



Tuesday, October 22, 2024

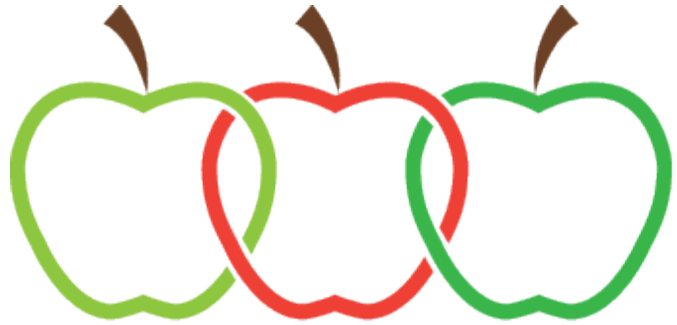
Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Work Session - 6:00 PM

Administrative Support Center, Tennessee Room (3rd Floor)

400 Clinchfield Street

Kingsport, TN 37660 Phone: (423) 378-2102

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **REPORTS**
 - 2.1. Kingsport City Schools Education Foundation Annual Report (Ms. Tammie Davis)
 - 2.2. Technology Report (Mr. Andy Arnold)
 - 2.3. Policy Report (Dr. Andy True)
 - 2.4. BOE Committee Reports (Mrs. Melissa Woods)
 - 2.5. Superintendent Report (Dr. Chris Hampton)
3. **ADJOURNMENT**



Kingsport City Schools Education Foundation

Mission: to provide a **supplemental source of revenue** for projects and initiatives not directly funded through tax dollars from the State of Tennessee or provided in the KCS district budget.

One-time funding of projects or initiatives that may be **replicated** as a **best practice** throughout the district (pilot projects)

KCS Education Foundation Board

- Tammie Davis, President
- CeeGee McCord, Vice-President
- Vivian Todd, Secretary/Treasurer

- Lora Barnett
- [Claudia Byrd](#)
- Vivian Crymble
- [Darrell Duncan](#)
- [Dr. Tony Galloway](#)
- Lucie Hagen
- Lynn Johnson
- Susan Lodal
- Dr. Brenda White-Wright

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Jeff Fleming, Administrator (unpaid)

Melissa Woods, President, Board of Education

Dr. Chris Hampton, Superintendent

Lyle Musesengwa, D-B Student, class of 2025

[Piper Osterhus, D-B student, class of 2026](#)

Schools that have received KCS EF Grants

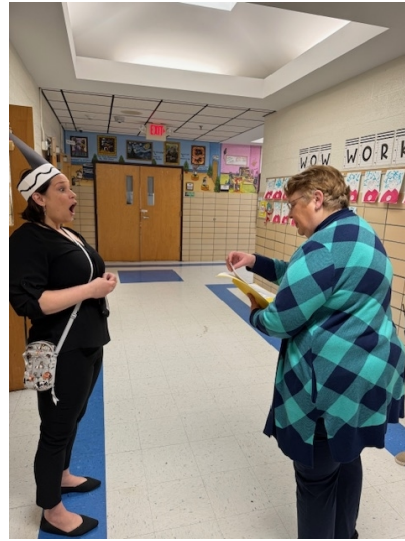
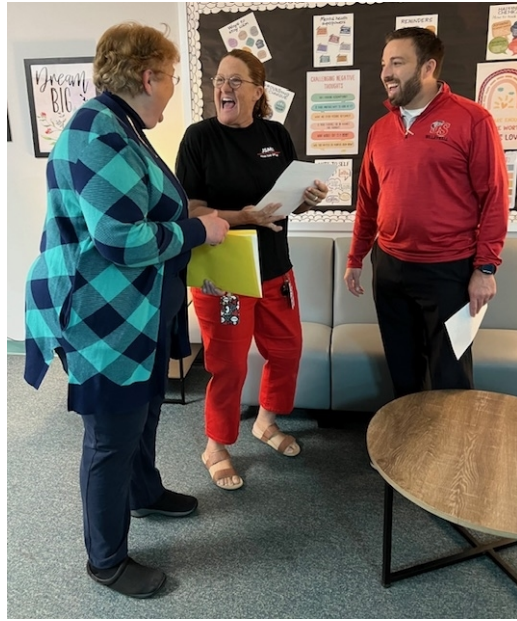
- **Dobyns-Bennett** 2020-21,2021-22,2022-23,2023-24,2024-2025
- Jefferson 2022-23,2023-24,2024-2025
- Robinson 2022-23,2023-24
- Adams 2020-21,2024-2025
- Johnson 2021-22,2024-2025
- Palmer 2022-23,2023-24
- Roosevelt 2020-21,2023-24
- Sevier 2023-24
- Jackson 2020-21
- Washington 2020-21

Teachers who have received a KCS EF Grant

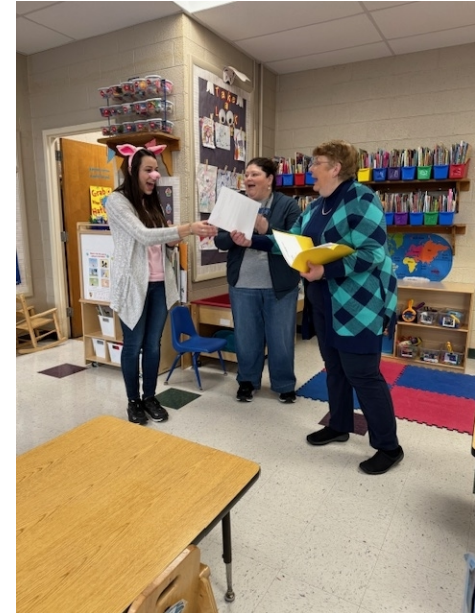
- Jana Benedict
- Amanda Blackburn
- Angela Conrad
- Stephanie Cox
- Bryan Dean
- Sophie Doty
- Zack Fleming
- Tonja Francis
- Dianna Gardenhour
- Sarah Good
- Wendy Harrison
- Kristian Hefner
- Kelly Hernandez
- Christol Hickman
- Chris Hobbs
- Lacy Hughes
- Alec Johnson
- Bryan Kerns
- Karen Kitzmiller
- Evie LaFollette
- Melanie McMurray (on behalf of all Roosevelt teachers)
- Charles Rhoton
- Annette True
- Megan Turner
- McKenzie Tyree

KCSEF Grant Award Summary

- 25 Grants have been awarded since 2020-2021
- Teachers at ten schools have applied for and received a KCSEF grant.
- Total amount of grants awarded is \$30, 802.64



The presentations are always fun!



And the results are amazing!



TVA Tennessee Valley Authority [@TVAnews](#) · Sep 2, 2020
Dobyns-Bennett High School in Kingsport, TN in one of the first schools to offer a Prescribed Fire Module🔥. To help inspire younger generations in exciting careers in natural resources, we've donated various pieces of equipment we use in managing public lands. [@KCS_District](#)



1 18 70

Communication to Teachers about Availability of KCSEF Grants

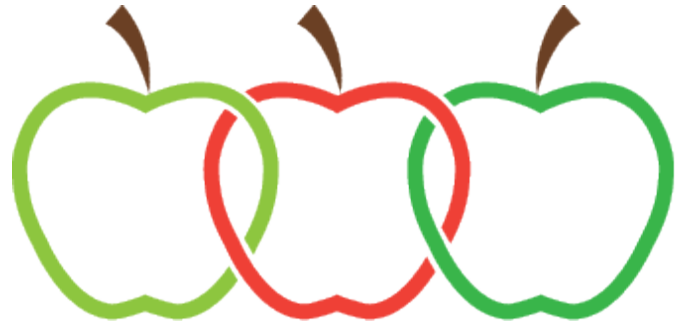
- **Summer 2022** Tammie Davis met with principals during summer administrative retreat.
- **Spring 2023** Dr. Hampton sent an email directly to all KCS teachers.
- **Fall 2023** Tammie Davis & KCSEF Board members met face-to face with all teachers during faculty meetings.
- **Fall 2024** Tammie Davis did a brief (4-5 minutes) presentation at Convocation.

Teacher Advisory Committee

- A Teacher Advisory Committee was formed Fall 2024 as a sub-committee of the Grants Review Committee.
- Teachers were selected from each school based on principal recommendation.
- The teachers represented both those who had received a grant as well as those who had not applied for a grant.
- Two meetings will be held this year – the first meeting occurred immediately following Fall Break and was split into elementary and secondary.

Outcomes from Teacher Advisory Committee Fall meetings:

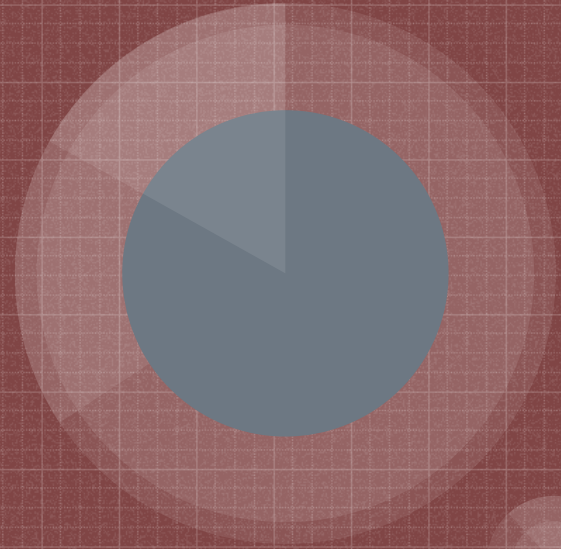
- Revisions of the KCSEF Grant Application to include targeted deadlines and a sample application.
- List of grants received will be added to the KCSEF section of the KCS website.
- Teachers were asked to meet with their principal and ask for 5 minutes at the next faculty meeting to promote the KCSEF grant process and encourage teachers to apply.



