

2017 Public Acts Relative to K-12 Education

Chapter Number	Subject	Abstract	Bill Number
PC 18	Teachers, Principals and School Personnel	As enacted, authorizes a school counselor to refer or help facilitate a referral of a parent or legal guardian's student to a counselor or therapist for mental health assessments or services.	SB 0341
PC 21	Education	As enacted, removes requirement that the county trustee, treasurer, or other fiscal agent of an LEA annually submit a complete certified copy of the financial report of the LEA to the commissioner of education.	SB 0490
PC 22	Education	As enacted, requires LEAs to ensure schools provide parents and guardians with information about influenza and the effectiveness of vaccination at the beginning of each school year; requires nonpublic schools to provide parents and guardians with information about influenza and the effectiveness of vaccination at the beginning of each school year.	SB 0598
PC 27	Teachers, Principals and School Personnel	As enacted, moves up the deadline for the state board of education to release the teacher preparation training report from November 1 of each year to February 15 of each year.	SB 0809
PC 84	Education, State Board of	As enacted, authorizes rules and policies permitting the administration of medications for adrenal insufficiency in schools.	SB 0117
PC 86	Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities	As enacted, establishes the Tennessee council on autism spectrum disorder.	SB 0199
PC 96	Students	As enacted, requires a school to count a child who serves as a page for the general assembly as present for attendance purposes in the same manner as an educational field trip; prohibits giving excused or unexcused absences for a child serving as a page.	SB 1013
PC 99	Students	As enacted, revises provisions governing physical activity requirements for students.	HB 0045
PC 105	Education, State Board of	As enacted, requires the board to create an endorsement in computer science for all teachers who demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in the course material.	SB 0232
PC 109	Campaigns and Campaign Finance	As enacted, requires that campaign funds be deposited into a financial institution insured by the FDIC or the national credit union administration that is authorized to do business in this state.	SB 0377
PC 130	Health Care	As enacted, adds healthcare services provided to a patient at a public elementary or secondary school to the current definition of telehealth services for which health insurance entities are required to reimburse in a manner that is consistent with reimbursement for in-person encounters; requires that the public elementary or secondary school be staffed by a healthcare service provider and equipped to engage in such services.	SB 0195
PC 143	Teachers, Principals and School Personnel	As enacted, requires the department of education to provide all state board of education approved teacher training programs access to annual evaluation data for teachers and principals graduating from the programs for a minimum of five years following the completion of the program.	SB 0575
PC 152	Education, State Board of	As enacted, requires the department of education to develop, and the state board to adopt, rules to ensure the education of students incarcerated in detention centers licensed by the department of children's services by the LEA in which the detention center is located.	SB 1195
PC 177	Education	As enacted, revises various provisions regarding student accountability measures due to the implementation of the federal law The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) including revising the way the state board of education and the department of education determine the performance level of a school.	SB 1198
PC 189	Local Education Agencies	As enacted, authorizes an LEA to develop and adopt, in consultation with the appropriate local law enforcement agency, a policy that authorizes a school security officer employed by the LEA to patrol within a one-mile radius of the security officer's assigned school, but not to exceed the boundaries of the assigned school's LEA.	HB 0147
PC 192	Education	As enacted, revises present law concerning the use of assessment data.	HB 0309

