

## 109<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 2016 Session Legislative Report

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### **Public Chapter 529**

SB 433: Bowling, HB 238 Byrd  
TDOE Contact: Mike Herrmann

Allows specially equipped school buses (Type A buses) to be in service for 15 years. *Effective January 28, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 575**

SB 1685: Bowling, HB 1630 Pitts  
TDOE Contact: Mike Herrmann

Removes from “duties of teachers” the requirement that teachers give one fire drill every month, one intruder drill, and three additional safety drills. Schools must continue to comply with the state fire marshal requirements pursuant to T.C.A. 68-10-137. *Effective March 8, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 578**

SB 484: Bell, HB 782: Casada  
TDOE Contact: Marcy Tidwell

Adds the Tennessee Alliance of Church Related Schools to the list of organizations with which homeschools may affiliate. *Effective March 10, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 620**

SB 1735: Gresham, HB 1568: Moody  
TDOE Contact: Rebecca Wright

Makes clarifying changes to the Individualized Education Accounts Act. Clarifies that students must be attending a Tennessee school for the first time in order to be eligible to receive an IEA and allows the department of education to issue payments to IEA account holders more than four times per year. *Effective March 22, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 622**

SB 1858: Tate; HB 1756: Love  
TDOE Contact: Maryanne Durski

Specifies that nonrecurring funds appropriated by a local government entity to an LEA for nonrecurring educational expenses pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-3-314(c)(4) includes “nonrecurring funds for priority schools.” *Effective March 22, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 623**

SB 1992: Roberts; HB 2071: Littleton  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard and Pat Conner

Requires all LEA employees to attend annual in-service training on suicide prevention; requires each LEA to adopt a policy on student suicide prevention; and requires the department of education to develop a model policy on suicide prevention. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 627**

SB 2256: Hensley; HB 2130: Butt  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Removes obsolete provisions regarding suspension and expulsion of students charged with or convicted of a violent felony. *Effective March 22, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 644**

SB 1927 Roberts; HB 2010 Butt  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Requires the department to post on its website all laws related to the rights of students and their parents or legal guardians. Each LEA must post a link to the list of laws prominently on its website. *Effective March 23, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 660**

SB 2186 Bell; HB 1905 Hill, M.  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Requires each local school board to adopt a policy on the use of religion in curriculum and instructional materials prior to the 2016-17 school year; requires each LEA to maintain a publically available syllabus for grades 6–12 in social studies, science, math, and ELA courses; requires the state board to initiative the standards review process for social studies; and requires teacher training institutes to include curriculum on the teaching of religion. *Effective March 29, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 667**

SB 1687 Bell; HB 1755 Love  
State Board Contact: Nathan James

Requires the state board to approve appropriate computer science courses that students may use to satisfy the elective focus requirement for graduation. *Effective March 31, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 669**

SB 1983 Bowling; HB 2148 Ragan  
TDOE Contact: Christine Hollifield

Requires that students in grades K–1 receive three, 15-minute periods of non-structured physical activity per day; requires students in grades 2–6 receive at least two, 20-minute periods of non-structured physical activity at least four days a week; and requires students in grades 7–12 receive 90 minutes of physical activity a week. *Effective March 31, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 673**

SB 1731 Gresham; HB 1807 Brooks, H.  
State Board Contact: Nathan James

Allows the State Board of Education to collect an authorizer fee of up to 4% from the charter schools for which they are the chartering authority. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 677**

SB 2088 Overbey; HB 1974 Ramsey  
TDOE Contact: Lori Paisley

Requires public schools with one or more automatic external defibrillator (AED) to conduct annual AED training for all school personnel and an annual CPR and AED drill. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 680**

SB 300 Gresham; HB 155 Casada  
TDOE Contact: Nakia Towns

Requires the department to develop a grading system that annually assigns schools a letter grade on the A-F scale. 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. *Effective March 24, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 684**

SB 1638 Gresham; HB 1681 Moody  
TDOE Contact: Elizabeth Fiveash

Defines the role of the office of research and education accountability (OREA) and deletes obsolete reporting requirements. *Effective March 24, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 698**

SB 1559 Bell; HB 1644 Goins  
TDOE Contact: Marcy Tidwell

Allows chief administrative officer or governing entity of private K-12 schools to establish a handgun carry policy for the school and school grounds. *Effective April 6, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 703**

SB 1889 Dickerson; HB 1485 White, M.  
TDOE Contact: Lisa Wiltshire and Rene Diamond