Kingsport City Schools

Education Foundation

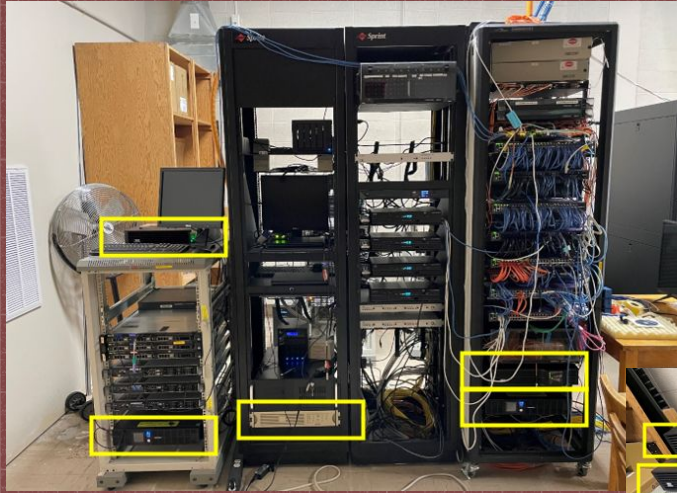
2024 KCS TECHNOLOGY SERVICES REPORT



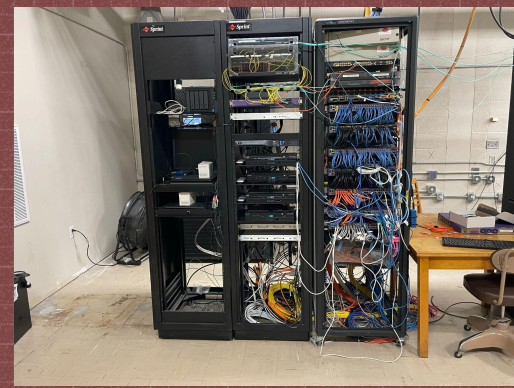
Safe - Secure - Stable

- User Account Creation Process
- ERATE equipment upgrades
- Data Center Uninterruptible Power Supply

Safe - Secure - Stable



Safe - Secure - Stable



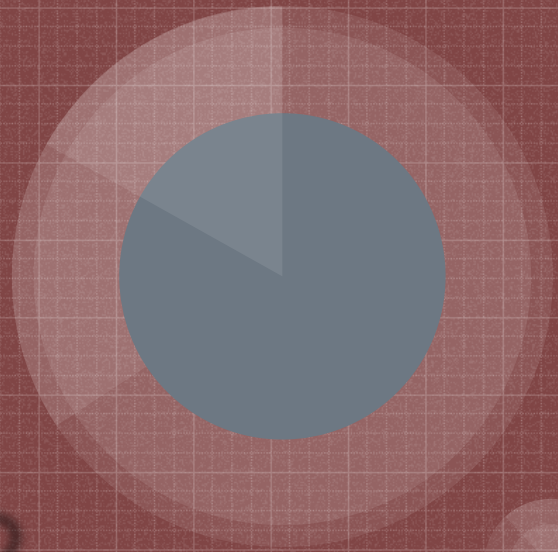
Hardware

- Remodeled all 5th grade classroom carts with 750 Chromebooks.
- Distributed 1200 new 7th & 9th grade Chromebooks.
- Distributed 170 new staff laptops.

Logistical Processes

- Dome renovation
- Grades 6-12 online TCAP testing
- Rebuilt the technology in over 500 teachers' classrooms in July
- Relocated WCSK control room
- Upgraded Jackson & Johnson intercom systems

QUESTIONS?



KINGSPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

For: Initial Review

October 22, 2024 - Board of Education Work Session

Revised Policies considered for adoption on 1st Reading

REVISED POLICY – 1st Reading

4.201 – Class Size Ratios

Public Chapter 712 modifies class size requirements to allow greater flexibility in Career and Technical Education class sizes for grades 6-8. TSBA has updated model policy to reflect this change.

4.213 – Family Life Education

Several changes to state law impact instruction on family life curriculum. Public Chapter 571 requires that information on internet crimes against children be incorporated in this instruction and that the name of the instructor be reported to the Department of Children's Services. Separately, Public Chapter 795 requires that family life curriculum that covers human growth, human development, or human sexuality, include a video of fetal development. Finally, Public Chapter 970 prohibits instruction on topics related to sexual activity for students in grades K-5.

4.301 – Interscholastic Athletics

Per a new state law, Public Chapter 658, home school students will be able to participate in interscholastic athletics in schools that are not members with TSSAA or TMSAA. Essentially, this will allow home school student participation in all sports.

4.600 – Grading System

A recent change to State Board of Education regulations revises the percentage points for Dual Enrollment courses from 4% to 5% for the purpose of calculating semester average grades beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. TSBA has updated model policy to reflect this change. Additionally, Public Chapter 1005 prohibits creating a local grading policy or procedure that establishes a minimum grade above zero. Based on questions from districts, TSBA has added a provision to model policy 4.600 noting this requirement.

4.603 – Promotion and Retention

Two new state laws make further changes to promotion and retention. Public Chapter 829 allows parents/guardians to voluntarily retain their students in grades K-2 if the student has a documented academic or behavior delay and the parent/guardian believes retention may benefit the student. Additionally, Public Chapter 989 creates a new promotion pathway to the 5th grade for students facing possible retention in the 4th grade. Under the new law, when certain students do not meet adequate growth on the ELA portion of the 4th grade TCAP test, a committee including the student's parent/guardian, ELA teacher, and principal will convene to determine whether the student will be promoted or retained. Each category of participants in the committee may make a recommendation to promote or retain the student. For example, if two parents attend the committee meeting, they still only get to contribute 1 of the 3 total recommendations. If at least 2 of the 3 committee members agree that the student is ready for the 5th grade, then that student may be promoted, provided they participate in mandatory tutoring for the entirety of their 5th grade year.

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: <h2 style="text-align: center;">Class Size Ratios</h2>	Descriptor Code: 4.201	Issued Date: 12/14/21
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 *General*¹

2 Pupil-teacher ratios shall not exceed the averages outlined in state law. Further, class sizes shall not
3 exceed the maximum allowed by state law.

4 **WAIVERS**

5 The Superintendent of Schools/designee may seek a waiver from the Commissioner of Education to
6 extend the career and technical education (CTE) classes in grades ~~nine~~ **six** through twelve (**9 6-12**) as
7 long as these class sizes do not exceed the maximum **class size set for CTE. For grades six through**
8 **eight (6-8), the class size may be extended, but the class size and average must not exceed those for**
9 **general education classes in grades seven through twelve (7-12).**²

10 If a natural disaster results in the enrollment of displaced students, the Commissioner of Education
11 may grant a waiver from the maximum class sizes.

12 The Superintendent of Schools shall apply for additional waivers as needed in compliance with state
13 law.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-1-104; TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.31(4)
2. TCA 49-1-104(g); Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 712

Cross References

- Graduation Requirements 4.605
- Waivers of Statute, Rules, and Regulations 4.607
- Religious Content of Courses 4.804
- Student Goals 6.100
- Student Concerns 6.305

Click here to choose a school board.

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Class Size Ratios	Descriptor Code: 4.201	Issued Date:
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 *General*¹

2 Pupil-teacher ratios shall not exceed the averages outlined in state law. Further, class sizes shall not
3 exceed the maximum allowed by state law.

4 **WAIVERS**

5 The Director of Schools/designee may seek a waiver from the Commissioner of Education to extend
6 the career and technical education (CTE) classes in grades six through twelve (6-12) as long as these
7 class sizes do not exceed the maximum class size set for CTE. For grades six through eight (6-8), the
8 class size may be extended, but the class size and average must not exceed those for general education
9 classes in grades seven through twelve (7-12).²

10 If a natural disaster results in the enrollment of displaced students, the Commissioner of Education
11 may grant a waiver from the maximum class sizes.

12 The Director of Schools shall apply for additional waivers as needed in compliance with state law.

Legal References

1. [TCA 49-1-104; TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.31\(4\)](#)
2. [TCA 49-1-104\(g\); Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 712](#)

Cross References

Graduation Requirements 4.605
Waivers of Statute, Rules, and Regulations 4.607
Religious Content of Courses 4.804
Student Goals 6.100
Student Concerns 6.305



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 712

SENATE BILL NO. 2764

By Bowling, Rose

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2388

By Bricken, Haston

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, relative to class sizes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-104(g), is amended by adding the following new subdivision:

(3) LEAs may extend CTE class sizes and averages for CTE classes in grades six through eight (6-8); provided, that CTE classes in grades six through eight (6-8) must not exceed the maximum class size and average set for general education classes in grades seven through twelve (7-12).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2024-2025 school year and each school year thereafter.

SENATE BILL NO. 2764

PASSED: April 1, 2024



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 11th day of April 2024



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Family Life Education	Descriptor Code: 4.213	Issued Date: 10/19/21
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 *General*

2 A family life education program shall be implemented within the school district in compliance with state
3 law.¹

4 A parent/guardian who chooses not to have a student participate in the family life education program
5 shall submit such request in writing to the principal. A student who is excused from the program shall
6 be assigned alternative health activities and shall not be penalized academically.

7 **FAMILY LIFE INSTRUCTION**

8 The curriculum for the family life education program shall, in a manner that is age-appropriate and
9 factually and medically accurate, include the following:²

- 10 1. Teach the skills needed to make healthy decisions in all aspects of marriage and family life;
- 11 12 2. Encourage sexual health by helping students understand how the whole person is affected by
13 sexual activity as well as other risk behaviors;
- 14 15 3. Provide information about human reproduction, including conception, birth, and prenatal care,
16 as well as the process of adoption and its benefits;
- 17 18 4. Provide information on the family unit and the responsibilities and consequences related to sexual
19 activity, including the challenges of single teen parenting;
- 20 21 5. Promote only sexual risk avoidance through abstinence and the positive results of avoiding sexual
22 activity;
- 23 24 6. Provide instruction on the detection, intervention, prevention, and treatment of child sexual
25 abuse, including such abuse that may occur in the home, and human trafficking in which a victim
26 is the child, **and internet crimes against children**;
- 27 28 7. Provide instruction on the prevention of dating violence;
- 29 30 8. Encourage communication between parent(s)/guardian(s) and students; **and**
- 31

1 9. Address the legal aspects of sexual activity with emphasis on the rights of the student; and

2

3 10. Include the presentation of a high-quality, computer-generated animation or high-definition
4 ultrasound of at least three (3) minutes in duration that shows the development of the brain, heart,
5 and other vital organs in early fetal development per state academic standards.⁵

6 Instruction in topics related to sexual activity are not age-appropriate for students in grades kindergarten
7 through five (K-5) and shall not be taught as part of the family life curriculum. This does not prohibit
8 instruction on detection, intervention, prevention, and treatment of child sexual abuse and human
9 trafficking of children.⁶

10 The family life education program shall be reviewed annually to ensure that the prohibited items of
11 instruction, as provided for in state law,³ are not included in the curriculum.

12 **TRAINING ON INSTRUCTION**

13 Personnel providing family life instruction shall receive training prior to presenting such instruction.
14 Personnel shall conduct such instruction with maturity and discretion.

