



# Weekly Legislative Update

01.05.24

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Happy New Year! I hope that your holiday break was joyful and restorative, and that you feel recharged and ready to take on the year ahead. I am [MaKenzie L. Mosby](#), the new Senior Manager of Government Relations at Ed Trust - Tennessee. My dear friend and former author of this newsletter, Reggie Nash, has transitioned to our national office in Washington, D.C.

As a third generation educator and proud East Tennessean, I believe in the power of education to close opportunity gaps and create the conditions necessary for students to lead lives abundant with choice and mobility. As a former policy and research staffer at the Tennessee General Assembly, I understand that the path towards this transformative education requires thoughtful and strategic policy action from a diverse coalition of activated stakeholders. This role allows me to operate in that intersection of influence and engagement. I am excited to join you and this group of dedicated advocates, committed to bold and impactful action.

I am also excited to introduce our LEE Public Policy Fellow, [Ariel Keller](#). Prior to joining Ed Trust, Ariel was a 2019 Teach for America corps member in Minneapolis, where she taught middle school literacy at KIPP Legacy Academy. In Ariel's role, she supports various projects and responsibilities related to statewide policy, advocacy, and supports our external affairs portfolio in preparation for and during the Tennessee General Assembly's 2024 legislative session.

With the start of a new year comes the beginning of a new legislative session. The 113th General Assembly will reconvene on Tuesday, January 9th to begin the second session of their two-year term. In preparation for the highly anticipated 2024 legislative session, I invite you to join us next Monday, January 8th from 3:30 - 5:00 PM CT / 4:30 - 6:00 PM ET to Gear Up for Session and preview key education issues, hear directly from legislators, and access important advocacy resources and tools. [Please use this link to register for the virtual event.](#)

I look forward to serving as a trusted resource and advocacy partner to you each week as we recap key developments in legislative activity. Have a great weekend!

P.S. If I haven't had the chance to meet you, I'd love to connect. Please shoot me an email at [mмосby@edtrust.org](mailto:mмосby@edtrust.org).



**MaKenzie L. Mosby, MPP**  
Senior Manager of Government Relations for Tennessee



## On Our Radar

### [HB1627 / SB1589](#)

Rep. Lynn / Sen. Pody

As introduced, requires the department to award school safety grants to LEAs, public charter schools, private schools, and church-related schools for the purchase of a wearable emergency alert system for teachers and substitute teachers.

### [HB1630](#)

Rep. Cepicky

As introduced, requires the governing board of each public institution of higher education to promulgate rules, and requires each local board of education and governing body of a public charter school to adopt a policy, regarding the use of artificial intelligence technology by students, teachers, faculty, and staff for instructional and assignment purposes.

### [HB1631](#)

Rep. Bulso

As introduced, clarifies that a private school serving students in any of the grades pre-K through 12 is authorized to adopt a handgun carry policy for the private school's property.

### [HB1632](#)

Rep. Bulso

As introduced, gives a parent of a child who attends, or who is eligible to attend, a school operated by a local education agency or a public charter school standing to file a civil action against the LEA or public charter school in a chancery court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022.

### [HB1633](#)

Rep. Ragan

As introduced, requires the department of safety to create de-escalation training for teachers, administrators, and other school personnel; requires LEAs and public charter schools to ensure that the LEA's or public charter school's teachers, administrators, and other school personnel annually receive the de-escalation training

### [HB1634](#)

Rep. Ragan

As introduced, revises language prohibiting educators from discriminating against students on certain, specified bases to generally prohibiting educators from discriminating against students who are members of a protected class under federal or state law; removes the definition of "gender identity" for purposes of the family life curriculum.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



## What's Happening

### House Rules Committee

Monday, 1/8/24, 11:00am

House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

### Senate Floor Session

Tuesday, 1/9/24, 12:00pm

Senate Chamber | [Senate Homepage](#)

### House Floor Session

Tuesday, 1/9/24, 12:00pm

House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

### House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

Tuesday, 1/9/24, 2:00pm

House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

### Senate Floor Session

Wednesday, 1/10/24, 8:30am

Senate Chamber | [Senate Homepage](#)

### House Floor Session

Wednesday, 1/10/24, 9:00am

House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

### Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, 1/10/24, 2:00pm

Senate Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

### Senate Floor Session

Thursday, 1/11/24, 8:30am

Senate Chamber | [Senate Homepage](#)

### House Floor Session

Thursday, 1/11/24, 9:00am

House Chamber | [House Homepage](#)

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



## Noteworthy

### Webinar: Gearing Up for the 113th Tennessee General Assembly & 2024 Alliance Policy Agenda Release

Join The Education Trust – Tennessee to prepare and stay in the know for this upcoming legislative session on Monday, January 8th from 3:30 - 5:00 PM CT. Attendees will get the inside scoop on the 113th Tennessee General Assembly, education committees and leaders, and hear directly from state legislators on the potential issues that will arise this session. We'll share helpful advocacy tools, review upcoming training opportunities, and explore the TN Alliance for Equity in Education's new 2024 Policy Agenda.

[Register](#)

### Article: Six big storylines that defined Tennessee education in 2023

Check out [this article](#) in Chalkbeat Tennessee that recaps the six biggest story headlines that defined Tennessee education in 2023.

[Read more](#)

### Webinar: Vouchers and Education Savings Accounts: The Right Choice for Tennessee?

Join The Education Trust – Tennessee to learn about 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.

[Register](#)

### Article: 'It's not fair': Lower TN report card grades raises questions following voucher proposal

Check out [this article](#) from The Tennessean about the recently released A-F letter grades and vouchers. Some Rutherford school officials question if low report card grades are a justification for voucher expansion.

[Read more](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Legislative Advocacy Hub](#)

