



109TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY/2015 SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

PUBLIC CHAPTER	DESCRIPTION	DEPT. OF EDUCATION CONTACT
5 <i>Effective</i> 3/19/2015	Extends the advisory council for education of students with disabilities to June 30, 2020. (SB214: Bell; HB337: Faison)	Joey Hassell
46 <i>Effective</i> 3/27/2015	Removes outdated language concerning "the temporary election of a county superintendent" since the director of schools is no longer an elected official. (SB538: Gresham; HB420: Brooks, H.)	Christy Ballard
55 <i>Effective</i> 4/6/2015	Replaces references in the code from "vocational education" to "career and technical education". (SB87: Jackson; HB77: Moody)	Danielle Mezera
58 <i>Effective</i> 7/1/2015	Directs the commissioner of education to develop guidelines for LEAs to create an annual report that informs students of the death of any person 18 years of age or younger who died as a result of a person 18 years of age or younger driving under the influence of an intoxicant or drug. (SB109: Beavers; HB98: McCormick)	Mike Herrmann
75 <i>Effective</i> 7/1/2015	Declares the third Thursday in November as "Agricultural Literacy Week. (SB676: Gresham; HB718: Lollar)	Danielle Mezera
83 <i>Effective</i> 4/9/2015	Includes adoption as a positive option in family life curriculum. (SB40: Haile; HB46: Lamberth)	Mark Bloodworth
129 <i>Effective</i> 4/9/2015	Extends the department of education to June 30, 2019. (SB231: Bell; HB364: Faison)	Christy Ballard
132 <i>Effective</i> 7/1/2016	Requires local boards of education to provide financial information concerning expenditures for lobbying and professional associations in their budgets. (SB1229: Bell; HB772: Dunn)	Maryanne Durski

<p>141 <i>Effective</i> 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Authorizes a school principal to excuse students for non-school-sponsored extracurricular activities, if the following conditions are met: the student provides proper documentation and the student's parent or guardian submits a written request prior to the student's absence. (SB359: Bailey; HB891: Dunlap)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>142 <i>Effective</i> 4/16/2015</p>	<p>Extends the date of the repeal of the Virtual Public Schools Act to June 30, 2019. (SB343: Gresham; HB398: Brooks, H)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>158 <i>Effective</i> 4/16/2015</p>	<p>Enacts the "Tennessee Teaching Evaluation Enhancement Act" which adjusts the weighting relative to the Individual Growth Score component of teacher evaluations during transition to new state assessments. The legislation also provides that during the school years 2015-16 thru 2017-18, a teacher's most recent student growth data will account for the entire individual growth score if such use results in a higher evaluation rating for the teacher. Additionally, the bill lowers the weight of student growth data for teachers in non-tested grades and subjects and provides local school districts discretion in the evaluation process and personnel decisions related to the process. (SB119: Norris HB108: White, M.)</p>	<p>Courtney Seiler/ Tony Pratt</p>
<p>165 <i>Effective</i> 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Prohibits supervisors from disciplining or discouraging teachers and other educators for reporting inaccuracies or errors or potentially inflammatory material in textbooks or other educational materials to supervisors, elected officials, or parents or guardians and prohibits requiring, as a condition of employment, a teacher or other educator to agree not to report inaccuracies or errors or potentially inflammatory material in textbooks or other educational materials. (SB1105: Beavers; HB429: Goins)</p>	<p>Tammy Shelton</p>
<p>171 <i>Effective</i> 4/16/2015</p>	<p>Halts the closure at the end of the 2014-2015 school year of charter schools on the state's 2015 priority list and makes the 2017 priority list the first list for which charter schools appearing on a priority list must automatically close. (SB512: Dickerson; HB125: Hardaway)</p>	<p>Marcy Tidwell</p>
<p>184 <i>Effective</i> 4/22/2015</p>	<p>Permits the commissioner of education to set and adjust the testing schedule for state assessments. (SB88: Tracy; HB78: Dunn)</p>	<p>Nakia Towns</p>
<p>186 <i>Effective</i> 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Makes minor adjustments to the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Act, including clarifying the full-time student requirement and terminating events for the scholarship. (SB118: Norris; HB107: McCormick)</p>	<p>Mike Krause (Drive to 55 Alliance)</p>