15 **REPORTING⁴**

16 At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent of Schools shall provide the contact information
17 to the Department of Children's Services of each employee or trained professional providing instruction
18 on family life curriculum related to child sex abuse, human trafficking, and internet crimes. The Director
19 shall also report on the curriculum selected by the Board of Education.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-1302; Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 290
2. TCA 49-6-1304
3. TCA 49-6-1304(b)
4. TCA 49-6-1304; Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 571
5. Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 795
6. Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 970

[Click here to choose a school board.](#)

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Family Life Education	Descriptor Code: 4.213	Issued Date: Click here to enter a date.
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 *General*

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3 law.¹

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5 shall submit such request in writing to the principal. A student who is excused from the program shall
6 be assigned alternative health activities and shall not be penalized academically.

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8 The curriculum for the family life education program shall, in a manner that is age-appropriate and
9 factually and medically accurate, include the following:²

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- 12 2. Encourage sexual health by helping students understand how the whole person is affected by
13 sexual activity as well as other risk behaviors;
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- 15 3. Provide information about human reproduction, including conception, birth, and prenatal care,
16 as well as the process of adoption and its benefits;
- 17
- 18 4. Provide information on the family unit and the responsibilities and consequences related to sexual
19 activity, including the challenges of single teen parenting;
- 20
- 21 5. Promote only sexual risk avoidance through abstinence and the positive results of avoiding sexual
22 activity;
- 23
- 24 6. Provide instruction on the detection, intervention, prevention, and treatment of child sexual
25 abuse, including such abuse that may occur in the home, human trafficking in which a victim is
26 the child, and internet crimes against children;
- 27
- 28 7. Provide instruction on the prevention of dating violence;
- 29
- 30 8. Encourage communication between parent(s)/guardian(s) and students;

- 1
2 9. Address the legal aspects of sexual activity with emphasis on the rights of the student; and
3
4 10. Include the presentation of a high-quality, computer-generated animation or high-definition
5 ultrasound of a least three (3) minutes in duration that shows the development of the brain, heart,
6 and other vital organs in early fetal development per state academic standards.³

7 Instruction in topics related to sexual activity are not age-appropriate for students in grades kindergarten
8 through five (K-5) and shall not be taught as part of the family life curriculum. This does not prohibit
9 instruction on detection, intervention, prevention, and treatment of child sexual abuse and human
10 trafficking of children.⁴

11 The family life education program shall be reviewed annually to ensure that the prohibited items of
12 instruction, as provided for in state law,⁵ are not included in the curriculum.

13 **TRAINING ON INSTRUCTION**

14 Personnel providing family life instruction shall receive training prior to presenting such instruction.
15 Personnel shall conduct such instruction with maturity and discretion.

16 **REPORTING²**

17 At the beginning of each school year, the Director of Schools shall provide the contact information to
18 the Department of Children's Services of each employee or trained professional providing instruction
19 on family life curriculum related to child sex abuse, human trafficking, and internet crimes. The Director
20 shall also report on the curriculum selected by the Board of Education.

Legal References

1. [TCA 49-6-1302](#)
2. [TCA 49-6-1304; Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 571](#)
3. [Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 795](#)
4. [Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 970](#)
5. [TCA 49-6-1304\(b\)](#)



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 571

SENATE BILL NO. 2582

By Taylor

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2687

By Doggett, Ragan, Eldridge, White, Moody, Hakeem, Faison, Davis, Bricken, Capley, Terry, McKenzie, Littleton, Camper, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37 and Title 49, relative to child abuse prevention.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1304(a)(13), is amended by deleting subdivision (B) and substituting instead the following:

(B) Human trafficking in which the victim is a child; and

(C) Internet crimes against children involving sexting, sextortion, and the exploitation of a minor, which includes the following offenses:

(i) Solicitation of a minor, as defined in § 39-13-528;

(ii) Soliciting sexual exploitation of a minor, as defined in § 39-13-529(a);

(iii) Exploitation of a minor by electronic means, as defined in § 39-13-529(b);

(iv) Sexual exploitation of a minor, as defined in § 39-17-1003;

(v) Aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor, as defined in § 39-17-1004; and

(vi) Especially aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor, as defined in § 39-17-1005; and

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1304, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(c) The Tennessee joint task force on children's justice and child sexual abuse, established by the department of children's services pursuant to § 37-1-603, in consultation with the children's services advisory council, established by the commissioner of children's services or the commissioner's designee pursuant to § 37-5-105(12), shall annually recommend to the department of education age-appropriate curricula that LEAs and public charter schools may use to provide the instruction described in subdivision (a)(13). The department of education shall annually notify LEAs and public charter schools of the curricula recommended by the joint task force.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1601, is amended by deleting subsection (g) and substituting instead the following:

(g) At the beginning of each school year, each LEA and public charter school shall submit the following to the department of children's services:

(1) The contact information of each child abuse coordinator and alternative child abuse coordinator for the LEA or public charter school;

(2) The contact information of each LEA or public charter school employee, community partner, or trained professional providing instruction of a family life curriculum in accordance with § 49-6-1304(a)(13); and

(3) The curriculum selected by the LEA or public charter school to provide the instruction required in § 49-6-1304(a)(13).

SECTION 4. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2024-2025 school year and each school year thereafter.

SENATE BILL NO. 2582

PASSED: March 4, 2024



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 15th day of March 2024



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 795

HOUSE BILL NO. 2435

By Representatives Bulso, Moody, Littleton, Carringer, McCalmon, Lynn, Butler, Richey,
Todd

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2767

By Senator Bowling

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to instruction.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "Baby Olivia Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1304, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(c) A family life curriculum that directly or indirectly addresses human growth, human development, or human sexuality must include the presentation of a high-quality, computer-generated animation or high-definition ultrasound of at least three (3) minutes in duration that shows the development of the brain, heart, and other vital organs in early fetal development, such as "Meet Baby Olivia," a high-quality, computer-generated animation developed by Live Action that shows the process of fertilization and the stages of human development inside the uterus.

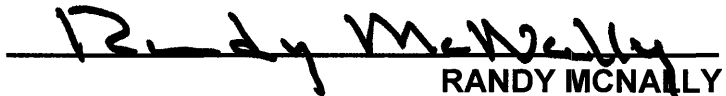
SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2024-2025 school year and each school year thereafter.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2435

PASSED: April 4, 2024



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 23rd day of April 2024



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 970

HOUSE BILL NO. 996

By Representatives Baum, Stevens, Bricken, Richey, Holsclaw, Alexander, Littleton, Capley, Bulso, Thompson, Lafferty, Vital, Hazlewood, White, Wright, Howell, Ragan, Marsh

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1210

By Senators White, Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1304, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(c) Instruction in topics related to sexual activity are not age-appropriate for students in any of the grades kindergarten through five (K-5) and shall not be taught to students in any of the grades kindergarten through five (K-5) as part of a family life curriculum. This subsection (c) does not prohibit an LEA or public charter school from providing instruction to students in any of the grades kindergarten through five (K-5) on the detection, intervention, prevention, and treatment of child sexual abuse and human trafficking in which the victim is a child pursuant to subdivision (a)(13).

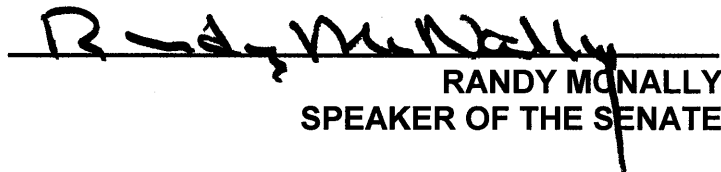
SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 996

PASSED: April 22, 2024



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 21st day of May 2024



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Interscholastic Athletics	Descriptor Code: 4.301	Issued Date: 07/12/22
		Rescinds: 4.301	Issued: 11/12/19

1 No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be
2 treated differently from another person, or otherwise be discriminated against in any athletic program of
3 the school. Equal athletic opportunities shall be provided for members of both sexes.¹

4 Student athletes shall only be allowed to participate in athletic activities or events that align with the
5 student's sex indicated on his/her original birth certificate.² If the original birth certificate is not available
6 or does not indicate the student's sex at the time of birth, the parent/guardian shall provide medical
7 documentation showing evidence of the student's sex at birth.

8 Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be the
9 principal's responsibility. Principals shall ensure that school regulations regarding participation in a sport
10 are reasonable. Athletic schedules shall be filed in each school principal's office. The principal or his/
11 her designee must accompany an athletic team on trips. Transportation of teams to athletic games is
12 approved by the board, provided the team's school reimburses the board for mileage.

13 Bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall regulate the operation and control
14 of athletics.³

15 **INSURANCE AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

16 In the event that the school's insurance provider does not extend coverage to an athlete, that athlete must
17 provide proof of independently secured catastrophic coverage and liability coverage, with the school
18 system as a named insured, of not less than the limits set forth in TCA § 29-20-403.⁴

19 There shall be a complete annual physical examination of every student prior to his/her participation in
20 interscholastic athletics.⁵ Cost of the examination shall be borne by the parent or guardian of the student.
21 These records shall be on file in the principal's office or principal's designee. It shall be the responsibility
22 of the parent(s) or guardian to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all students participating
23 in interscholastic athletics.

24 **SCHEDULING CONFLICTS**

25 No principal or teacher of any school under the control of the board shall dismiss his/her school or any
26 group of students for the purpose of permitting them to practice or play baseball, football, basketball, or
27 any similar game within the regular school hours of any school day of the week without written
28 permission from the superintendent. This does not prevent the inclusion of regular physical training
29 lessons in the daily school program.⁶

30 Students shall not be required to attend a school athletic event, or event related to participation on a
31 school athletic team, if the event is on an official school holiday, observed day of worship, or religious

1 holiday. The student's parent or legal guardian shall notify the coach in writing three (3) full school days
 2 prior to the event.⁷ Prior written notice to the coach or administrator of the school athletic event may not
 3 be required if the absence is due to an unforeseen emergency.

4 **PROHIBITION AGAINST HAZING⁸**

5 Coaches, employees, and volunteers of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone, or
 6 tolerate hazing activities.

7 **SEVERE WEATHER⁹**

8 Severe weather is any type of weather that could impede the safety of any athlete by compromising the
 9 playing conditions of the interscholastic sport. Severe weather includes, but is not limited to, thunder,
 10 lightning, and extreme temperatures. When severe weather is forecasted, suspension of play shall be
 11 discussed with all players, coaches, and officials, if applicable.

12 All coaches who oversee or participate in outdoor training, practice, or competition shall annually
 13 complete a heat illness prevention course approved by the Tennessee Department of Health as well as
 14 receive training on activity modifications based on environmental conditions.

15 **HOME SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION¹⁰**

16 Home school students shall be permitted to participate in accordance with TSSAA or TMSAA
 17 guidelines. If a school is not a member with these organizations, home school students that are zoned
 18 for the school shall be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics to the same extent as other
 19 students.

