



## 2024 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.

### Qualifications for Director of Schools

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to clarify in state law that local Boards of Education have the authority to determine the qualifications needed when hiring the Director of Schools.

### Lifting Moratorium on Special School Districts

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to lift the moratorium on the creation of new special school districts and allow an existing school district the option to convert to a special school district.

### Letter Grading System of Public Schools

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to maintain in state law the multiple indicators of student achievement when determining letter grades for schools and urges the General Assembly to include a requirement in state law that each indicator used to determine the school's overall A through F letter grade also be assigned an individual letter grade.

### Partisan Elections of School Board Members

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to reinstate a prior state law that allowed the local legislative authority to determine how school board members shall be elected.



### **Funding for Special Education Preschool Students**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to allocate funds for preschool special needs students and the required typical peers in the TISA funding formula.

### **Temporary Permits for Teachers**

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to allow the Commissioner of Education to grant temporary permits for courses in which an end-of-course examination is required.

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

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to allow school districts the ability to make retention decisions for third grade and fourth grade students based upon school district information on each individual student and clarify that the decisions regarding student retention or promotion shall be made by the professional staff of each school district in coordination with the student's parents/guardians.

### **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.*