

Summary of HB 130/SB 113 – Public Chapter 378

- Repeals the Education Professional Negotiations Act (EPNA) and enacts the Professional Educators Collaborative Conferencing Act.
- Requires the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS), in conjunction with representative organizations of school leaders and administrators and professional employees' organizations, to develop a training program for use in collaborative conferencing.
- Requires TOSS to present a report of the training program to the Senate and House Education Committees next year.
- Requires LEAs to implement the training program by July 1, 2012, and states that collaborative conferencing may not commence until such training is completed.
- Suspends negotiations indefinitely between local boards of education and local professional employees' organizations as of the date of the act. However, existing contracts will remain in effect until their natural expiration.
- Recognizes principals, assistant principals, and supervisors as members of the local board's management team.
- Requires local boards or their representatives to engage in collaborative conferencing with local teachers and teachers' associations on the following items: salaries and wages, insurance, fringe benefits, leave, grievance procedures, payroll deductions, and working conditions.
- Requires the parties to enter a memorandum of understanding on the items agreed upon through collaborative conferencing. The MOU shall not be valid for more than three years.
- States that there is no mandate to enter into a memorandum of understanding. If a local board and the representatives of teachers cannot reach agreement on any items, the board has the authority to address them according to board policy.
- States that no professional employee, group of professional employees, or professional employee organization shall be denied the opportunity to represent themselves or groups of professional employees in discussions authorized under this part.
- States that the director of schools shall be permitted to communicate with professional employees concerning any subject relevant to the operation of the school system, including the terms and conditions of professional service that are subject to collaborative conferencing, through any means, medium or format the director chooses.