Requires pre-K programs to meet criteria for "highly qualified;" adds new requirements to the pre-K application; and requires districts that receive approval of a voluntary pre-K program to utilize the pre-K/K growth portfolio model. *Effective April 6, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 706**

SB 1967 Tracy; HB 1793 Byrd  
TDOE Contact: Christine Hollifield

Requires the department to annually report on the physical education programs for each LEA in the state. *Effective April 6, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 710**

SB 2118 Tracy; HB 2260 Forgety  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Requires referees or officiates of interscholastic athletic events to submit to a criminal background investigation. *Effective April 6, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 712**

SB 2508 Gresham; HB 1419 Forgety  
TDOE Contact: Paul Fleming

Provides teachers with the option to include or not include results from the 2015-16 TNReady and TCAP tests within the student growth component of their evaluation, depending on which scenario benefits them the most. If at any point in this three-year transition an educator's evaluation would not benefit by including the student growth data from the 2015-16 test, educators will have that data excluded. *Effective April 6, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 732**

SB 2392 Bell; HB 2190 Matheny  
TDOE Contact: Marcy Tidwell

Requires schools that administer the AP and PSAT/NMSQT exams to provide notice of the dates of administration on the school website and permits home schools students to take the AP and PSAT/NMSQT exams at any public school offering them. *Effective April 7, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 733**

SB 2117 Tracy; HB 2261 Forgety  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Opens membership of the directors of schools association to include school system-wide supervisory staff, principals, and assistant principals and allows membership dues to be set in bylaws instead of a constitution. *Effective April 7, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 750**

SB 1708 Gresham; HB 1506 Rogers  
TDOE Contact: Danielle Mezera

Extends the Tennessee Promise scholarship to dependents of Tennessee military parents who are stationed outside of the state. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 752**

SB 1654 Tracy; HB 1642 Forgety  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Encourages public school teachers to be Tennessee Promise scholarship mentors by crediting them with one day of in-service for volunteering as mentors and by granting them one year of eligibility for the state employee discount program for volunteering as mentors. *Effective April 12, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 754**

SB 2518 Roberts; HB 1722 Reedy  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Requires the display of the American flag on school property and at school events to conform to the requirements of federal law. *Effective April 12, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 757**

SB 1900 Dickerson; HB 1931 White, M.  
TDOE Contact: Cliff Lloyd

Prohibits vendors providing online services to K-12 schools from using usage data from individual students for the purpose of targeting advertisements and/or selling data to third parties. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 770**

SB 2172 Tate; HB 2236 Cooper  
TDOE Contact: Meghan Curran

Authorizes LEAs and schools to form community consortiums with a variety of community partners to establish communities of schools with an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, and youth and community development. *Effective April 19, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 783**

SB 2002 Ketron; HB 1796 Ramsey  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Requires principals or a designee to initiate an investigation into a report of bullying within 48 hours and to initiate an appropriate intervention within 20 calendar days of receipt of the report. Requires LEAs to inform parents or guardians of a student's involvement with bullying or harassment and updates LEA reporting requirements. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 793**

SB 2504 Gresham; HB 2592 Moody  
TDOE Contact: Rebecca Wright

Authorizes the use of individual education account funds for contributions to an achieving a better life experience (ABLE) account for the benefit of a participating student. *Effective April 12, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 802**

SB 1862 Tate; HB 1780 Coley  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Requires every school to post the toll-free telephone number operated by the department of children's services to receive reports of child abuse or neglect in a clearly visible location in a public area that is readily accessible to students. *Effective April 14, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 807**

SB 2098 Ketron; HB 2147 Womick  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Requires the principal of a school to allow a patriotic society time to speak to students during school hours. Any patriotic society wishing to speak shall speak on one day at the beginning of each school year and each society shall have no more than 10 minutes to speak. *Effective April 14, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 831**

SB 2165 Tate; HB 2490 Akbari  
TDOE Contact: Christy Ballard

Requires public high schools to recognize students that complete 10 hours of community service per semester at graduation. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 844**

SB 2540 Haile; HB 1537 Brooks, K.  
TDOE Contact: Nakia Towns and Danielle Mezera

Enacts the Tennessee Student Assessment Transparency Act, which eliminates the eighth grade EXPLORE and tenth grade PLAN assessments (or replacements); provides students with the opportunity for one ACT or SAT re-take; requires the department to annually release TCAP/TNReady test questions and student answers review beginning in the 2016-17 school year; requires LEAs to inform parents of how they can gain access to the individual results of their child; and requires the department to release assessment blueprints and assessment scoring methodology to all districts and post on the department's website. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 882**

