



## 2019 Legislative Agenda

*TSBA firmly believes in the success of Tennessee's public schools and the opportunities they have provided and continue to provide to children. The Association acknowledges the challenges that public schools face as well as the need for continued improvement, and its member boards of education are dedicated to reaching the goal of every child achieving his or her highest potential. We believe we can help accomplish this goal by focusing our legislative efforts on the following areas:*

### Local Control of Schools

- TSBA believes that local boards of education are the best equipped and informed to make decisions to address the needs and challenges of their local schools. TSBA opposes any efforts to diminish or impede upon this local control.

### Publicly Funded Vouchers

- TSBA opposes any legislation or other similar effort to create a voucher program in Tennessee that would divert money intended for public education to private schools or organizations.

### Funding of School Nurse Positions

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to lower the Basic Education Program nurse-pupil ratio to one nurse for every 700 students to help meet the needs of students across Tennessee.

### Local Funds for Teacher Salaries

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to require local funding bodies to match any percentage increase in the instructional component of the Basic Education Program when additional funds are provided by the General Assembly.

### Teacher Salaries

- TSBA urges the Tennessee General Assembly to provide funding for the total number of teachers each individual school is required to employ to meet student teacher ratios under state law.

### **Fund Balance Interest**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to amend the law and require interest earned on a school district's fund balance to be deposited back into the account.

### **Use of ACT Suite of Assessments in lieu of End-of-Course Exams**

- TSBA calls on the Tennessee Department of Education to allow school districts to choose the ACT suite of assessments in lieu of EOC testing.

### **ACT National Career Readiness Certificate**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to allow students to take the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate examination in lieu of retaking the examination required at grade 11.

### **Assessment Administration Time**

- TSBA urges the Tennessee General Assembly and the Tennessee Department of Education to construct assessments designed to inform instructional practice and to provide accountability that would not require an administration period of time in hours greater than three hours for third grade, four hours for fourth grade, five hours for fifth grade, six hours for sixth grade, seven hours for seventh grade, and not to exceed eight hours for grades eight through twelve per academic year.

### **Amend Letter Grading of Tennessee Schools**

- TSBA urges the Tennessee General Assembly Senate Education Committee to immediately amend legislation mandating the assignment of a single letter grade to Tennessee schools.

### **Additional Funding for Security Officers**

- TSBA requests that the General Assembly amend the Safe Schools Act of 2018 to include specific funding to pay the annual salary of at least one POST-trained officer for every school in the state of Tennessee.

### **Threat Assessment Teams**

- TSBA urges the Tennessee General Assembly to adopt legislation to help local school boards establish and operate threat assessment teams to support their schools.

### **Military Exemption from the Age Requirement to Drive School Buses**

- TSBA requests the State of Tennessee legislature amend TCA Section 55-50-302(d) to exempt honorable discharged military veterans, reservists, and National Guard members from the age requirement of TCA Section 55-50-302(d).

### **Tennessee Code Annotated Review**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to review current laws and remove old language and statutory requirements that are no longer applicable or beneficial.

### **Maintenance of Effort Notification**

- TSBA urges the Tennessee General Assembly to require that if, after performing the maintenance of effort (MOE) test on its draft budget, a local school system fails the MOE test, the LEA may request notification of its funding body by the Tennessee Department of Education, Office of Local Finance. Such request may include but is not limited to: an explanation of Maintenance of Effort per T.C.A., calculation of amount required to allow the LEA to meet MOE, an explanation of the aforementioned calculations, and dates by which MOE must be met to ensure receipt of all BEP funds due the LEA.

*The Tennessee School Boards Association will actively support legislation relative to these and other issues as determined by its Resolutions and Position Statements.*