Legal References

1. 34 CFR § 106.41; 20 USCA § 1681 et seq.
2. TCA 49-6-310(a)
3. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.08(1)
4. TCA 29-20-403
5. 20 USCA § 1232h(c); TRR/MS 0520-01-13-.01(1)(a)
6. TCA 49-6-1002(a)
7. TCA 49-6-1002(c)
8. TCA 49-2-12
9. Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 272
10. Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 658

Cross References

Special Use of School Vehicles 3.402
 Student Insurance Program 3.601
 Extracurricular Activities 4.300
 Attendance 6.200

Click here to choose a school board.

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Interscholastic Athletics	Descriptor Code: 4.301	Issued Date:
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 *General*

2 No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be
3 treated differently from another person, or otherwise be discriminated against in any athletic program of
4 the school. Equal athletic opportunities shall be provided for members of both sexes.¹ Student athletes
5 shall only be allowed to participate in athletic activities or events that align with the student's sex
6 indicated on his/her original birth certificate.² The Director of Schools/designee shall require the
7 parent/guardian to provide the student's original birth certificate prior to participation in any
8 interscholastic athletics. If the original birth certificate is not available or does not indicate the student's
9 sex at the time of birth, the parent/guardian shall provide medical documentation showing evidence of
10 the student's sex at birth.

11 Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be the
12 principal's responsibility. Principals shall ensure that school regulations regarding participation in a sport
13 are reasonable. Athletic schedules shall be filed in each principal's office. The principal/designee shall
14 accompany an athletic team on trips. Transportation of teams to athletic games is approved by the Board,
15 provided the team's school reimburses the Board for mileage.

16 Bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall regulate the operation and control
17 of athletics.³ The Director of Schools shall develop a code of conduct for all coaches to follow in order
18 to ensure the health and safety of athletes.⁴

19 **INSURANCE & PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

20 In the event that the school's insurance provider does not extend coverage to an athlete, the athlete shall
21 provide proof of independently secured catastrophic coverage and liability coverage, with the school
22 district as a named insured, of not less than the limits set forth in state law.⁵ It shall be the responsibility
23 of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all students participating
24 in interscholastic athletics.

25 Prior to participation in interscholastic athletics, every student shall complete an annual physical
26 examination.⁶ The parent(s)/guardian(s) of each student shall be responsible for covering the cost of the
27 examination, and these records shall be on file in the principal's office.

28 **SCHEDULING CONFLICTS**

29 No principal or teacher shall dismiss his/her school or any group of students for the purpose of attending
30 the practice of any interscholastic sport during the school day without written permission from the
31 Board.⁷ This does not prevent regular physical training lessons in the daily school program.

1 Students shall not be required to attend a school athletic event, or event related to participation on a
 2 school athletic team, if the event is on an official school holiday, observed day of worship, or religious
 3 holiday. The student's parent/guardian shall notify the coach in writing three (3) full school days prior
 4 to the event.⁸

5 **SEVERE WEATHER**⁴

6 Severe weather is any type of weather that could impede the safety of any athlete by compromising the
 7 playing conditions of the interscholastic sport. Severe weather includes, but is not limited to, thunder,
 8 lightning, and extreme temperatures. When severe weather is forecasted, suspension of play shall be
 9 discussed with all players, coaches, and officials, if applicable.

10 All coaches who oversee or participate in outdoor training, practice, or competition shall annually
 11 complete a heat illness prevention course approved by the Tennessee Department of Health as well as
 12 receive training on activity modifications based on environmental conditions.

13 **PROHIBITION AGAINST HAZING**

14 Coaches, employees, and volunteers of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone, or
 15 tolerate hazing activities.⁹

16 **HOME SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION**¹⁰

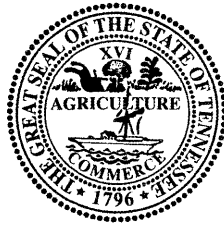
17 Home school students shall be permitted to participate in accordance with TSSAA or TMSAA
 18 guidelines. If a school is not a member with these organizations, home school students that are zoned
 19 for the school shall be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics to the same extent as other
 20 students.

Legal References

1. [34 CFR § 106.41](#); [20 USCA § 1681 et seq.](#)
2. [TCA 49-6-310\(a\)](#)
3. [TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.08\(1\)](#)
4. [TCA 49-6-3601](#)
5. [TCA 29-20-403](#)
6. [20 USCA § 1232h\(c\)](#); [TRR/MS 0520-01-13-.01\(1\)\(a\)](#)
7. [TCA 49-6-1002\(a\)](#)
8. [TCA 49-6-1002\(c\)](#)
9. [TCA 49-2-120](#)
10. [Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 639](#)

Cross References

Special Use of School Vehicles 3.402
 Student Insurance Program 3.601
 Extracurricular Activities 4.300
 Attendance 6.200



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 658

SENATE BILL NO. 1979

By Niceley, Lowe

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1861

By Faison, Barrett, Richey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to participation in athletic activities by home school students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3050(e)(1), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (A) and adding the following as a new subdivision:

(B) If a public school established under the jurisdiction of an LEA offers students the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletic competition without the school being a member of an organization or an association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition, then the LEA shall permit participation in interscholastic athletics at such school by home school students who are zoned to attend the school. This subdivision (e)(1)(B) does not prevent or interfere with the application and enforcement of eligibility requirements of an organization or association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition as set forth in subdivision (e)(1)(A) if the school at which the home school student desires to participate is a member of such an organization or association.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2024-2025 school year and each subsequent school year.

SENATE BILL NO. 1979

PASSED: March 28, 2024



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 9th day of April 2024



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Grading System	Descriptor Code: 4.600	Issued Date: 07/12/22
		Rescinds: 4.600	Issued: 11/12/19

1 The Board believes that the issuance of grades serves to promote continuous evaluation of students'
2 performance, to inform students and parents of students' progress and to provide a basis for bringing
3 about changes in students' performance, if such changes are necessary.

4 Subject-area grades shall be expressed by the letters “A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, and “F”, with corresponding
5 numerical values. This grading system shall be uniform throughout the school system for each grade.
6 The grading system to be used is as follows:¹

7 A 90-100

8 B 80-89

9 C 70-79

10 D 60-69

11 FBelow 60¹

12 Conduct shall be marked as follows:

13 OOutstanding

14 SSatisfactory

15 N.....Needs Improvement

16 UUnsatisfactory

17 Conduct grades are based on behavior and shall not be deducted from scholastic grades.

18 **Grading floors with a minimum above zero are not permitted.⁴**

19 Attendance records shall be used in determining the awarding of grades, or the passing of a course, or
20 promotion or retention. Absences, however, shall not be used in awarding grades.¹

21 Plus and minus evaluations are not to be added to letter grades with the exception of Honors and AP
22 courses. Grades are not to be changed once recorded on the report card. If an erroneous grade has been
23 recorded or grades are changed due to retesting, etc. the new grades must be corrected and updated in
24 the system database.

1 Grade reports and/or progress reports given at the end of each four and one-half (4 1/2) weeks, nine (9)
2 weeks shall be determined from academic performance.

3 **Class of 2023 and All Subsequent Classes**

4 **Weighting for Honors Courses**

5 Shall include the addition of three percentage (3%) points to the grades used to calculate the semester
6 average.

7 **Weighting for Local Dual Credit, State Dual Credit, and Industry Certification, ~~and Dual~~** 8 **~~Enrollment~~ Courses**

9 Shall include the addition of four percentage (4%) points to the grades used to calculate the semester
10 average.

11 **Weighting for Dual Enrollment Courses**

12

13 Shall include the addition of five percentage (5%) points to the grades used to calculate the semester
14 average.

15

16 **Weighting for Advanced Placement**

17 A student must take the AP Exam in an Advanced Placement course in order to receive AP level credit
18 (+5% points). Students who do not take the AP Exam will only receive honors level credit (+3%
19 points) for the course in question.

20 **Quality Points**

- 21
- 22 • Add .5 points to the base grade weight (4-A, 3-B, etc.) for honors courses, .75 points to the base
23 points assigned for local dual credit, state dual credit, and industry certification courses, and 1.0
24 points to the base points assigned for a dual enrollment and AP courses.
 - 25 • Add .1 point to the base weight grade for the upper numerical ranges of A's, B's, and C's in
26 honors courses and .2 points to the base weight grade for the upper numerical ranges of A's,
B's, and C's in Advanced Placement courses. These are designated as + grades.

27 **Weighted Grading System**

28 Students who take Honors level courses will have three percentage (3%) points added to their final
29 semester numerical average. Students who take Advanced Placement courses and complete the
30 Advanced Placement Test will have five percentage (5%) points added to their final semester
31 numerical average. This internal weighting is consistent with what is allowed for the Tennessee
32 Lottery Scholarship Program, the Tennessee Board of Regents Colleges and Universities, and the

1 University of Tennessee College System. The unweighted (4.0 scale) GPA allows for the internal
2 weighting of the additional three and five percentage points.

3 The external weighted grade point average will be in place to recognize rigor and strength of schedule
4 for students. This is the grade point average that will be utilized for class rank and submitted to
5 colleges and universities. This average incorporates the internal addition of 3 percentage points for
6 Honors courses and 5 percentage points for Advanced Placement courses. The external rank will
7 incorporate plus (+) grades for the higher numerical ranges for A's, B's, and C's. The grade point
8 average will be calculated and rounded to the thousandths place. This procedure could result in more
9 than one person having the same rank.

10 Grades issued on the first and third nine weeks report card and on progress reports will not reflect the
11 additional 3 or 5 percentage points. The additional percentage points are reflected on the final semester
12 grade. The final semester grade is the only grade that appears on the transcript. The grade scales for
13 Honors, Advanced Placement, and all other courses are reflected in the following chart.

Grade	Non-Honors/ Non-AP		Honors +3%; +0.5 (+ = +.1)		Local Dual Credit State Dual Credit Industry Certification +4%; +.75		Dual Enrollment +4%; +1.0		#Advanced Placement +5%; +1.0 (+ = +.2)	
	Grading Scale	Quality Points	Grading Scale	Quality Points	Grading Scale	Quality Points	Grading Scale	Quality Points	Grading Scale	Quality Points
A+			96-100	4.6					96-100	5.2
A	90-100	4.0	90-95	4.5	90-100	4.75	90-100	5.0	90-95	5.0
B+			86-89	3.6					86-89	4.2
B	80-89	3.0	80-85	3.5	80-89	3.75	80-89	4.0	80-85	4.0
C+			76-79	2.6					76-79	3.2
C	70-79	2.0	70-75	2.5	70-79	2.75	70-79	3.0	70-75	3.0
D	60-69	1.0	60-69	1.5	60-69	1.75	60-69	2.0	60-69	2.0
F	0-59	0.0	0-59	0.0	0-59	0.0	0-59	0.0	0-59	0.0

14 #Kingsport School Board policy states that a student must take the AP Exam in an Advanced
15 Placement course in order to receive AP level credit. Students who do not take the AP Exam will only
16 receive honors level credit (+3 percentage points) for the course in question.

