



TENNESSEE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATHAN R. JAMES

DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

2016 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- Passed 100% of legislative priorities for 2016 session
- Three main categories of responsibility contemplated in legislation:
 - Academic/Standards-Based
 - Administrative
 - Programmatic

ACADEMIC & STANDARDS-BASED RESPONSIBILITIES

PC 999

- SB 2499 Sen. Gresham; HB 2009 Rep. Butt
- Clarifies the distinction between "standards" and "curriculum" in code.
- Requires SBE to:
 - Include in the social studies *standards*, at the appropriate grade level or levels in high school, as determined by the state board of education through *standards* and the local board of education through curriculum, courses and content designed to educate children about the federal and Tennessee governments.
 - The *standards* shall include the three (3) branches of government, the fundamental documents identified in § 49-6-1011 (a) that underpin our form of government, an understanding of how laws are enacted, and ways citizens shape and influence government and governmental actions.
- Authorizes SBE to:
 - Approve academic standards for an elective state-funded course consisting of a nonsectarian, nonreligious, academic study of the Bible.

ACADEMIC & STANDARDS-BASED RESPONSIBILITIES

PC 667

- SB 1687 Sen. Bell; HB 1755 Rep. Love
- SBE required to approve appropriate computer science courses that every candidate for a full high school diploma may enroll in and complete to satisfy the elective focus requirement for graduation.

PC 660

- SB 2186 Sen. Bell; HB 1905 Rep. Matthew Hill
- Requires SBE to ensure that the revised standards do not promote religion and do not amount to indoctrination or proselytism.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

PC 673

- SB 1731 Sen. Gresham; HB 1807 Rep. Harry Brooks
- Authorizes SBE to collect authorizer fee for charter schools it authorizes, while maintaining the utmost transparency.
- Requires SBE to:
 - Determine the percentage of a charter school's per student state and local funding that the state board shall receive as the annual authorizer fee for the next school year no later than April 1st .
 - Develop a system for returning unused funds to the school(s).
 - Post a report on use of collected authorizer fee dollars no later than December 1st .

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

PC 1020

- SB 2565 Sen. Norris; HB 2574 Rep. Mark White
- Makes enhancements to BEP including: More than \$100 million for teacher salaries – the largest investment without a tax increase in the history of the BEP; Nearly \$30 million to fund the 12th month of insurance for teachers; \$15 million for recurring technology funds for our schools – an amount that doubles our current investment and addresses concerns related to devices, infrastructure and instruction; Nearly \$20 million to better serve high need student populations; and Almost \$50 million to address enrollment growth and inflationary costs. Effective July 1, 2016.

PC 680

- SB 300 Sen. Gresham; HB 155 Rep. Casada
- Requires SBE to review the A-F school grading scale developed by TDOE. The grading system must be based on student performance on TCAP or end-of-course exams, student growth and other outcome indicators of student achievement. School grades shall be assigned in the 2017-18 school year.

PC 684

- SB 1638 Sen. Gresham; HB 1681 Rep. Moody
- Requires SBE (and other related educational agencies) to provide OREA with access to information, records, books, data, or reports maintained by any agency of this state, whether or not the information is subject to public inspection upon request.

PC 529

- SB 433: Sen. Bowling, HB 238 Rep. Byrd
- Requires SBE to permit the use of Type A school buses for a period of fifteen (15) years of service.
- Authorizes SBE to promulgate rules to effectuate such provisions.

PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSIBILITIES

PC 889

- SB 2497 Sen. Gresham; HB 1879 Rep. Kane
 - Enacts the Course Access Program which authorizes eligible participating students to enroll in up to two course access program courses a semester, as determined by the authorizing LEA. The department will deduct state basic education program (BEP) funds otherwise due to the LEA and send such funds to the LEA offering the course. The department of education must publish a catalog of course access courses on the department's website.
- Requires SBE to:
 - Promulgate rules " by which the LEA authorizes course providers pursuant to this section, including all deadlines and guidelines applicable to the submission and authorization process for providers."
 - Include on its web site a link to the rules on the web site of the secretary of state.
 - Adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement this chapter, including, but not limited to, the requirements for LEAs whose students enroll in courses offered by authorized course providers.
 - Adopt rules relative to the payments required through the course access program.
- Authorizes SBE to:
 - Set a cap on the amount of funds that can be charged for a particular course.
 - Promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this act.

PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSIBILITIES

PC 961

- SB 1864 Sen. Tate; HB 2489 Rep. Akbari
- Authorizes SBE to:
 - Promulgate rules for the development of a program whereby 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporations may be recognized for the purpose of assisting LEAs through the selection and appointment of qualified volunteers.
 - The program shall focus on grades kindergarten through three (K-3) before- and after-school activities designed to improve student achievement in the academic subjects of reading, math, science, and social studies, as well as fine arts.
 - Any 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation recognized under this section shall meet all applicable rules of the state board of education and policies and procedures of the LEA in which the corporation's volunteers are assisting and ensure its volunteers undergo criminal history record checks and otherwise meet all of the requirements of § 49-5-413.
- If the rules promulgated by the state board of education or policies or procedures adopted by the LEA are violated, the LEA shall have the authority to remove the recognized 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation from the program.

QUESTIONS?

- NOTE: A complete list of education legislation passed this session is available on request.