



2018 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 expansion of the special education voucher program as well as any new legislation that would divert money intended for public education to private schools.

Bidding and Sale of Surplus Property Advertisements

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to allow school districts to sell surplus property in a manner deemed most financially feasible by the Board of Education, which may employ the use of an Internet auction, LEA or public website, public sale advertised through a newspaper of general circulation, or other means.

Funding of School Nurse Positions

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to lower the Basic Education Program nurse-pupil ratio to one nurse for every 750 students to help meet the needs of students across Tennessee while continuing to strengthen the State's initiative to bring teacher salaries in line with national average levels.

Funding of RTI² Positions

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to amend the BEP formula to include funding for Response to Instruction and Intervention positions within school districts.

Release of TNReady Scores

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to enact legislation to ensure students' TNReady scores are returned to the system no later than two weeks after the date of submission.

Moratorium on State Testing

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to enact legislation that places a moratorium on the State Department of Education and State Board of Education from mandating any additional assessments from those mandated in the 2016-2017 school year until measures are set in place to verify that all data associated with existing assessments is accurate and timely.

District Data Verification

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to enact legislation that provides school districts at least fifteen (15) business days to verify and correct assessment and accountability information. Further, the Department of Education must verify with school districts that the information is correct prior to the results being publicly released.

State ACT/SAT Accountability Measures

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to enact legislation to designate that ACT/SAT accountability reporting include ACT/SAT participation rate percentages by individual test type, as well as only publicly reporting specific participation rates for schools and districts that have met the minimum accountability threshold for ACT/SAT participation rate, as required by State Board of Education Policy.

Teacher Licensure

- TSBA urges the General Assembly to enact legislation that exempts out of state teachers from being required to take an assessment to receive a permanent Tennessee teaching license if the state in which they received their previous license has a reciprocity agreement with Tennessee and said teacher receives an overall effectiveness level of above expectations (level 4) or significantly above expectations (level 5) during each of their first three years as a Tennessee teacher.

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