Weighted Course Listing

18 AP Level Courses

1 AP Calculus AB, AP Computer Science A, AP Calculus BC, AP Calculus AB Topics, AP Biology, AP
2 Chemistry, AP Physics C, AP Physics I, French 5, Spanish 5, Latin 5, German 5, AP Human
3 Geography, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, AP European History, AP United States
4 History, AP American Government, AP Psychology, AP English 12, AP English 11, AP Music
5 Theory, AP Statistics, AP Drawing, AP World History, AP Computer Science Principals, AP Seminar,
6 AP Research, AP Environmental Science, AP Art History.

7 **Advanced/Honors/Pre-AP Level Courses**

8 Honors Algebra 2, Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus, Honors Accounting, Honors Biology, Biology
9 2 Pre-AP, Honors Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2 Pre-AP, Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of
10 engineering, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Engineering Design and Development, French 1,
11 French 2, French 3, French 4, Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Spanish 4, German 1, German 2,
12 German 3, German 4, Latin 1, Latin 2, Latin 3, Latin 4, Honors US History, Honors Economics,
13 Honors Government, Honors Philosophy, Honors Sociology, English 9 Pre-AP, English 10 Pre-AP,
14 English 11 Pre-AP, Honors Band, Honors Studio Art. Additional courses may receive approval for
15 weighted status at a later date.

16 **GRADES 9-12¹**

17 Semester grades for students in grades 9-12 shall be determined by an average of grades within the
18 semester and the semester exam. The semester exam grade shall have a weight of fifteen (15) percent
19 of the semester grade.

20 The grading shall be continuous throughout the semester, with progress reports being sent home to
21 parents and/or guardians at the end of the fourth, ninth, and thirteenth week of the given semester, as
22 well as a final semester grade at the end of the semester.

23 **GRADES NINE - TWELVE GRADING SCALE AND LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS³**

24 Schools teaching grades nine through twelve shall use the uniform grading system established by the
25 State Board of Education. Using the uniform grading system, students' grades shall be reported for the
26 purposes of application for post-secondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student
27 Assistance Corporation.

28 Each school counselor shall provide incoming freshman with information on college core courses
29 required for lottery scholarships as well as necessary criteria (grade point average, ACT, and SAT
30 score, etc.) that must be met in order to receive a scholarship.

31 Seniors may apply for the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship by completing the Free Application for
32 Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is available at the guidance office or on-line at
33 www.fafsa.ed.gov. The priority date for FAFSA completion is May 1.

34 Elementary school counselors should explain the HOPE Scholarship and its requirements to their
35 students and impress upon them the benefits of making good grades.

1 STATE APPROVED COURSES

2 State approved courses shall meet all appropriate content standards, learning expectations, and
3 performance indicators as approved by the State Board of Education and are eligible for the points
4 listed above.

5 HONORS COURSES AND NATIONAL INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION COURSES

6 Local education agencies may elect to offer honors courses (see policy 4.602, Section 1) and National
7 Industry Certification (NIC) courses. Local education agencies electing to offer honors courses will
8 ensure that the approved honors courses substantially exceed the content standards, learning
9 expectations, and performance indicators as approved by the State Board of Education. Further, each
10 local education agency offering honors courses will ensure that additional rigor is being provided by
11 implementing the framework of standards for honors courses listed below. Students enrolled in honors
12 courses and/or NIC courses who complete the course/pass certification assessment will have a total of
13 three (3) points added to their final semester numerical average.

14 FRAMEWORK OF STANDARDS FOR HONORS COURSES

15 Honors courses will substantially excel the content standards, learning expectations, and performance
16 indicators approved by the State Board of Education. Teachers of honors courses will model
17 instructional approaches that facilitate maximum interchange of ideas among students: independent
18 study, self-directed research and learning and appropriate use of technology. All honors courses must
19 include multiple assessments exemplifying coursework (such as short answer, constructed-response
20 prompts, performance-based tasks, open-ended questions, essays, original or creative interpretations,
21 authentic products, portfolios, and analytical writing). Additionally, an honors course shall include a
22 minimum of five (5) of the following components:

- 23 1. Extended reading assignments that connect with the specified curriculum.
- 24 2. Research-based writing assignments that address and extend the course curriculum.
- 25 3. Projects that apply course curriculum to relevant or real-world situations. These may include
26 oral presentations, power point presentations, or other modes of sharing findings. Connection
27 of the project to the community is encouraged.
- 28 4. Open-ended investigations in which the student selects the questions and designs the research.
- 29 5. Writing assignments that demonstrate a variety of modes, purposes, and style.
 - 30 • Examples of mode include narrative, descriptive, persuasive, expository, and expressive;
 - 31 • Examples of purpose include to inform, entertain and persuade; and
 - 32 • Examples of style include formal, informal, literary, analytical, and technical.
- 33 6. Integration of appropriate technology into the course of study.
- 34 7. Deeper exploration of the culture, values, and history of the discipline.

- 1 8. Extensive opportunities for problem solving experiences through imagination, critical analysis,
2 and application.
3 9. Job shadowing experiences with presentations which connect class study to the world of work.

4 If honors courses and courses that offer National Industry Certification are offered, the local education
5 agency shall annually approve the list of such courses. This list of National Industry Certification
6 courses and of approved honors courses with a complete syllabus for each course shall be approved by
7 the local educational agency and made readily available to the public.

8 Each local education agency shall adopt policies for honors courses and technical courses that offer
9 national industry certification that may allow for the addition of three (3) points to all grades used to
10 calculate the semester average.

11 **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE** 12 **COURSES**

13 Local education agencies may elect to offer Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate
14 courses. If Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses are offered, the local
15 education agency shall annually approve a list of such courses. This list of approved courses shall be
16 made readily available to the public. Local education agencies will ensure that approved courses
17 substantially incorporate the learning objectives and course description as defined by the College
18 Board of International Baccalaureate Agency.

19 Each local education agency that elects to offer Advanced Placement courses and International
20 Baccalaureate courses shall adopt policies for the approved courses that may allow for the addition of
21 five (5) points to all grades used to calculate semester averages. Only Advanced Placement and
22 International Baccalaureate courses that have end-of-course national examinations qualify for the
23 addition of five (5) points.

Legal References

1. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.02, State Board of Education Policy 3.301; Public Acts of 2022, Chapter No. 1080
2. TCA 49-2-203(b)(7); TCA 49-2-301(b)(1)(H)

Cross References

Alternative Credit Options 4.209
Credit Recovery 4.210
Reporting Student Progress 4.601

3. TCA 49-4-904, 907
4. Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 1005

Honor Roll, Awards, & Class Ranking 4.602
Promotion and Retention 4.603
Transcript Alterations 4.608

Click here to choose a school board.			
Monitoring: Review: Annually, in December	Descriptor Term: Grading System	Descriptor Code: 4.600	Issued Date:
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 The Director of Schools shall develop an administrative procedure to establish a system of grading and
2 assessment for evaluating and recording student progress and to measure student performance in
3 conjunction with board-adopted content standards for grades K-8. The grading/assessment system shall
4 follow all applicable statutes and rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. The
5 grading/assessment system shall be uniform, district-wide, at comparable grade levels, except that the
6 Director of Schools shall have the authority to establish and operate ungraded and/or unstructured classes
7 in grades K-3 according to state rules and regulations.¹

8 The Director of Schools shall submit a copy of the grading and assessment systems to the Board before
9 the system is implemented. These guidelines shall be communicated annually to students and
10 parent(s)/guardian(s).

11 Conduct grades are based on behavior and shall not be reflected in scholastic grades.

12 **GRADING SYSTEM: GRADES NINE - TWELVE (9-12)²**

13 Schools teaching grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall use the uniform grading system established
14 by the State Board of Education. Using the uniform grading system, students’ grades shall be reported
15 for the purposes of application for post-secondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee
16 Student Assistance Corporation.

17 Subject-area grades shall be expressed by the following letters with their corresponding percentage
18 range:

- 19 • A (90-100)
- 20 • B (80-89)
- 21 • C (70-79)
- 22 • D (60-69)
- 23 • F (0-59)

24 Grading floors with a minimum above zero are not permitted.³ This grading system shall be uniform
25 throughout the school district for each grade.

26 Advanced coursework grades shall be weighted with additional percentage points to calculate the
27 semester average. Depending on the course taken, the following percentage points shall be assigned:

- 28 • Honors Courses – three (3) percentage points;
- 29 • Local and Statewide Dual Credit, Capstone Industry Certification Aligned– four (4) percentage
30 points; and

- 1 • Advanced Placement, Cambridge International, College Level Exam Program (CLEP),
2 International Baccalaureate Courses, and Dual Enrollment Courses – five (5) percentage points.

3 **LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS⁴**

4 Each school counselor shall provide incoming freshmen with information on college core courses
5 required for lottery scholarships as well as necessary criteria (grade point average, ACT and SAT score,
6 etc.) that must be met in order to receive a scholarship.

7 Seniors may apply for the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship by completing the Free Application for Federal
8 Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is available at the guidance office or online. Students shall be made
9 aware of all applicable FAFSA deadlines and encouraged to submit applications in a timely manner.

10 Elementary school counselors shall explain the HOPE Scholarship and its requirements to their students
11 and impress upon them the benefits of making good grades.

12 **LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP DAY**

13 Each school year, prior to scheduling courses for the following school year, schools teaching students in
14 grades 8-11 shall conduct a lottery scholarship day for students and their parents.⁵

Legal References

1. [TCA 49-2-203\(b\)\(16\); TCA 49-2-301\(b\)\(1\)\(H\)](#)
2. [TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.02; State Board of Education Policy 3.301; TCA 49-6-407](#)
3. [Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 1005](#)
4. [TCA 49-4-904, 905, 907](#)
5. [TCA 49-4-932\(f\)](#)

Cross References

Alternative Credit Options 4.209
Credit Recovery 4.210
Reporting Student Progress 4.601
Honor Roll, Awards, & Class Ranking 4.602
Promotion and Retention 4.603
Transcript Alterations 4.608

**RULES
OF
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 0520-01-03
ACADEMIC AND INSTRUCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

0520-01-03-.02 UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM.

