## Weekly Legislative Update

01.12.24

We are officially back in session! The 2024 legislative session of the 113th

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

TN General Assembly kicked off on Tuesday, January 9, at noon. Both the House and Senate met in their respective chambers to conduct business. Both chambers also released their bill filing deadlines. The House deadline is January 31, and for the Senate it is February 1.

Captivating the House this week was a committee discussion and

subsequent floor vote on amendments to the <u>House Rules</u>. These rules govern parliamentary procedure, the length of debates, and members' conduct while on the House Floor. Additionally, there was much debate on the new system restricting the <u>public's access</u> to the House chamber. The new House Rules passed 70-19. The House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee met on opening day to

of Treasury. Passed by the TN General Assembly in 2021, the \$250 million K-12 Mental Health Trust Fund was designed to finance behavioral and mental health trainings, programming, and interventions for K-12 school staff and students through competitive grants. State of Tennessee Treasurer, David Lillard, provided a timeline of the fund's activities, an overview of the health of the fund, and an explanation for a seeming loss of funds. Additionally, on Tuesday, the highly anticipated <u>report</u> from the Senators appointed to the Joint Working Group on Federal Education Funds was

hear an <u>update</u> on the K-12 Mental Health Trust Fund from the Department

published. Notably, the House and the Senate were not able to come to an agreement on recommendations. The report provides an overview of the federal funding that Tennessee receives, laws and requirements associated with federal funds, a discussion about the feasibility of Tennessee rejecting federal funds, and how to eliminate unwanted restrictions. On Wednesday, January 10, the Senate Education Committee heard an update from Commissioner Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds, TN Department of

Education, on the implementation of the major education policies that passed through the General Assembly in recent years. Legislators engaged in substantive discussions around the implications of the 3rd grade retention law on 4th graders, TISA allocations, expanding the public dashboard for A-F school grade letters, and the current ESA program. In her presentation, Commissioner Reynolds noted that Governor Lee's 2024 universal voucher proposal will not replace TN's current ESA program. To learn more about Governor Lee's universal voucher proposal, I invite you to join The Education Trust - Tennessee on Wednesday, January 24, at 4:00 -

Martin Luther King Jr., I hope that you are able to reflect on the power of advocacy and feel inspired to continue the work ahead. MaKenzie L. Mosby, MPP

As we begin this long weekend honoring the life and legacy of Rev. Dr.

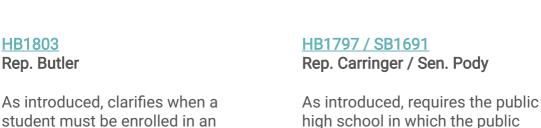
5:00 PM CT / 5:00 - 6:00 PM ET, for our virtual event, Vouchers and

Education Savings Accounts: The Right Choice for Tennessee?



On Our Radar

Senior Manager of Government Relations for Tennessee



Rep. Cepicky / Sen. Hensley As introduced, authorizes LEAs and public charter schools to reimburse teachers for child care expenses paid by the teacher

each month for the teacher's

department of education or a

program certified by the

dependent child to receive child

care services through a child care

child care agency licensed by the

eligible postsecondary program

Tennessee Promise scholarship.

to be eligible to receive a

HB1709 / SB1718

department of human services; requires, subject to appropriation, this state to reimburse LEAs and public charter schools a portion of any such monthly reimbursement amount paid by the LEA or public charter school Review Our Bill Tracker What's Happening

Article: Tennessee legislature

is coming back to work: 10

key groups to watch in the

Check out this article from The

Mark White, House Education Instruction Committee Chair Debra Moody, and Senate

Education Committee Chair Jon

Tennessean about key groups to

new session

enrolled to count the student as present for time the student spends performing the student's

high school student member of

the state board of education is

duties as a member of the state

board of education. HB1699/ SB1665 Rep. Stevens / Sen. White As introduced, requires local boards of education to include school safety training in the training requirements for substitute teachers.

**House Education Administration** Wednesday, 1/17/24, 1:30pm House Hearing Room I | Committee Homepage

House Committee Calendars Senate Committee Calendars Noteworthy

pay attention to this legislative discusses the recently released session. At the top of this list are report by the Tennessee Senate education leaders and school members that served on the joint choice lobbyists, naming working group on federal specifically House Education education funding. Administration Committee Chair

<u>Lundberg</u>, as the most powerful players. Read more Tennessee to learn about Report: The State of the Child in Tennessee

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth released its annual overview of children's wellbeing this week. The report covers numerous factors and topics in order to best represent the whole child. Read more

**Upcoming Events** 

Webinar: Vouchers and **Education Savings Accounts:** The Right Choice for Tennessee? Join The Education Trust -

Article: Tennessee senators'

rejecting federal education

report highlights risks of

Check out this article in

Chalkbeat Tennessee that

fundina

**Read more** 

Governor Lee's effort to expand vouchers across Tennessee. on Wednesday, January 24th from 4:00 - 5:00 PM CT. Our panelists will break down the differences between vouchers and education savings accounts, review the proposed voucher legislation in TN, and explore the fiscal implications for districts and for the state. <u>Register</u>

Legislative Advocacy Hub