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PC 204	Education	As enacted, requires the department of education to review all current laws and policies related to exclusionary discipline practices in public schools for students in pre-kindergarten through kindergarten and to develop guidelines and standards for alternatives to exclusionary discipline practices based on the findings of the review; establishes other related requirements.	HB 0872
PC 205	Education	As enacted, clarifies that for purposes of school improvement plans, a school and LEA may choose either the ACT or SAT test scores as one of the assessments for student proficiency.	HB 1043
PC 207	Education	As enacted, recognizes students who earn a composite score of 19 on the ACT, or an equivalent score on the SAT, and who also earn a capstone industry certification as promoted by the department of education, as a Tennessee Tri-Star Scholar upon graduation; requires schools to recognize the student as a Tennessee Tri-Star Scholar at the school's graduation ceremony.	HB 1161
PC 228	Telecommunications	As enacted, enacts the "Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act."	SB 1215
PC 233	Public Records	As enacted, revises certain provisions governing open records requests, including the manner in which such requests may be made.	HB 0058
PC 238	Public Employees	As enacted, requires the local education insurance committee, in regard to a group insurance plan for eligible employees of local education agencies (LEAs), to provide claims data for the purpose of underwriting and premium rating, in certain circumstances; such data must be provided within 30 days of receipt of a written request for such claims data from an LEA.	HB 0922
PC 255	Public Records	As enacted, creates an exception from open records requests for video taken by a law enforcement body camera that depicts interactions with minors in schools, the interior of a healthcare or mental health facility, or the interior of a private residence where no crime has occurred.	SB 0442
PC 256	Drugs, Prescription	As enacted, authorizes local education agencies and nonpublic schools to maintain opioid antagonists in schools.	SB 0458
PC 260	Students	As enacted, allows a student to be excused from a school athletic event if the event occurs on an official school holiday, observed day of worship, or religious holiday and the parent or legal guardian provides prior written notice of the student's absence; authorizes an unforeseen emergency as exception to the parent or legal guardian providing prior written notice of the student's absence from the athletic event.	SB 1012
PC 270	Education, State Board of	As enacted, requires the state board to adopt a policy allowing American sign language courses to satisfy the foreign language credits required for graduation.	SB 0524
PC 278	Firearms and Ammunition	As enacted, clarifies that the curriculum required before an employee is permitted to carry a handgun on the property of schools in distressed rural counties may be adapted by the instructing law enforcement agency from an existing curriculum approved by POST.	SB 1151
PC 279	Education, Curriculum	As enacted, designates the week of September 17 as "Celebrate Freedom Week" in public schools; requires the department of education to provide LEAs with grade appropriate internet resources and materials for instruction for use during such week; establishes other related requirements.	SB 1152
PC 287	Pensions and Retirement Benefits	As enacted, removes the 90-day limitation on a retired member of the Tennessee consolidated retirement system working as a substitute teacher.	HB 0166
PC 289	School Transportation	As enacted, establishes a school transportation supervisor program for the monitoring and oversight of transportation services for local education authorities and charter schools; requires new school bus drivers to complete a training program prior to transporting students; requires a driver to be at least 25 years of age to receive an initial school bus driver license endorsement.	HB 0322
PC 305	Education	As enacted, revises various provisions of the Individualized Education Act.	HB 0063
PC 307	Schools, Charter	As enacted, enacts the "Tennessee High-Quality Charter Schools Act."	HB 0310

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PC 313	Local Education Agencies	As enacted, requires each school safety team to conduct at least one armed intruder drill annually.	HB 0439
PC 328	Education	As enacted, revises requirements in state law where an SAT score is explicitly stated to account for the change in scoring on the revised SAT exams.	SB 0394
PC 341	Handgun Permits	As enacted, clarifies, for purposes of whether possession of a weapon is allowed or prohibited, when certain property is considered to be "in use" for school purposes.	SB 1077
PC 346	Taxes, Alcoholic Beverages	As enacted, extends by one year the manner in which liquor-by-the-drink tax proceeds are distributed to local political subdivisions.	SB 1262
PC 360	Teachers, Principals and School Personnel	As enacted, creates a list of rights and protections afforded to educators.	HB 0174
PC 361	Schools, Charter	As enacted, authorizes a chartering authority to require a charter school sponsor to pay to the chartering authority an application fee of up to \$2,500 with each charter school application the charter school files.	HB 0267
PC 367	Children	As enacted, creates the unruly act of illegal use of a telecommunication device.	HB 0959
PC 379	Juvenile Offenders	As enacted, revises provisions governing truancy and attendance supervisors.	SB 0196
PC 383	Comptroller, State	As enacted, requires each local government with one or more audit findings in its annual audit to submit a corrective action plan to the comptroller that addresses the actions taken or to be taken in response to each audit finding received in the annual audit.	SB 0315
PC 387	Teachers, Principals and School Personnel	As enacted, revises compensation provisions and other provisions regarding substitute teachers.	SB 0379
PC 389	Teachers, Principals and School Personnel	As enacted, revises provisions governing the money teachers receive for classroom instruction materials.	SB 0401
PC 402	Education	As enacted, adds to and clarifies law concerning teacher training.	SB 0614
PC 405	Lottery, Scholarships and Programs	As enacted, creates the Tennessee middle college scholarship, funded by net lottery proceeds.	SB 0720
PC 407	Education	As enacted, enacts the "Tennessee Educators Protection Act".	SB 0729
PC 415	Local Education Agencies	As enacted, adds LEAs to the provisions whereby a county, municipality, utility district, or other local governmental entity having centralized purchasing authority with a full-time purchasing agent is authorized, by resolution or ordinance of its governing body, to increase the threshold over which public advertisement and sealed competitive bids or proposals are required to an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for nonemergency, nonproprietary purchases.	SB 0897
PC 433	Education	As enacted, revises various provisions concerning the Tennessee council for career and technical education.	SB 1418
PC 450	Local Education Agencies	As enacted, requires, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, each LEA to make available to its high school students opportunities to take at least four early postsecondary opportunities.	HB 0022
PC 451	Education	As enacted, revises provisions governing required fire drills.	HB 0192
PC 482	Curriculum	As enacted, creates the "Senator Douglas Henry Tennessee History Act."	HB 1169

2017 Education Legislation Explained

[Public Chapter 99](#) – This new law changes the physical activity requirements for students. It removes the current non-structured physical activity requirements. Elementary school students must now receive one hundred thirty (130) minutes of physical activity per full school week. Middle and high school students must receive a minimum of ninety (90) minutes of physical activity per full school week. Additionally, elementary school students must receive at least one fifteen-minute (15) period of physical activity per day. Finally, the new physical activity requirements may work in conjunction with the school's physical education program.