- (1) Until the 2022-2023 school year, LEAs shall use the following uniform grading system for students enrolled in grades nine through twelve (9-12) for purposes of application for postsecondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation:

Uniform Grading System					
Grade	Percentage Range		Honors Courses	Local and Statewide Dual Credit Courses, Industry Certification-Aligned Courses, and Dual Enrollment Courses	Advanced Placement, Cambridge International, College Level Exam Program (CLEP), and International Baccalaureate Courses
A	93	100	Shall include the addition of 3 percentage points to the grades used to calculate the semester average.	Shall include the addition of 4 percentage points to the grades used to calculate the semester average.	Shall include the addition of 5 percentage points to the grades used to calculate the semester average.
B	85	92			
C	75	84			
D	70	74			
F	0	69			

- (2) Beginning with grades issued in the 2022-2023 school year and thereafter, LEAs shall use the following uniform grading system for students enrolled in grades nine through twelve (9-12) for purposes of application for postsecondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation:

(Rule 0520-01-03-.02, continued)

Uniform Grading System					
Grade	Percentage Range		Honors Courses	Local and Statewide Dual Credit Courses, and Industry Certification-Aligned Courses*.	Advanced Placement, Cambridge International, College Level Exam Program (CLEP), International Baccalaureate Courses, and Dual Enrollment Courses*.
A	90	100	Shall include the addition of 3 percentage points to the grades used to calculate the semester average.	Shall include the addition of 4 percentage points to the grades used to calculate the semester average. *Dual Enrollment Courses completed in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years shall include the addition of 4 percentage points to the grades used to calculate the semester average.	Shall include the addition of 5 percentage points to the grades used to calculate the semester average. * Dual Enrollment Courses completed in the 2024-25 school year and thereafter shall include the addition of 5 percentage points used to calculate the semester average.
B	80	89			
C	70	79			
D	60	69			
F	0	59			

- (3) Assigning additional quality points above 4.0 for honors courses, Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Exam Program (CLEP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge International, dual credit, dual enrollment, and Industry Certification-aligned courses is not allowed for the purpose of determining eligibility for the lottery scholarships.
- (4) LEAs must utilize the Uniform Grading System to calculate eligibility for financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation. However, LEAs may adopt an additional local grading scale(s) for other purposes.
- (5) LEAs may adopt the Uniform Grading System for grades pre-K through eight (8) or they may adopt a local grading scale for those grades.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302 and 49-6-407. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed July 15, 1976; effective August 16, 1976. Amendment filed February 28, 1978; effective March 30, 1978. Amendment filed January 9, 1979; effective February 23, 1979. Amendment and new rule

(Rule 0520-01-03-.02, continued)

filed October 15, 1979; effective January 8, 1980. Amendment filed April 14, 1980; effective May 28, 1980. Amendment filed November 13, 1981; effective March 16, 1982. Amendment filed April 13, 1982; effective May 28, 1982. Repeal and new rule filed April 18, 1983; effective May 18, 1983. Amendment filed January 6, 1984; effective April 15, 1984. Amendment filed August 20, 1984; effective November 13, 1984. Amendment filed October 3, 1985; effective January 14, 1986. Amendment filed March 25, 1986; effective June 14, 1986. Amendment filed May 28, 1986; effective June 27, 1986. Amendment filed July 10, 1986; effective October 29, 1986. Amendment filed October 29, 1986; effective December 13, 1986. Amendment filed July 22, 1987; effective October 28, 1987. Amendment filed November 18, 1987; effective February 28, 1988. Amendment filed July 21, 1988; effective October 29, 1988. Repeal and new rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed November 3, 1993; effective March 30, 1994. Amendment filed March 14, 1995; effective July 28, 1995. Amendment filed April 29, 1996; effective August 28, 1996. Amendments filed October 25, 2017; effective January 23, 2018. Amendments filed March 20, 2018; to have been effective June 18, 2018. However, on May 24, 2018, the Government Operations Committee filed a 5-day stay; new effective date June 23, 2018. Amendments filed January 11, 2019; effective April 11, 2019; Amendments filed August 20, 2020; effective November 18, 2020.



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1005

SENATE BILL NO. 191

By Lundberg

Substituted for: House Bill No. 390

By Cepicky, Moody, Haston

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-818(a)(2), is amended by deleting the language ", bullet-resistant or".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-407(c), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (1) and adding the following new subdivision:

(2) An LEA shall not create a local grading policy or procedure that establishes a minimum grade above zero (0) that a student may earn for coursework.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-108(a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(3) Professional licenses issued by the state board of education must be valid for a period of no less than eight (8) years. This subdivision (a)(3) does not prohibit the state board from establishing professional development requirements that must be met by an educator who holds a professional license during the licensure period as a condition of the educator retaining the educator's license for the licensure period.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-613, is amended by deleting the word "annual" in subsection (a) and by adding the following as a new subsection (c):

(c) The department shall not require a school or LEA to submit the school's or LEA's school improvement plan to the department for approval more than once every three (3) years.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-228, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(i) Notwithstanding subsection (a), student achievement, student growth, or any other student data that serves as an indicator of performance for a student who enrolls in, or transfers to, a public school on or after December 31 must not be used to assign a letter grade to the receiving school for purposes of this section. The data described in this subsection (i) may be used to assign a letter grade to the school in which the student was enrolled prior to December 31 of the respective school year.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-602, is amended by adding the following as new subsections:

(f) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, the state board of education shall not include in the performance goals and measures for a public school or LEA, the student achievement, student growth, or any other student data that serves as an indicator of performance for a student who enrolls in, or transfers to, the public school or LEA on or after December 31. The data described in this subsection (f) may be included in the performance goals and measures for the public school or LEA in which the student was enrolled prior to December 31 of the respective school year, if applicable.

(g)(1) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, the state board shall not include in the performance goals and measures for a public school or LEA, the number of students enrolled in the public school or LEA who have been identified by the public school, LEA, or department of education as chronically absent due to the student's receipt of medical treatment for a chronic illness or other health-related issue. The LEA's director of schools or the director of the public charter school shall notify the department in writing of each student enrolled in the LEA or public charter school who is chronically absent due to the student's receipt of medical treatment for a chronic illness or other health-related issue.

(2) Subdivision (g)(1) does not prohibit the department from collecting data on students who are chronically absent from a public school or LEA in this state, or from reporting such data on the state report card or as otherwise required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.).

(3)(A) Each LEA and public charter school shall develop, adopt, and implement an intervention policy for students who are chronically absent and submit the policy to the department for approval. An intervention policy adopted pursuant to this subdivision (g)(3) must describe:

(i) How chronically absent students will be identified;

(ii) What documentation the LEA or public charter school will require from parents, guardians, or students to determine whether an absence from school is excused or unexcused;

(iii) How the academic progress of chronically absent students will be monitored by the LEA or public charter school;

(iv) How the LEA or public charter school will regularly communicate with parents and guardians of chronically absent students, which must include, at a minimum, conducting meetings or conferences at established intervals with a parent or guardian of a chronically absent student and recording the attendance of each school official and parent or guardian at each meeting; and

(v) Other intervention methods, including any available community resources, identified by the LEA or public charter school to assist parents and guardians of chronically absent students in addressing the factors that may be causing or contributing to the student's absence from school.

(B) The department shall not require an LEA or public charter school to submit its intervention policy to the department more than once every three (3) years.

(4) For purposes of this subsection (g), "chronically absent" means that a student has been absent from school for eighteen (18) or more school days of the respective school year.

SECTION 7. The department of education shall, no later than January 1, 2025, submit a request to the United States department of education to amend this state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan for purposes of implementing Sections 4-6 of this act.

SECTION 8.

(a) Section 2 of this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2024-2025 school year and each school year thereafter.

(b) Section 3 of this act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.

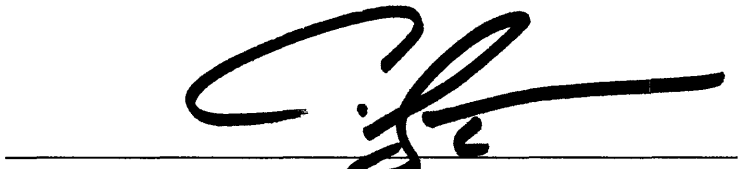
(c) Sections 4-6 of this act take effect on the thirtieth day immediately following the date on which the United States department of education approves the amendment to this state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan submitted pursuant to Section 7 of this act, the public welfare requiring it. The commissioner of education shall notify the executive secretary of the Tennessee Code Commission in writing of the date on which the United States department of education approved the amendment. If the United States department of education does not approve the amendment, then Sections 4-6 of this act have no effect.

(d) All other sections of this act take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.


SENATE BILL NO. 191

PASSED: April 25, 2024


RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 28th day of May 2024


BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Promotion and Retention	Descriptor Code: 4.603	Issued Date: 10/11/22
		Rescinds: 4.603	Issued: 09/28/21

1 Students shall progress in sequential order from grade to grade. The professional staff shall place students
2 at the grade level best suited for them academically, socially and emotionally. Retentions may be made
3 when, in the judgment of the teacher, such retentions are in the best interest of the students. Decisions to
4 retain are subject to review and approval of the principal after consultation with the teacher. However,
5 no student enrolled in the third grade shall be promoted unless the student has shown a basic
6 understanding of curriculum and ability to perform the skills required in the subject of reading as
7 demonstrated by the student's grades or standardized test results. This requirement shall not apply to
8 students who are participating in a Board approved research-based intervention prior to the beginning of
9 the next school year or to students who have IEPs pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.¹

10 In order to enhance the opportunity for remediation, students with problems shall be identified as early
11 as possible in the school year. Parents shall be notified when problems are identified and shall be
12 informed periodically of remedial efforts and given progress reports.

13 Before a student is retained, the parents shall be informed in writing and shall have the opportunity to
14 participate in a conference at least six (6) weeks before the end of the school year.

15 Students who have difficulty in achieving the requirements for promotion may be considered for
16 retention. Schools shall identify these students by February 1st.

17 The following factors shall be considered in making a decision on promotion and retention:²

18 1. *Mastery of essential competencies.* Students shall have mastered essential skills sufficiently to
19 ensure a likelihood of success at the next grade level.

20 2. *Special procedures for special students.* Students who have been identified as having special
21 problems, including high risk students and others with special needs, shall be given special
22 consideration. Placement of students with IEPs shall be determined by the IEP-Team.

23 3. *Flexible placement.* Use of conditional promotion, remedial summer programs, assignment to
24 transitional classes, and other approaches to meeting the needs of students shall be given
25 consideration.

26 4. *Attendance.* Attendance shall become a relevant factor only when excessive absenteeism
27 becomes an educational problem.

28 5. *Conduct.* Retention shall not be used as a disciplinary measure.