<p><u>190</u> Effective 4/22/2015</p>	<p>Terminates the advisory council on teacher education and certification. (SB215: Bell; HB329: Faison)</p>	<p>Nathan James (State Board of Education)</p>
<p><u>197</u> Effective 4/20/2015</p>	<p>Permits a local board of education to refuse to accept federal funding for an education program without a penalty being assessed by the state. The funding may not be refused if such refusal would cause a loss of federal funding for all participating LEAs in the program. Local board must notify the department that the local board intends to refuse to accept federal funding before the local board acts to refuse the funding. (SB63: Kelsey; HB1171: Smith)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p><u>206</u> Effective 4/20/2015</p>	<p>Extends the state board of education to June 30, 2019. (SB248: Bell; HB382 Faison)</p>	<p>Nathan James (State Board of Education)</p>
<p><u>214</u> Effective 4/20/2015</p>	<p>Prohibits schools from requiring students or parents to provide information on firearm ownership and prohibits LEAs from requiring employees to provide information on firearm ownership. Additionally, prohibits adverse disciplinary action based on information of firearm ownership that is voluntarily provided. (SB633: Bailey; HB683 Van Huss)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p><u>232</u> Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Changes the date by which teachers must be notified of their school assignment for the next school year, dismissal, or failure of re-election from June 15 to within five business days following the last instructional day for the school year. (SB893: Briggs; HB1031: Daniel)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p><u>233</u> Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Prohibits the state board from denying instructional leadership licensure based solely on the applicant completing a leadership preparation program located outside of this state. (SB1088: Harris; HB904 Clemmons)</p>	<p>Nathan James (State Board of Education)</p>
<p><u>239</u> Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Makes the Little Hatch Act applicable to teachers and certain other public school employees. Makes it unlawful for any teacher employed by an LEA during those hours of the day when the LEA requires the teacher to be performing school duties to: Engage actively in a political campaign on behalf of any party, committee, organization, or agency; Engage in a campaign for a candidate for partisan or nonpartisan public office elected by the people; Attend political meetings or rallies; Use the teacher's employment to interfere with or affect the result of any regular or special primary election conducted within the state; or Perform political campaign duties or functions. (SB183: Hensley; HB158: Casada)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>

<p>250 Effective 4/24/2015</p>	<p>Removes authority of local governments to prohibit handgun in parks by posting and allows permit holders to carry handguns in parks and other public recreation areas owned or operated by local governments except when the property is in use by a school for an athletic event or other school-related activity. Maintains prohibition from carrying handgun in parks and other such areas that are owned or operated by school.(SB1171: Stevens; HB995: Harrison)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>251 Effective 4/24/2015</p>	<p>Encourages LEAs to adopt the Congressional Medal of Honor Character Development Program as their course of instruction in character education. (SB1021: Gresham; HB1204: Ragan)</p>	<p>Lori Paisley</p>
<p>255 Effective 4/24/2015</p>	<p>Requires fiscal capacity for BEP purposes of each LEA to be set annually by May 1 before the next school year begins and prohibits any change in any LEA's fiscal capacity after it is set. (SB7: Massey; HB6: Brooks, H.)</p>	<p>Maryanne Durski</p>
<p>256 Effective 4/24/2015</p>	<p>Allows LEAs to opt out of including a student's TCAP scores in the student's final grades if the LEA doesn't receive the scores at least five instructional days before the end of the school year. (SB285: Briggs; HB36: Dunn)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>263 Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Encourages LEAs to institute an annual domestic violence awareness education program for middle and high school students. (SB667: Kyle; HB830: Turner)</p>	<p>Lori Paisley</p>
<p>265 Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Requires the local board to consider the years of service acquired teacher who takes an extended leave from an LEA to teach in a public charter school authorized by the LEA, ASD, or state board of education if, when the teacher returns to the traditional LEA from the charter school, the teacher receives two consecutive years of evaluations demonstrating an overall performance effectiveness level of "above expectations" or "significantly above expectations." (SB882: Yarbro; HB874: Love)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>266 Effective 4/24/2015</p>	<p>Requires the state board to study the age and physical status of textbooks used in public schools of this state and issue a written report to the members of the general assembly, by January 1, 2016, detailing the average age, physical condition, and cost to replace outdated textbooks, and solutions to avoiding the use of textbooks that are over 10 years old. (SB1082: Harris; HB968 Shaw)</p>	<p>Nathan James (State Board of Education)</p>