[Public Chapter 177](#) – This new law makes various changes to school and district accountability due to the state department of education's plan to comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Now school and district performance will be based on achievement, growth, and other indicators. Priority schools will be identified as schools performing in the bottom five percent (5%), those failing to graduate one-third (1/3) or more of their students, and schools with chronically low-performing subgroups. The new law also includes the types of interventions a priority school may receive. This includes an LEA-led intervention, placement in an LEA innovation zone, or placement in the achievement school district. Also, the new law states that a student who has not attended the same high school within an LEA for at sixty (60) school days during the most recent year will not be counted in the school's graduation, and will instead be included in their previous school's graduation rate.

[Public Chapter 192](#) – This new law adjusts the use of student growth data in teacher evaluations. During the 2016-2017 school year, current year student growth data will account for ten percent (10%) of the overall evaluation criteria. Over the next two years, the percentage of student growth data use will increase to twenty percent (20%) in 2017-2018 and thirty-five percent (35%) in 2018-2019. The teacher may use the full thirty-five (35%) if it results in a higher evaluation score. Finally, districts are required to develop a policy on the use of Tennessee comprehensive assessment program grades in grades three through eight (3-8).

[Public Chapter 233](#) – This new law changes the way governmental entities accept requests to view a public record. Requests can now be submitted in person, by phone, fax, and mail. Requests can also be submitted via email or internet portal if the governmental entity uses email to conduct official business or maintains an internet portal that is used for accepting public records requests. The new law also includes provisions that allow governmental entities to refuse requests to inspect and requests for copies. If a person makes two (2) or more requests to view a public record within a six-month period and each time fails to view the public record within fifteen (15) business days, the governmental entity is not required to comply with any public records requests from the person for a period of six (6) months. If a person makes a request for copies of public records and fails to pay the governmental entity after the records have been produced, the governmental entity is not required to comply with any public records requests from that person until the person pays for the previous requested copies.

[Public Chapter 289](#) – This new law addresses school district transportation programs. School districts must appoint a transportation supervisor. Additionally, districts must adopt a transportation policy addressing complaint procedures, which include how investigations will be conducted, annual notification of the complaint process, and maintenance of records. Every bus must have the phone number for reporting complaints posted on the vehicle. New drivers must be twenty-five (25) years old, have five (5) consecutive years of unrestricted driving experience, and be approved by the department of safety. This new law is effective January 1, 2018.

[Public Chapter 307](#) – This new law makes substantial changes to Tennessee’s charter school laws. The legislation includes an authorizer fee, which is the lesser of three percent (3%) or \$35,000. It also allows the LEA and charter authorizer to execute a service contract. Districts are required to adopt policies and practices for quality charter authorizing standards and must report the actions taken on charter school applications, renewals, and revocations to the department of education. Finally, districts must provide student information to a charter school approved to operate within the district. The charter school can release the data to outside parties if they receive prior written consent from the parent or eligible student.

[Public Chapter 360](#) – This new law creates a teacher bill of rights. Educators have the right to be treated with civility and respect, have their judgment respected, and report errant, offensive, or abusive content or behavior. Additionally, educators have the right to provide students with a safe classroom, defend themselves, share student information with parents, review materials, and they cannot be required to use personal money to equip classrooms.

[Public Chapter 379](#) – This new law requires districts to implement progressive truancy intervention programs to address student absences. Districts must designate an attendance supervisor and inform parents/guardians of the compulsory attendance laws. The intervention program must be designed to address student conduct related to truancy and is triggered by the student receiving three (3) unexcused absences. The multi-tier system must include a conference with the student and parent/guardian, an attendance contract that includes expectations and penalties, and follow-up meetings. It also requires an individualized assessment detailing the reasons why the student has been absent.

[Public Chapter 383](#) – This new law requires districts to submit a corrective action plan to the comptroller of the treasury addressing the actions taken or the actions that will be taken in response to each audit finding received on the annual audit. The plan must include the name of the person responsible for the corrective action, the action taken or planned, and the anticipated completion date.

[Public Chapter 389](#) – This new law requires districts to provide teachers with the full amount for instructional supplies by October 31st of each school year. Districts will no longer pool half of the money for large purchases.

[Public Chapter 450](#) – This new law requires districts to offer at least four early post-secondary credit courses starting in the 2018-2019 school year. The department of education will define early post-secondary credit courses, which will include Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual credit and dual enrollment.