29 6. *Previous retention.* Except under unusual circumstances, students shall not be retained more
30 than once in the same grade.

1 7. *Grade level.* Retention shall be considered more appropriate in grades K-3.

2 8. *Assessments.* The results of local or state assessments, if applicable.

3 9. *Maturity.* Social and emotional maturity.

4 When a student is considered for retention, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified within
5 fifteen (15) calendar days, and an individualized promotion plan shall be developed to help the student
6 avoid retention. The plan shall be developed in coordination with the student's teachers and may also
7 include input from the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), school counselor, or other appropriate school
8 personnel. A copy of the plan will be provided to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).^{3,4}

9 Once the decision to retain has been made:

- 10 1. A report of each student retained shall be made to the director of schools;
11 2. Documentation verifying student deficiencies shall be placed in the student's record;

12 Students may be identified for retention after the February 1st deadline if the delay in identifying a
13 student is due to:⁵

- 14 1. Date of enrollment;
15 2. Additional information acquired after results of local assessment, screening, or monitoring are
16 released

17 *K – 3 Reading Notification*

18 If it is determined through a student's overall performance or a state or local assessment that a student
19 in grades kindergarten through three (K-3) is not meeting grade-level standards in reading, the
20 student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified within fifteen (15) calendar days of such
21 determination.

22 **VOLUNTARY RETENTION**

23 A parent/guardian of a student enrolled in kindergarten through second grade may choose to retain
24 his/her student in the current grade if:

- 25 1. The student has a documented academic or behavioral delay; and
26 2. The parent/guardian believes that retention may benefit the student.¹¹

27 **RETENTION⁵**

28 A student may be retained when such retention is in the best interests of the student or when retention
29 is required per additional requirements for students in third and fourth grade.

30 *Decision of Retention – General⁶*

31 If a student is retained, the Director of Schools/designee shall develop an individualized academic
32 remediation plan within thirty (30) calendar days after the beginning of the next school year. A copy of

1 the plan shall be provided to the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) within ten (10) calendar days of its
2 development. The plan shall include at least one of the following strategies:

- 3 1. Adjustment to the current instructional strategies or materials;
- 4 2. Additional instructional time;
- 5 3. Individual tutoring;
- 6 4. Modification to the student’s classroom assignment to ensure the student receives instruction
7 from a teacher with a level of overall effectiveness of above expectations (level 4) or
8 significantly above expectations (level 5); or
- 9 5. Attendance or truancy interventions.

10 A student shall not be retained more than once in any grade. The progress of students who are retained
11 shall be closely monitored and reported to parent(s)/guardian(s) at least three (3) times during the
12 school year in which the student is retained. The Director of Schools shall develop procedures to
13 ensure appropriate recordkeeping of students who are retained.

14 *Decision of Retention – Third Grade*⁷

15 Third grade students shall not be promoted to the next grade unless they are determined to be
16 proficient (i.e., receive a performance level rating of “on track” or “mastered”) in English language arts
17 (ELA) based on the student’s most recent TCAP test.

18 Students who are not proficient in ELA may still be promoted if the following conditions are met:

- 19 1. A student in third grade receiving a performance level rating of “approaching” on the ELA
20 portion of the student’s most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:
 - 21 a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full years
22 of ELA instruction;
 - 23 b. The student was previously retained in grades K-3;
 - 24 c. The student is retested before the next school year and scores proficient in ELA;
 - 25 d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the next school year, maintains a
26 ninety percent (90%) attendance rate, and demonstrates adequate growth on the post-
27 test at the end of the camp; ~~or~~
 - 28 e. The student receives tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with
29 state law; **or**
 - 30 f. **Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the student demonstrates proficiency in**
31 **ELA standards by scoring within the fiftieth percentile on the most recently**
32 **administered state-provided benchmark assessment and the district provides tutoring**
33 **services to the student during the entire fourth grade school year and notifies the**
34 **student’s parent/guardian, in writing, of the benefits of enrolling the student in summer**
35 **programming.**
- 36 2. A student in third grade receiving a performance level rating of “below” on the ELA portion of
37 the student’s most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:
 - 38 a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full years
39 of ELA instruction;
 - 40 b. The student was previously retained in grades K-3;
 - 41 c. The student is retested before the next school year and scores proficient in ELA; or

- 1 d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the next school year, maintains a
2 ninety percent (90%) attendance rate, and receives tutoring for the entirety of the next
3 school year in accordance with state law.

4 *Decision of Retention – Fourth Grade*⁷

5 ~~Students in the following categories shall show adequate growth in the following ways before being~~
6 ~~promoted to the fifth grade:~~

7 ~~1. A student who is promoted to the fourth grade due to receiving tutoring for the entirety of the~~
8 ~~next school year in accordance with state law or because of attending a learning loss bridge~~
9 ~~camp must maintain a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate; and~~

10 ~~2. A student receiving tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with state law~~
11 ~~shall be required to show adequate growth on the fourth grade ELA portion of TCAP before the~~
12 ~~student may be promoted to fifth grade.~~

13 ~~A student shall not be retained more than once in fourth grade.~~

14 ~~Students in the following categories may be promoted to fifth grade if they demonstrate adequate~~
15 ~~growth on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test:~~

- 16 1. ~~A student who was promoted to fourth grade due to receiving tutoring for the entirety of the~~
17 ~~fourth-grade school year; and~~
18 2. ~~A student who was promoted to fourth grade due to attending a learning loss bridge camp while~~
19 ~~maintaining a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate and receiving tutoring for the entirety of the~~
20 ~~fourth grade school year.~~

21 ~~If a student that was promoted to fourth grade under one of the provisions above does not demonstrate~~
22 ~~adequate growth on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test, then the following shall occur:~~

- 23 1. ~~The student's principal shall convene a conference consisting of the following parties: the~~
24 ~~student's parent(s)/legal guardian, the student's ELA teacher, and the student's principal.~~
25 2. ~~The conference shall review the student's fourth grade ELA performance to determine if the~~
26 ~~student should be promoted to fifth grade.~~
27 3. ~~At the conclusion of the conference, a majority of the parties shall agree to one of the~~
28 ~~following:~~
29 a. ~~The student will be promoted to fifth grade and be assigned a tutor for the entirety of~~
30 ~~the student's fifth-grade year; or~~
31 b. ~~The student will be retained in fourth grade. A student shall not be retained more than~~
32 ~~once in fourth grade.~~

33 *Decision of Retention – Students with Disabilities*⁸

34 Retention and promotion decisions shall be made on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the
35 student's IEP and/or 504 team to determine whether the student's performance on the ELA portion of
36 TCAP was due to the student's disability. The school district shall not retain a student with a disability
37 or a suspected disability that impacts their ability to read.

1 **APPEALS**^{4,9}

2 When a student is identified for retention, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified about the decision
 3 to retain the student and provided with information on the right to appeal the decision. Appeals shall be
 4 made to the district Retention Review Team committee prior to May 15. The student and his/her
 5 parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided written or actual notice of the appeal hearing and shall be given
 6 the opportunity to address the committee. The committee shall conduct a hearing prior to May 30 to
 7 determine if the student will be promoted and issue such decision within five (5) business days of the
 8 date of the appeal hearing. Upon notification of the committee decision, the principal shall send written
 9 notification to the Superintendent of Schools/designee and the parent(s)/guardian(s). The notification
 10 shall advise parent(s)/guardian(s) of their right to appeal such action to the Superintendent of
 11 Schools/designee.

12 The appeal to the Superintendent of Schools/designee shall be heard no later than ten (10) business
 13 days after the request for appeal is received. A decision shall be issued within five days. The action of
 14 the Superintendent of Schools/designee shall be final.

15 For students where retention is required per the additional requirements for students in third and fourth
 16 grade, parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal this decision directly to the Department of Education in
 17 accordance with state law.¹⁰

Legal References

1. 20 USCA § 1400 et seq.; 29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504); TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16; TCA 49-6-3115
2. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(5)
3. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)(e)
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(4)
6. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)(g)
7. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)

Cross References

Credit Recovery 4.210
 Grading System 4.600
 Reporting Student Progress 4.601
 Attendance 6.200
 Student Assignments 6.205
 Homeless Students 6.503
 Student Records 6.600

8. 29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504); 20 USCA § 1400 et seq.; TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)(e)
9. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(3); TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.17(7); TCA 49-6-3102(e)(1)
10. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)(f)
11. Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 829
- 12.

Click here to choose a school board.

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in December	Descriptor Term: Promotion and Retention	Descriptor Code: 4.603	Issued Date:
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 *General*

2 All promotion and retention decisions shall be made on a case-by-case basis and comply with state and
3 federal law. All decisions shall be made in consultation with a student's IEP and/or 504 team, if
4 applicable.¹

5 Students who have difficulty in achieving the requirements for promotion may be considered for
6 retention. Schools shall identify these students by February 1st. Factors used to identify students for
7 retention shall include:²

- 8 1. Ability to perform at the current grade level;
- 9
- 10 2. Results of local assessments, screening, or monitoring tools;
- 11
- 12 3. State assessments, as applicable;
- 13
- 14 4. Home Literacy Reports;³
- 15
- 16 5. Overall academic achievement of the student;
- 17
- 18 6. Likelihood of success with more difficult material if promoted to the next grade;
- 19
- 20 7. Attendance record; and
- 21
- 22 8. The student's maturity.

23 Students may be identified for retention after the February 1st deadline if the delay in identifying a
24 student is due to:⁴

- 25 1. Date of enrollment;
- 26
- 27 2. Additional information acquired after results of local assessment, screening, or monitoring are
28 released; or
- 29

30 **3. [Insert additional limited situations based on needs in your district.]**

31 **VOLUNTARY RETENTION**

1 A parent/guardian of a student enrolled in kindergarten through second grade may choose to retain
2 his/her student in the current grade level if:

- 3 1. The student has a documented academic or behavioral delay; and
- 4
- 5 2. The parent/guardian believes that retention may benefit the student.⁵

6 **PROMOTION PLANS⁶**

7 When a student is identified for retention, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified within
8 fifteen (15) calendar days, and an individualized promotion plan shall be developed to help the student
9 avoid retention. The plan shall be developed in coordination with the student's teachers, IEP or 504
10 team, if applicable, and may also include input from the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), school
11 counselor, or other appropriate school personnel.

12 Promotion plans shall incorporate evidence-based strategies, including expectations and measurements
13 that will verify whether a student has made sufficient progress to be promoted to the next grade level,
14 and be tailored to the student's learning needs. Promotion plans for students in third and fourth grade
15 will include additional requirements for promoting students in these grades. A copy of the plan will be
16 provided to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), and the school shall offer the opportunity for a parent-
17 teacher conference to discuss the plan. If a student is not making progress on the promotion plan, then
18 the strategies shall be modified. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided with any changes to the
19 promotion plan.

