



Tennessee School Boards Association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STAND UP FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED**

*Local School Boards Focused on Building Awareness and Support for Keeping the Public Schools in the Possession of the Public*

**(Nashville)** - Under the leadership of the TSBA President, Wayne Blair, the Tennessee School Boards Association today launches a statewide campaign to increase awareness of the importance of local control of public schools.

The campaign, *Stand Up for TN Public Schools*, will place emphasis on the importance of keeping public education from becoming a tool of any single group or person. The campaign will also focus on maintaining the collective belief that public education exists to serve all people equally. Historically, communities have supported local, lay school boards to make certain that local schools serve the community effectively and equally.

“Over the past five-to-seven years Tennessee has made incredible gains in academic rigor, and our schools have collectively become a model of public education. I am grateful to be part of a state that has rapidly climbed the ladder of academic achievement,” said TSBA President, Wayne Blair. “Throughout my life, the opportunities I’ve been afforded are because of the intervention of the public school system. It is my hope that we will stand for all children. No matter their race, creed, or whatever challenges they might face.”

Support for a strong system of public education is crucial. It is the backbone of our democracy and has made our nation a leader in the world. Because education is such a determining factor in the future of individuals, governments, businesses and organization of all kinds, its control has never been a simple matter.

The *Stand Up for TN Public Schools* campaign will focus on providing local school boards and community members with the tools and resources needed to begin a dialogue about keeping the control of public education within the community. The campaign seeks to enlist the support of community members from across this great state to ensure that the future of public education remains in the hands of the community which it serves.

Local school boards keep the public in charge of public schools. In any given county, city or special school district, the local board of education is the “voice of the people.” To keep that voice strong we must continue to *Stand Up for TN Public Schools*.

Numerous resources including local stories and campaign materials are available by visiting [www.standupfortnpublicschools.org](http://www.standupfortnpublicschools.org).

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*The Tennessee School Boards Association, a statewide, nonprofit organization, is a federation of the state’s local school boards. The mission of the Tennessee School Boards Association is to assist school boards in effectively governing school districts. Through the years, TSBA has helped school boards and their members reach their highest potential through association programs, meetings and services. TSBA also provides school board members a collective voice in matters of legislation and public education concerns. To learn more about TSBA, visit our website at [www.tsba.net](http://www.tsba.net).*