



## 2023 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.

### **Use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Funds**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to allow local boards of education to use TANF funds for costs related to funding programs that support social services.

### **Funding the Praxis**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to provide incentives for individuals wishing to enter the teaching profession in Tennessee or seeking an additional endorsement by reimbursing that individual for successful completion of the Praxis.

### **Funds for Special Education Scholarships**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to provide incentives for individuals wishing to enter the teaching profession by creating a college student scholarship program to attract individuals to teach special education.

### **Options to Hire Teacher Candidates**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to allow school districts the option of hiring teacher candidates that only need to complete their student teaching requirements as full-time teachers.



### **Option for Military Veterans to Obtain an Occupational Teaching License**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to allow military veterans the option of obtaining an occupational teaching license that is based on military qualifications, such as training and experience, that would align to qualifications currently required for an individual to receive an occupational teaching license as determined by the State Board of Education.

### **Review and Correction of Unnecessary Requirements on Educators**

- TSBA urges the Governor, General Assembly, and State Board of Education to establish a comprehensive, collaborative, and thoughtful review program of Tennessee laws, rules, regulations, and policies governing teachers to recommend improvements to reduce educator workloads to facilitate teacher focus on the mission of educating Tennessee's children.

### **Options for Third and Fourth Grade Retention**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to allow school districts the ability to consult with stakeholders and use data that demonstrates a proficiency in English language arts (ELA) when making retention decisions for all students as well as urges that all third grade ELA TCAP results be returned to school districts by May 31<sup>st</sup> at the latest.

### **Ability to Conduct Lotteries for Educational Purposes**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to enact an amendment to Article XI, Section 5, of the Tennessee Constitution to allow Boards of Education to conduct lotteries or lottery-type events to obtain funds that will be solely and exclusively used to supplement the educational and extracurricular programs officially recognized and approved by said Boards of Education.

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