes the department of education to administer the funds and develop an application for LEAs to apply for funds. Establishes requirements for rural at-risk pre-kindergarten programs and LEAs in regard to funding.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20, H: 01/29/20

SB1953/HB1936 Establishment of statewide career aptitude assessment program.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Dunn, Bill

Summary: Requires department of education receive annual funds to establish a statewide career aptitude assessment program to be made available to local education agencies at no cost. Encourages guidance counselors to use assessments to discuss possible career and education opportunities with students.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20, H: 01/29/20

SB1954/HB2070 Removes UT advisory boards meeting restrictions.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Hawk, David

Summary: Removes requirement for the advisory boards for the University of Tennessee institutions to have a physical quorum as long as they have had a physical quorum at least one time in the last 12 months. Changes the deadline the faculty member and the student member are required to be appointed to a University of Tennessee institution advisory board from April 15 to May 31.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20

SB1962/HB2001 Requires the county legislative body determine school budgets.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores , Rep. White, Mark

Summary: Broadens the county legislative body's duties to include making revenue estimates that comply with the necessary budget requirements set by the basic education program (BEP). Requires chair of the local board of education along with the director of schools prepare a budget according to revenue estimates and determinations made by the county legislative body.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20, H: 01/30/20

SB1969/HB1897 Publishing of Tennessee postsecondary education fact book by THEC.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores , Rep. Vaughan, Kevin

Summary: Changes from March 15 to March 31 the date by which THEC must publish the Tennessee postsecondary education fact book each year. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20, H: 01/29/20

SB1971 Requires notification to LEAs of K-12 education reports.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores ,

Summary: Requires the commissioner of education to notify each LEA when the office of research and education accountability publishes a report relevant to K-12 education so that the LEAs can distribute the reports to staff. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20

SB1972 Notice time LEAs must give before bidding for new construction projects begins.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores ,

Summary: Clarifies the notice time required by a local education agency (LEA) to give public notice for new construction of school buildings or additions to school buildings must be given ten business days before bids for construction can be excepted rather than ten days. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20

SB1973 Lottery scholarship- clarifies definition of academic year.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores ,

Summary: Clarifies language regarding the definition of academic year for lottery scholarship purposes. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20

SB1974 Authority of the state government commission to supervise all projects relating to Tennessee universities.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores ,

Summary: Gives the state government commission power and authority to approve and supervise all projects involving the University of Tennessee, any institution governed by the board of regents, or any state university governed by a local board of trustees. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20

SB1975 Changes font size for transferability of credits report.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores ,

Summary: Requires the disclosure concerning transferability of credits that institutions authorized to operate by THEC must make to potential students to be in 18-point type rather than 16-point type. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20

SB1981 Appropriations for educator preparation programs.

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John ,

Summary: Requires that \$5 million from the department of education's reserves be appropriated to the department of finance and administration for the sole purpose of creating grant to be given to a non-profit, four year post secondary educational institution to support the institution's educator preparation program. To qualify, the institution must have been approved as an educational preparation provider by the State of Tennessee prior to July 1, 2016, and must have received approval of its program by the State Board of Education, with or without stipulations, on or after July 1, 2018.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20

SB1982 Adult workforce diploma pilot program.

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John ,

Summary: Creates the adult workforce diploma pilot program, which aims to assist adults 19 years of age or older in obtaining a high school diploma and developing career and technical skills. Requires the department of labor and workforce development to establish the program and begin operation with the 2020-2021 fiscal year for a time of three years. Specifies requirements of the program and the department, including reporting, payments to program providers, and applications.

Intro Dates: S: 01/30/20

SB2024/HB2017 Lead contamination testing in schools.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Lamar, London

Summary: Requires the department of education with assistance from the department of health, not local boards of education, to develop and implement a program to test water in public schools, public charter schools, and child care programs for lead contamination. Lowers the level of contamination required for removal of water source from 20 parts per billion to 15 parts per billion. If the results exceed 15 parts per billion then parents and guardians must be notified within 24 hours, rather than 5 days.

Intro Dates: H: 01/30/20

SB2025/HB1954 Prohibits schools from requiring teachers to work more than one extra hour per week.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Lamar, London

Summary: Prohibits a public school, public charter school, LEA, local board of education, or charter school governing body from requiring a public school teacher or public charter school teacher to work more than one hour per week in addition to the required teacher workday, unless in the event of extraordinary circumstances at the principal's discretion. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

SB2027/HB1971 Issuing of required textbooks to all students.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Cooper, Barbara

Summary: Specifies that if a school or LEA requires the use of a textbook by a student as a part of the student's instruction, a copy of the textbook must be issued to the student. Requires the director of schools of each LEA to certify to the commissioner of education on or before October 15 of each school year that all students enrolled in the LEA have been issued all required textbooks.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

SB2028/HB2031 Establishes a teacher salaries fund.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Love Jr., Harold

Summary: Deletes language in statute that established the school improvement fund created in the Tennessee Education Savings Account Pilot Program to disburse school improvement grants to LEAs. Establishes a teacher salaries fund to be administered by the department of education to disburse an annual grant to each LEA to be used for teacher salaries in an amount equal to the ESA amount for participating students under the Tennessee Education Savings Account Pilot Program. Specifies that any balance in the fund remaining unexpended on the program at the end of any fiscal year does not revert to the general fund, but is carried forward for expenditure in subsequent years.

