This week’s House and Senate chambers continued their busy schedules with a series of hearings and votes on various bills. In the House, the K-12 Subcommittee heard testimony on several bills, including those related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in education. Similar to the discussion in the House K-12 Subcommittee, legislators took into account the concerns raised during the Senate Education Committee hearings this week, which heard testimony on the same topics.

In the Senate, the Education Committee continued its work on legislation addressing rural education issues, particularly in the context of school resource officers. The committee is expected to vote on HB1183/SB503, which includes provisions to limit the use of school resource officers and provide alternative solutions.

The House Education Administration Committee also held a hearing this week, with a focus on the impact of state budget cuts on public schools. The committee heard testimony on the report released by EdTrust, which highlights the challenges faced by Latino students in the Tennessee education system.

Additionally, the House Hearing Room II hosted a public training series with a workshop from RALLY, a national advocacy organization. The workshop focused on storytelling in communication and key media narrative strategies to leverage in campaigns.

The House Education Instruction Subcommittee held a hearing this week, with legislators discussing the impact of various amendments on student outcomes. The committee also heard testimony on HB1183/SB503, which proposes to limit the use of school resource officers.

The House Education Instruction Committee continued its work on legislation related to school choice, including the universal private school voucher proposal. In a vote, legislators decided to attach this proposal to HB1664/SB1715, which addresses diversity, equity, and inclusion in education.

The Senate Education Committee also held several hearings this week, focusing on issues such as teacher development and the inclusion of homeschool students in the proposal.

Overall, this week’s legislative activities underscore the ongoing efforts to address pressing educational issues in Tennessee, including the need for increased funding and resources to support underrepresented student populations.