SB 1598 Massey; HB 1638 Brooks, H.  
TDOE Contact: Maryanne Durski

Authorizes local boards of education to admit pupils from outside their respective local school systems at any time without the approval of the student's home LEA and provides, in cases where an LEA has created a regional STEM school, local BEP funds will also follow the student into the LEA to which the student is transferring and no tuition may be charged by the receiving LEA. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 886**

SB 2589 Norris; HB 1712 Gilmore  
TDOE Contact: Lori Paisley

Encourages the department of education to examine the asthma prevention protocols posted on the National Institutes of Health website to help avoid new asthma cases; better identify and avoid asthma triggers and reduce medical costs and lost school time. *Effective April 27, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 889**

SB 2497 Gresham; HB 1879 Kane  
TDOE Contact: Danielle Mezera

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. *Effective April 27, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 916**

SB 1144 Tate; HB 1121 Akbari  
TDOE Contact: Nakia Towns

Requires the department to list schools on the priority list by success rate from highest to lowest. *Effective April 27, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 928**

SB 1566 Yager; HB 1979 Ramsey  
TDOE Contact: Marcy Tidwell

Specifies that educational institutions which have been approved to operate by a local board of education, the ASD, or the State Board of Education are exempt from the registration requirements for persons who make charitable solicitations. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 943**

SB 1695 Bell; HB 1665 Lamberth  
TDOE Contact: Marcy Tidwell

Revises the eligibility requirements for home school students to receive the general assembly merit scholarship. *Effective April 27, 2016, and applies to students seeking the scholarship for the 2016-17 academic year and academic years thereafter.*

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### **Public Chapter 948**

SB 1740 Dickerson; HB 2179 Hill, T.  
TDOE Contact: Lori Paisley

Authorizes a qualified physician assistant to evaluate and provide care to a youth athlete who suffered, or is suspected to have suffered, a concussion or head injury during the course of a school youth athletic activity. *Effective April 27, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 957**

SB 1831 Southerland; HB 2426 Goins  
TDOE Contact: Danielle Mezera

Requires LEAs using their own grading systems, in addition to the uniform grading system for lottery scholarship purposes, to award additional quality points for honors and other advanced courses uniformly. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 961**

SB 1864 Tate; HB 2489 Akbari  
State Board Contact: Nathan James

Authorize the State Board of Education 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. *Effective April 27, 2016 for promulgating rules. Effective January 1, 2017 for all other purposes.*

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### **Public Chapter 999**

SB 2499 Gresham; HB 2009 Butt  
State Board Contact: Nathan James

Clarifies that the State Board of Education adopts academic standards for the state and that LEAs set their own curriculum. *Effective April 27, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 1008**

SB 1373 Kyle; HB 577 Hardaway  
TDOE Contact: Mike Herrmann

Requires LEAs to submit to the department of safety the names of persons authorized to drive a school bus. The department of safety shall maintain a database of all those persons authorized to drive a school bus and notify the appropriate LEA if the driver license or driving privileges of a listed person have been suspended or revoked. Upon receiving a notification an LEA must suspend or revoke the person's authorization to drive a school bus. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 1020**

SB 2565 Norris; HB 2574 White, M.  
TDOE Contact: Maryanne Durski

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 twelfth 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.*

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### **Public Chapter 1036**

SB 1596 Massey; HB 1484 Smith  
TDOE Contact: Mike Herrmann

Prohibits bus drivers from operating a school bus while using a portable electronic device. A violation of shall be a Class A misdemeanor and a driver's school bus endorsement shall be permanently revoked if convicted for using a portable electronic devise while operating a school bus. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 1049**

SB 2249 Hensley; HB 1751 Byrd  
TDOE Contact: Mike Herrmann

Authorizes the boards of education in Pickett and Wayne counties to adopt policies allowing the director of schools to authorize select employees to carry a concealed handgun within and on the grounds of the school to which the person is assigned. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 1058**

SB 2635 Gresham; HB 2616 Pitts  
TDOE Contact: Joey Hassell

Requires LEAs to screen all students for dyslexia using procedures developed by the department of education. Students who exhibit characteristics of dyslexia shall be given appropriate interventions and notice shall be provided to their parent or guardian. Establishes a dyslexia advisory council to study and report on matters relating to dyslexia. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

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### **Public Chapter 1080**

SB 2128 Bailey; HB 2087 Keisling  
TDOE Contact: Maryanne Durski

Creates a timeline for county LEA budget submissions to the county legislative body and creates a continuing budget provision for an LEA budget. *Effective January 1, 2017, certain provisions effective May 20, 2016.*

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