<p>286 Effective 4/28/2015</p>	<p>Requires a school in which a child is a suspected victim of child sexual abuse and the abuse occurred while the child was under the supervision or care of the school to make reasonable accommodations to separate the alleged victim of child sexual abuse from the alleged perpetrator. The parent of the child may request reassignment of the child, and, if available and appropriate, the local school board must reassign the child if so requested, when: (1) The abuse occurred while the child was under the supervision or care of the school; and (2) The perpetrator of the abuse is: (A) Substantiated by the department of children's services; (B) Adjudicated by a juvenile court to have committed the child sexual abuse; or (C) Criminally charged. (SB656: Kyle; HB1221: Towns)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>298 Effective 4/24/2015</p>	<p>Designates the first weekend in August of each year as "Tennessee's Weekend of Prayer Over Students" (SB202: Crowe; HB650: Holsclaw)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>303 Effective 4/24/2015</p>	<p>Increases the permissible size of advertisements on school buses from 16 inches high and 60 inches long to 36 inches high and 90 inches long. (SB334: Jackson; HB112: Eldridge)</p>	<p>Mike Herrmann</p>
<p>304 Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Clarifies the authority of the state board of education to make policies concerning the revocation of licenses and certificates for misconduct. (SB341: Gresham; HB23: Forgety)</p>	<p>Nathan James (State Board of Education)</p>
<p>312 Effective 4/28/2015</p>	<p>Permits LEAs to issue RFPs for technology, internet, internet connectivity, or e-learning services without a review from the Comptroller. (SB422: Gresham; HB260: Coley)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>321 Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Allow students to self-administer enzymes for cystic fibrosis or pancreatic insufficiency so long as they have an individualized health plan (IHP) and authorization from the parent and medical provider. (SB724: Green; HB659: Reedy)</p>	<p>Sara Smith</p>
<p>325 Effective 1/1/2016</p>	<p>Enacts the "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act." Requires all LEAs to adopt guidelines to inform athletes, parents, coaches, etch of the symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest and requires all coaches and school athletic directors to complete a sudden cardiac arrest education program. Additionally, requires coaches to remove a player that exhibits warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest and may not allow their return until cleared by a licensed medical professional. (SB985: Norris; HB32: Todd)</p>	<p>Lori Paisley</p>

<p>328 Effective 7/1/2015</p> <p>4/28/2015 (for rulemaking purposes)</p>	<p>Allows local boards of education to adopt a policy that excuses a student from school to attend a released time course in religious moral instruction for up to one class period during each school week. (SB1246: Bailey; HB834: Powers)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>346 Effective 5/4/2015</p>	<p>Allows the governing body of a charter school to choose the insurance plans offered to the school's teachers and other full-time permanent employees rather than participate in the state group insurance plan. (SB189: Dickerson; HB157: Casada)</p>	<p>Marcy Tidwell</p>
<p>357 Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Prohibits an LEA from requiring more than the minimum graduation requirements for students enrolling or transferring in the 11th grade or later who are in the custody of the department of children's services to receive a full diploma. (SB537: Gresham; HB567: DeBerry)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>361 Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Requires the commissioner by October 1 of the year prior to the public identification of priority schools to notify any school and its respective LEA if the school is among the bottom ten percent (10%) of schools in overall achievement as determined by the performance standards and other criteria set by the state board. (SB588: Tate; HB735: Love)</p>	<p>Tony Pratt</p>
<p>390 Effective 5/8/2015</p>	<p>Prohibits the placement of a priority school in the achievement school district if the school demonstrates student achievement growth at a level of "above expectations" or greater, as represented by TVAAS. (SB758: Tate; HB921: Akbari)</p>	<p>Rich Haglund (Achievement School District)</p>
<p>415 Effective 5/8/2015</p>	<p>Provides a voluntary association for interscholastic sports competition for secondary schools in this state with access to records or information from public, charter, non-public, other schools, school officials and parents or guardians of school children as is required to fulfill its duties and functions. (SB1255: Bell; HB1077: Casada)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>423 Effective 5/11/2015</p>	<p>Establishes a standards review process that includes teams of educators established by the State Board of Education that will review the existing standards and a 10-member standards recommendation committee appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House that will make the final recommendation to the SBE. At the conclusion of the review process, Tennessee's new academic standards will replace the existing set of standards in English language arts and math. These standards will be fully implemented during the 2017-18 school year. Also requires additional review processes for science and social studies when those subjects are next up for adoption. (SB1163: Bell; HB1035: Spivey)</p>	<p>Tammy Shelton</p>