Intro Dates: H: 01/30/20

SB2031/HB2107 William R. Moore College of Technology- dual enrollment grant eligibility

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul , Rep. White, Mark

Summary: Adds William R. Moore College of Technology as an eligible institution for high school students to receive dual enrollment grants to attend and Tennessee reconnect grants. Broadly captioned.

SB2035/HB2002 Workload considerations used when determining maximum class size.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Cepicky, Scott

Summary: Specifies workload considerations for the state board of education when establishing the maximum class size and caseload standards for instructional personnel and teachers having primary responsibility for a student's individualized education program (IEP) or a classroom that includes students with disabilities or students eligible for special education services. Allows the department of education to grant a waiver from the maximum class sizes, average class sizes, or caseload standards for instructional personnel and teachers having the primary responsibility for the development, implementation, and updating of a student's IEP and in classrooms that include students with disabilities and students eligible for special education services. Requires an LEA's request for a waiver from the maximum class sizes, average class sizes, or caseload standards to include workload calculations demonstrating the need for a waiver. Establishes requirements for such workload calculations.

Intro Dates: H: 01/30/20

SB2037 Guidelines for evaluation of LEA officials.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey ,

Summary: Requires the state board of education to develop and adopt guidelines and criteria for the annual evaluation of LEA officials that include, at a minimum, 15 percent based on a measure of student achievement. Specifies that LEA officials include directors of schools who possess a license or certificate provided by the state board of education and all other supervisors or persons holding an executive-level office or position in an LEA for which the person is responsible for developing or administering policies and practices that effect the academic performance of students enrolled in the LEA, and who possess a license or certificate provided by the state board of education.

SB2057/HB2011 Distribution of the board of education meeting minutes.

Sponsors: Sen. Niceley, Frank , Rep. Hill, Timothy

Summary: Decreases amount of time the board of education must distribute meeting minutes to members from 30 days to 20 days. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: H: 01/30/20

SB2061 Requires the BEP provide one full-time school nurse for every 2,500 students.

Sponsors: Sen. White, Dawn ,

Summary: Decreases the required number of students needed for the basic education program (BEP) to fund one full-time public school nurse position from 3,000 to 2,500 students. Broadly captioned.

SB2063/HB2021 BEP review committee providing its annual report.

Sponsors: Sen. White, Dawn , Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: Changes the date that the BEP review committee is required to provide its annual report on the BEP from November 1 to November 15. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: H: 01/30/20

HB1894 Narrows definition of an "eligible student."

Sponsors: Rep. Deberry Jr., John

Summary: Excludes students from being classified as "eligible students" if they were previously enrolled in a Tennessee public school for one full school year immediately preceding the year the student received an individualized education account (IEA), first time Tennessee school enrollees, or individuals receiving IEAs the previous school year.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB1896 Adds rights to teacher's bill of rights.

Sponsors: Rep. Deberry Jr., John

Summary: Adds various rights to the teacher's bill of rights including, but not limited to, the right to be fairly evaluated through the use of multiple measures, to receive evaluation results in a timely manner, receive feedback intended to improve performance, not penalize the teacher, and receive a rubric with academic standards no later than July 31 each year.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB1898 Annual report on outcomes of parent-teacher engagement pilot program.

Sponsors: Rep. Hill, Timothy

Summary: Changes from July 31 to August 15 the date by which the department of education must submit an annual report on the outcomes of the parent-teacher engagement pilot program to the education committees of the senate and of the house. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB1924 Requires water bottle filling stations in new or renovated public schools.

Sponsors: Rep. Hazlewood, Patsy

Summary: Requires an LEA or a governing body of a public charter school that constructs or renovates a public school or public charter school building to install one water bottle filling station for every 75 students enrolled and that the water bottle filling station must have regular maintenance and cleaning. The school cannot prohibit a student from bringing a clear water bottle to school if such station has been installed.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB1934 Performance goals and assessments for schools and LEAs.

Sponsors: Rep. Dunn, Bill

Summary: Requires the commissioner of education to obtain approval from the state board of education for any changes to school or LEA performance goals. Requires the commissioner to consult with stakeholders before submitting a proposal to the state board. Requires the commissioner and state board of education to consider the stakeholder's input before the final approval of any proposed changes to the performance goals and measures for schools and LEAs.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB1955 Authorization of public charter schools by the achievement school district.

