



Weekly Legislative Update

1.13.23

Dear {{FirstName or 'Supporter'}},

The 113th Tennessee General Assembly gavelled in to kick off its first year of session on Tuesday, January 10th, 2023, at 12 noon CT. With three new Senators and 17 new Representatives, both chambers were sworn in as the first action on the legislature's agenda. [Rep. Cameron Sexton](#) of Crossville returned as Speaker of the House, while Lt. Governor and Speaker of the Senate [Randy McNally](#) of Oak Ridge will serve as the presiding officer of the upper chamber.

The chairs and membership of the new General Assembly's standing committees were announced yesterday, with [Sen. Jon Lundberg](#) of Bristol returning as chairman of the Senate Education Committee, [Rep. Mark White](#) of Memphis chairing the House Education Administration Committee, and [Rep. Debra Moody](#) of Covington serving as House Education Instruction Committee Chairman. Additionally, [Rep. Kirk Haston](#) of Lobelville will chair the House K-12 Subcommittee, [Rep. Justin Lafferty](#) of Knoxville will chair the House Higher Education Subcommittee, and [Rep. Scott Cepicky](#) of Culleoka will chair the House Education Instruction Subcommittee. To review the full membership of each education committee, please visit [here](#).

Several notable education bills were introduced this week, including a ban on implicit bias training proposed by Sen. Gardenhire ([SB0102/HB0158](#)) and legislation directing the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) to publish a TISA guide proposed by Rep. Lamberth ([HB0070](#)). This is likely a "caption bill," or bill that could ultimately shift its stated intent to deal with a number of issues as long as it still engages education funding within TCA Title 49. Additionally, legislation was introduced by Rep. Hawk that shifts the responsibility of determining adequate growth of 3rd and 4th grade students who previously scored not proficient in English Language Arts from TDOE to local education agencies ([HB0093](#)). To see all of the education-related legislation Ed Trust is actively tracking and other key information, please be sure to check out the "On Our Radar" section, our updated bill tracker, and the committee calendars each linked below.

In partnership,



Reggie Nash
External Relations Manager for Tennessee



On Our Radar

[HB0158/SB0102](#)

Rep. Zachary / Sen. Gardenhire

Prohibits a local education agency, public charter school, public institution of higher education, the state board of education, and the department of education from requiring an educator, employee of an LEA or charter school, faculty member, or employee of a public institution of higher education to complete or participate in implicit bias training; defines "implicit bias training"; prohibits adverse licensure and employment actions from being taken against such an individual for the individual's failure or refusal to participate in implicit bias training.

[HB0041](#)

Rep. Reedy

Expands, from only local boards of education in distressed rural counties to all local boards of education, the governing bodies for LEAs that are authorized to adopt a policy allowing their director of schools to authorize and select employees who may carry a concealed handgun on school grounds.

[HB0127/SB0141](#)

Rep. G. Martin / Sen. Watson

Allows a school resource officer, school security officer, or other law enforcement officer who is trained and certified for completing a behavior intervention training program to use a mechanical restraint on a student receiving special education services in an emergency situation.

[HB0093](#)

Rep. Hawk

Changes, from the department of education to the student's LEA, the entity responsible for determining whether a third or fourth grade student who previously tested not proficient in English language arts has shown adequate growth on an assessment administered to the student for purposes of promotion.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What's Happening

House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

Thursday, January 19th, 2023, 12:30pm CT

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

Senate Floor Session

Friday, January 20th, 2023, 3:00pm CT

Senate Chamber

Senate Floor Session

Saturday, January 21st, 2023, 10:30am CT

Senate Chamber

Joint Convention - Inauguration of Governor Bill Lee

Saturday, January 21st, 2023, 11:00am CT

War Memorial Plaza

Senate Floor Session

Saturday, January 21st, 2023, 12:30pm CT

Senate Chamber

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

[2023 EmpowerED League Leader Application](#)

The Education Trust in Tennessee is excited to announce the launch of our [2023 application](#) for students to join our EmpowerED Network as a League Leader. The EmpowerED Network seeks to elevate the experiences of underrepresented students from across the state to influence policy that impacts students and deepen their advocacy skills. We are actively seeking youth who want to have a leadership role within this dynamic network of other youth advocates.

This application will close on January 17th, 2023 at 11:59 pm CST.

[Tennessee Education Advocacy Hub](#)

The Education Trust in Tennessee launched an [advocacy hub](#) to help stakeholders effectively advocate for education justice in the state. We are excited to continue bridging policy and community to inform policy decisions that expand educational equity and opportunity. Check out our tools on [how a bill becomes a law in Tennessee](#), a [guide to public offices in Tennessee](#), and a [guide to building your advocacy!](#)

[STUDENT ONLY EVENT: Gearing Up for the 113th TN General Assembly](#)

Do you desire to learn more about bills filed during legislative session and how students can uplift their voices in the process? [Join us](#) on January 19th from 4:00 - 5:30pm CT to get the inside scoop on the 113th Tennessee General Assembly, education committees and their leaders, and hear directly from state legislators on the potential issues that will arise this session. We'll share helpful advocacy tools and review upcoming training opportunities exclusively for students.

[Chalkbeat TN: Key Education Issues to Watch](#)

Check out this [article](#) from Chalkbeat TN that outlines a variety of key education issues to look out for in the 113th General Assembly, including third-grade retention, monitoring rollout of Tennessee Investing in Student Achievement (TISA), potential school voucher program expansion, and efforts to address teacher shortages.

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust

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