<p>426 Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Revises the group insurance plans provided by the state, local education agencies (LEAs), and local governments. State and higher education, local education, and local government employees hired after July 1, 2015, will not be eligible for pre-65 retiree health insurance. The state and local education insurance committees will have the flexibility to offer a defined contribution or defined benefit to current state, higher education and local education employees for pre-65 insurance. The state will not offer Medicare Supplement Insurance for employees hired after July 1, 2015. Current employees and current Medicare Supplement members will be grandfathered. (SB607: Norris; HB648; McCormick)</p>	<p>Maryanne Durski</p>
<p>427 Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Makes appropriations for fiscal years beginning July 1, 2014, and July 1, 2015. (SB1399: Norris; HB1374: Sargent)</p>	<p>Chris Foley Stephen Smith</p>
<p>431 Effective 1/1/2016 5/18/2015 (for rulemaking purposes)</p>	<p>Establishes the "Individualized Education Act" which permits students identified with certain disabilities to use state and local BEP funds (approximately \$6600) to acquire educational services such as enrollment in a private school, tutoring, curriculum materials, transportation; educational therapies, services provided under contract with a public school; assessments; computer hardware or technology if used for the student's educational needs, etc. Effective 2016-17 school year. (SB0027: Gresham; HB138: Moody)</p>	<p>Joey Hassell Bill Wilson</p>
<p>445 Effective 5/18/2015</p>	<p>Allows children who will be five years of age after August 15, 2015, but on or before August 31, 2015, and who entered two-year pre-kindergarten programs in the 2013–2014 school year to enter kindergarten programs in the 2015–2016 school year. (SB303: Yager; HB1361: Calfee)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>448 Effective 5/18/2015</p>	<p>Allows the state board to meet in locations other than Nashville. (SB482: Gresham; HB819: Brooks, H.)</p>	<p>Nathan James (State Board of Education)</p>
<p>489 Effective 5/20/2015</p>	<p>Requires the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) to establish a STEM innovation hub specifically dedicated to serving rural areas; establish a Northwest TN hub; implement STEM leadership training in all hubs; and provide a middle school curriculum that educates students on STEM career opportunities.(SB453: Gardenhire; HB946: Brooks, H.)</p>	<p>Danielle Mezera</p>

<p>493 Effective 5/20/2015</p>	<p>Enacts the "Educator Protection Act" which creates the Tennessee educator liability fund to provide excess professional liability insurance coverage for all teachers and student teachers. The fund will protect against damages for claims arising out of the performance of teachers' and student teachers' duties within the scope of their employment or assignment. (SB604: Norris; HB645: McCormick)</p>	<p>Stephen Smith</p>
<p>499 Effective 1/1/2017</p>	<p>Beginning Jan 1, 2017, requires all students to take a United States civics test prepared by the LEA and taken from the civics test administered by the United States citizenship and immigration services. A student may take the test as many times as necessary to pass the test. A student who has an IEP under which the test is determined to be inappropriate for the student does not have to take the test. If all students in a senior class required to take the test and receiving a regular diploma pass the test, the school will be recognized as a "United States civics all-star school" for that school year. (SB0010: Norris; HB0010: McCormick)</p>	<p>Tammy Shelton</p>
<p>501 Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Specifies that when a student is legally charged with an offense that would be classified as a felony if the student was charged as an adult or if adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be classified as a felony if the student was an adult, or if the student was convicted of a felony, and the student's continued presence in school poses a danger to persons or property or disrupts the educational process, the principal of a school in which the student is enrolled and the director of schools must determine the appropriate educational assignment for the student released for readmission. (SB182: Hensley; HB174: Butt)</p>	<p>Christy Ballard</p>
<p>507 Effective 7/1/2015</p>	<p>Permits Achievement School District (ASD) schools to enroll additional students provided the school enrollment remains focused on students who are at-risk. In addition, the school must demonstrate a performance level of "at expectations" to continue to enroll students outside of the current eligible population. Also permits the ASD to retain an authorizer fee of up to three percent from charter school operators to account for costs associated with authorizing and district responsibilities. (SB293: Gresham; HB473: Brooks)</p>	<p>Rich Haglund (Achievement School District)</p>