



## 2020 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 or expand programs, in Tennessee that would divert money intended for public education to private schools or organizations.

### **Increase in Teacher Salaries**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to provide for an increase in the instructional salary component of the BEP equal to the amount of public dollars spent on the Education Savings Account program each year, including all funds associated with administration of the program.

### **Grow Your Own Teacher Innovations**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to amend the law to permit the waiver of BEP class size average to create funding sources for the development and implementation of Grow Your Own Teacher Innovations.

### **Reduction in the Number of Statewide Assessments**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly and the Tennessee Department of Education to change the requirements of the state academic assessment plan to the following: math and ELA assessments in grades 3 through 8 and at least once in grades 9 through 12; and science assessments not less than one time during grades 3 through 5, grades 6 through 9, and grades 10 through 12.

### **Consistent Testing Requirements**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to require that any private education institution receiving funds through the Education Savings Account program be held to the same testing requirements as Tennessee public schools.

### **Formative Assessment Question Bank**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to require the Tennessee Department of Education to develop a formative assessment question bank that is aligned with state mandated summative assessments for school districts to voluntarily utilize throughout the year.

### **Alternative Licensure Pathways and Professional Development**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly, the State Board of Education, and the Tennessee Department of Education to create alternative pathways for licensure attainment, advancement, and professional development, including but not limited to, micro-credentialing and alignment with other professional licenses.

### **Changes to Student Discipline Law**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to amend the student discipline laws to clearly explain the obligations of school boards and districts.

### **Stakeholder Input for Accountability Changes**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to require the Tennessee Department of Education to ensure meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including but not limited to, school board members, administrators, teachers, and parents, prior to recommending any changes to the State's accountability model to the State Board of Education for their approval.

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