Sponsors: Rep. Deberry Jr., John

Summary: Prohibits commissioner of education from removing a charter school from the jurisdiction of the achievement school district (ASD) until the charter agreement expires. Requires ASD receive annual authorizer fee of either less than three percent (3%) per student state and local allocations or \$35,000 per school when they authorize a public charter school beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Prohibits the ASD from charging charter schools authorized by the ASD to lease, access, or use any school building, facility, or property recognized as part of the school prior to school's placement in the ASD. Requires the ASD adopt for all its authorized public charter schools the quality charter school authorizing standards adopted by the state board of education. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB1958 Requires TCAP testing for ESA participants.

Sponsors: Rep. Dixie, Vincent

Summary: Requires ESA participants to take the same annual TCAP tests required of non-participating students.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB1974 Assessment of costs against teacher or administrator from contested case hearing.

Sponsors: Rep. Dunn, Bill

Summary: Allows the state board of education to assess costs against a teacher or administrator when a final order is issued following a contested case hearing in which a teacher or administrator is issued a formal reprimand or the teacher's or administrator's license is denied, non-renewed, suspended, or revoked. Requires the state board of education to promulgate rules to govern the assessment of costs against a teacher or administrator under this section.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB1975 Automatic revocation of the license of a licensed teacher or administrator.

Sponsors: Rep. Moody, Debra

Summary: Adds offenses to the list of offenses for which, upon conviction, the state board of education shall automatically revoke a teacher's or administrator's license, including arson or aggravated arson, proving a handgun to juveniles, and child abuse, child neglect or child endangerment.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB1976 Subpoena power of the state board of education.

Sponsors: Rep. White, Mark

Summary: Allows the chair of the state board of education or the chair's designee to issue subpoenas for the appearance of persons or the production of items that the chair or the chair's designee considers material or relevant to an investigation being conducted by the state board pursuant to the state board's authority to revoke, suspend, refuse to issue, or renew a license or formally reprimand a licensed educator.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB1993 Open enrollment - transfer of student to school that student is not zoned to attend.

Sponsors: Rep. Dunn, Bill

Summary: Requires each LEA to conduct an open enrollment period of at least 30 days during which parents or guardians of students residing within the LEA may apply for enrollment of the students in schools that the students are not zoned to attend. Specifies that during the open enrollment period, parents or guardians may choose from the list of the LEA schools with available space and request transfers.

Intro Dates: H: 01/29/20

HB2051 Requires BEP funding of full-time social workers at schools.

Sponsors: Rep. Sparks, Mike

Summary: Requires the basic education program (BEP) provide funding for one full-time social worker position for every 1,500 or fewer students. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: H: 01/30/20

HB2059 Use of excess instructional days toward required 180 classroom instruction days.

Sponsors: Rep. Cochran, Mark

Summary: Allows excess instructional days to be applied toward the 180 required days of classroom instruction if the excess instructional time is not applied to instruction days missed due to dangerous or extreme weather conditions.

Intro Dates: H: 01/30/20

HB2062 Hiring of police, public safety, and security officers by public institutions of higher education.

Sponsors: Rep. Carter, Mike

Summary: Gives power to the governing boards of public institutions of higher education to help decide a suitable number of police officers, public safety officers, and security officers to be employed by institutions, schools, and boards. Broadly captioned.

Intro Dates: H: 01/30/20

HB2068 Active shooter training pilot program.

Sponsors: Rep. Moody, Debra

Summary: Requires department of education create a pilot program in seven counties, with a least two in each of the three grand divisions with a mixture of urban and rural areas, to train school resource officers and faculty and staff to respond to an active shooter situation. Requires at least 40 hours of in person training conducted by certified, full-time federal law enforcement instructors who have completed active shooter training. Requires training be complete by January 1, 2021 for the general assembly to report on the pilot program by February 1, 2021. Broadly captioned.

HB2071 Physical quorums at meetings concerning the board of trustees of higher education institutions.

Sponsors: Rep. Hawk, David

Summary: Declares the board of trustees of Austin Peay State University, East Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Technological University or the University of Memphis are not required to report if a physical quorum is not present at the location of a meeting of a governing body. Broadly captioned.

HB2105 Removes select requirements for state colleges of applied technology.

Sponsors: Rep. White, Mark

Summary: Clarifies that state colleges of applied technology are required to provide occupational training and technical education. Removes requirement of the board of regents to restructure the board and staff to carry out sections of the Public Acts of 1983 as well as the requirement for the heads of state colleges of applied technology to report to the senior level staff member. Broadly captioned.

HB2112 Grievance procedure for support staff of higher education institutions to be posted on website of school.

Sponsors: Rep. Vaughan, Kevin

Summary: Requires each institution governed by the board of regents or a state university board to make the grievance procedure for its support staff employees available on its website. Broadly captioned.