



Weekly Legislative Update

1.20.23

Dear {{FirstName or 'Supporter'}},

Things were relatively quiet this week at the state legislature, with a shortened working period due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday on Monday. Today marks one of the first legislative days of the new 113th beyond last week's organizational period, with both chambers holding a floor session later this afternoon. Tomorrow, the [second inauguration of Governor Bill Lee](#) will be commemorated with a [joint convention](#) of the General Assembly at 11am CT at War Memorial Plaza. Next week, the House will be in recess, while the Senate will kick off its committee cadence for the 2023 session. Notably, the [Senate Education Committee](#) will hold its first meeting Wednesday afternoon at 2pm CT specifically around [school turnaround](#), while the Joint Ad-Hoc Committee on Juvenile Justice is scheduled to meet at 3:00pm CT, both in Senate Hearing Room I. The next two weeks are of major legislative significance, as lawmakers must move to complete their bill introductions by the House filing deadline of January 31st and the Senate filing deadline of February 2nd.

We continue to monitor new education legislation being introduced, including new proposals that would [expand free school breakfast and lunch programs](#), [increase the amount of the Minority Teaching Fellowship Program award](#), [make changes to how maximum class sizes and student-teacher ratios are determined](#), and multiple bills that would impact the Administration-led third- and fourth-grade retention law from 2021. Our team has developed a [retention-specific tracker](#) that outlines all legislation introduced related to this important topic. 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

[HB0270](#)

Rep. Terry

Allows a third grade student to be promoted, even if the student does not test proficient on the English language arts (ELA) portion of the student's most recent Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) test, if the student tests proficient in reading on each Tennessee universal reading screener administered to the student in the student's third grade year; allows a student's LEA to file an appeal regarding the student's identification for retention based on the student's performance on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test.

[HB0255/SB0308](#)

Rep. Raper / Sen. Lowe

Requires each local school board to establish a school lunch program and a school breakfast program that provides a free breakfast and lunch to each student enrolled in a school under the board's jurisdiction; requires the state to reimburse each LEA the cost of providing a free breakfast and lunch to each student enrolled in the LEA after all available federal funds have been applied.

[HB0276/SB0231](#)

Rep. McKenzie / Sen. Yarbro

Changes the amount of a minority teaching fellowship award for a recipient who is enrolled in a degree program leading to licensure as a teacher in an institution of higher education with an approved educator preparation program from \$5,000 to the cost of tuition and fees at the respective institution.

[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.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What's Happening

Joint Convention - Inauguration of Governor Bill Lee

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

War Memorial Plaza

Senate Floor Session

Tuesday, January 24th, 2023, 4:00pm CT

Senate Chamber

Senate Floor Session

Wednesday, January 25th, 2023, 10:00am CT

Senate Chamber

Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, January 25th, 2023, 2:00pm CT

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

Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Juvenile Justice

Wednesday, January 25th, 2023, 3:00pm CT

Senate Hearing Room I

Senate Floor Session

Thursday, January 26th, 2023, 8:30am CT

Senate Chamber

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

[Chalkbeat TN: Bill to Curb](#)

['Implicit Bias' Training](#)

Check out this [article](#) from Chalkbeat TN on [HB0158/SB0102](#), a bill that proposes a ban on implicit bias training in public schools and universities. The article provides an overview of the current status of implicit bias training policy as well as key opinions in support and opposition of the bill.

[The Education Trust in](#)

[Tennessee Instagram](#)

Check out the recently launched Education Trust in Tennessee Instagram! Head over for updates and give us a follow at [@edtrusttn](#)

[Third Grade Retention: Ed](#)

[Trust TN Tracker](#)

Visit The Education Trust in Tennessee's newly released [retention bill tracker](#) to stay up to date on the important issue of third grade retention throughout session.

[ACLU Censorship FAQ](#)

The ACLU of Tennessee created a [Censorship FAQ resource](#) highlighting harmful bills passed into law in our state and Tennesseans' rights related to them. As we approach this year's bill filing deadline, consider reviewing the FAQs on previous censorship legislation and their implications for students and schools.

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust

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