20 A student who demonstrates sufficient academic progress according to his/her promotion plan shall be
21 promoted to the next grade level unless retention is required per additional requirements for students in
22 third and fourth grade.⁷

23 If a student has not demonstrated sufficient academic progress according to his/her promotion plan by
24 the end of the school year, the student shall be eligible to enroll in a summer reading or learning
25 program, if available. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified of a decision for retention at least ten (10)
26 calendar days prior to the start of the next school year if the student was enrolled in a summer program.
27 However, if the student wasn't enrolled in a summer program, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be
28 notified of a decision for retention at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the start of the next school
29 year.⁸

30 **RETENTION⁷**

31 A student may be retained when such retention is in the best interests of the student or when retention
32 is required per additional requirements for students in third and fourth grade.

33 *Decision of Retention – General⁹*

34 If a student is retained, the Director of Schools/designee shall develop an individualized academic
35 remediation plan within thirty (30) calendar days after the beginning of the next school year. A copy of
36 the plan shall be provided to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) within ten (10) calendar days of its
37 development. The plan shall include at least one of the following strategies:

- 1 1. Adjustment to the current instructional strategies or materials;
- 2
- 3 2. Additional instructional time;
- 4
- 5 3. Individual tutoring;
- 6
- 7 4. Modification to the student’s classroom assignment to ensure the student receives
- 8 instruction from a teacher with a level of overall effectiveness of above expectations (level
- 9 4) or significantly above expectations (level 5); or
- 10
- 11 5. Attendance or truancy interventions.

12 A student shall not be retained more than once in any grade. The progress of students who are retained
13 shall be closely monitored and reported to parent(s)/guardian(s) at least three (3) times during the
14 school year in which the student is retained. The Director of Schools shall develop procedures to
15 ensure appropriate recordkeeping of students who are retained.

16 *Decision of Retention – Third Grade*¹⁰

17 Third grade students shall not be promoted to the next grade unless they are determined to be
18 proficient (i.e., receive a performance level rating of “on track” or “mastered”) in English language arts
19 (ELA) based on the student’s most recent TCAP test.

20 Students who are not proficient in ELA may still be promoted if the following conditions are met:

- 21 1. A student in third grade receiving a performance level rating of “approaching” on the ELA
22 portion of the student’s most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:
 - 23
 - 24 a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full years
25 of ELA instruction;
 - 26 b. The student was previously retained in grades K-3;
 - 27 c. The student is retested before the next school year and scores proficient in ELA;
 - 28 d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the next school year, maintains a
29 ninety percent (90%) attendance rate, and demonstrates adequate growth on the post-
30 test at the end of the camp;
 - 31 e. The student receives tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with
32 state law; or
 - 33 f. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the student demonstrates proficiency in
34 ELA standards by scoring within the fiftieth percentile on the most recently
35 administered state-provided benchmark assessment and the district provides tutoring
36 services to the student during the entire fourth grade school year and notifies the
37 student’s parent/guardian, in writing, of the benefits of enrolling the student in summer
38 programming.
 - 39
- 40 2. A student in third grade receiving a performance level rating of “below” on the ELA portion of
41 the student’s most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:
42

- 1 a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full years
2 of ELA instruction;
- 3 b. The student was previously retained in grades K-3;
- 4 c. The student is retested before the next school year and scores proficient in ELA; or
- 5 d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the next school year, maintains a
6 ninety percent (90%) attendance rate, and receives tutoring for the entirety of the next
7 school year in accordance with state law.

8 *Decision of Retention – Fourth Grade*¹⁰

9 Students in the following categories may be promoted to fifth grade if they demonstrate adequate
10 growth on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test:

- 11 1. A student who was promoted to fourth grade due to receiving tutoring for the entirety of the
12 fourth-grade school year; and
- 13
- 14 2. A student who was promoted to fourth grade due to attending a learning loss bridge camp while
15 maintaining a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate and receiving tutoring for the entirety of the
16 fourth grade school year.

17 If a student that was promoted to fourth grade under one of the provisions above does not demonstrate
18 adequate growth on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test, then the following shall occur:

- 19 1. The student's principal shall convene a conference consisting of the following parties: the
20 student's parent(s)/legal guardian, the student's ELA teacher, and the student's principal.
- 21
- 22 2. The conference shall review the student's fourth grade ELA performance to determine if the
23 student should be promoted to fifth grade.
- 24
- 25 3. At the conclusion of the conference, a majority of the parties shall agree to one of the
26 following:
 - 27 a. The student will be promoted to fifth grade and be assigned a tutor for the entirety of
28 the student's fifth-grade year; or
 - 29 b. The student will be retained in fourth grade. A student shall not be retained more than
30 once in fourth grade.

31 *Decision of Retention – Students with Disabilities*¹¹

32 Retention and promotion decisions shall be made on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the
33 student's IEP and/or 504 team to determine whether the student's performance on the ELA portion of
34 TCAP was due to the student's disability. The school district shall not retain a student with a disability
35 or a suspected disability that impacts their ability to read.

36 **APPEALS**^{8,12}

37 When a student is identified for retention, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified about the decision
38 to retain the student and provided with information on the right to appeal the decision. Appeals shall be
39 made to a committee appointed by the principal within [insert number of days]. The student and his/her

- 1 parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided written or actual notice of the appeal hearing and shall be given
 2 the opportunity to address the committee. The committee shall conduct a hearing within [insert number
 3 of days] to determine if the student will be promoted and issue such decision within [insert number of
 4 days]. Upon notification of the committee decision, the principal shall send written notification to the
 5 Director of Schools/designee and the parent(s)/guardian(s). The notification shall advise
 6 parent(s)/guardian(s) of their right to appeal such action within [insert number of days] to the Director
 7 of Schools/designee.
- 8 The appeal shall be heard no later than ten (10) business days after the request for appeal is received. A
 9 decision shall be issued within [insert number of days].
- 10 Within five (5) business days of the Director of Schools/designee rendering a decision, the student's
 11 parent(s)/guardian(s) may request a hearing by the Board, and the Board shall review the record.
 12 Following the review, the Board may affirm or overturn the decision of the Director of Schools/designee.
 13 The action of the Board shall be final.
- 14 For students where retention is required per the additional requirements for students in third and fourth
 15 grade, parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal this decision in accordance with state law.¹³

 Legal References

1. [20 USCA § 1400 et seq.; 29 U.S.C. § 794 \(Section 504\); TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16; TCA 49-6-3115](#)
2. [TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16\(5\)](#)
3. [TCA 49-1-905\(e\)](#)
4. [TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16\(4\)](#)
5. [Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 829](#)
6. [TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16\(6\)](#)
7. [TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16\(6\)\(f\)](#)
8. [TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16\(6\)\(e\)](#)
9. [TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16\(6\)\(g\)](#)
10. [TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16\(7\)](#)
11. [29 U.S.C. § 794 \(Section 504\); 20 USCA § 1400 et seq.; TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16\(7\)\(e\); Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 989](#)
12. [TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16\(3\); TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.17\(7\); TCA 49-6-3102\(e\)\(1\)](#)
13. [TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16\(7\)\(f\)](#)

 Cross References

Credit Recovery 4.210
 Grading System 4.600
 Reporting Student Progress 4.601
 Attendance 6.200
 Student Assignments 6.205
 Homeless Students 6.503
 Student Records 6.600



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 829

SENATE BILL NO. 1688

By Lowe

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1831

By Raper, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to student retention.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A parent or guardian of a student enrolled in any of the grades kindergarten through two (K-2) may elect to retain the parent's or guardian's student in the student's current grade level if the student has a documented academic or behavioral delay and the parent or guardian believes that retention may benefit the student. If a parent or guardian elects to retain the parent's or guardian's student in the student's current grade level pursuant to this subsection (a), then, subject to subsection (b) and subsection (c), the LEA or public charter school in which the student is enrolled shall retain the student in the student's current grade level at the parent's or guardian's request.

(b) A student cannot be retained in any grade level more than once.

(c) This section does not supersede an LEA's or public charter school's obligation to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d), the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. § 1701 et seq.), or any other federal or state law related to students with disabilities and English language learners.

(d) The state board of education shall promulgate rules, including emergency rules if necessary, to establish the requirements for the documentation required to establish an academic or behavioral delay for purposes of this section. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules, including emergency rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2024-2025 school year and each school year thereafter.

SENATE BILL NO. 1688

PASSED: April 16, 2024


Randy McNally
RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


Cameron Sexton
CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 1st day of May 2024


Bill Lee
BILL LEE, GOVERNOR



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 989

HOUSE BILL NO. 2326

By Representatives Gary Hicks, Boyd, Davis, Doggett, Alexander, Hazlewood, Vital, Cochran, Eldridge, Raper, Moody, Sherrell, Grills, Williams, Brock Martin, Zachary, Faison, Todd, Tim Hicks, Clemmons, Hurt, Travis, Whitson, Littleton, Hardaway

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2183

By Senators White, Crowe, Pody, Hensley, Jackson, Lowe, Massey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3115(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (3) and substituting instead the following:

(3)

(A) A student who is promoted to the fourth grade pursuant to subdivision (a)(2)(A)(v) or (a)(2)(B)(iv) may be promoted to the fifth grade if the student shows adequate growth, as determined by the department, on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test.

(B) If a student is promoted to the fourth grade pursuant to subdivision (a)(2)(A)(v) or (a)(2)(B)(iv) and does not show adequate growth, as determined by the department, on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test, then the student's LEA or public charter school shall convene a conference that must be attended by the following categories of participants: the student's parent or guardian, the student's ELA teacher, and the student's school principal. The recommendation made by a majority of the categories of participants in the conference determines whether the student must be:

(i) Promoted to the fifth grade and assigned a tutor to provide tutoring services to the student for the entirety of the student's fifth-grade year based on tutoring requirements established by the department; or

(ii) Retained in the fourth grade; provided, that a student must not be retained in the fourth grade more than once.

(C) Each student who is promoted to the fifth grade pursuant to subdivision (a)(3)(B)(i) must be assigned a tutor to provide tutoring services to the student for the entirety of the student's fifth-grade year based on tutoring requirements established by the department.

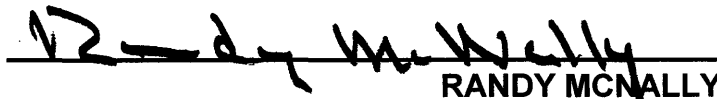
SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2023-2024 school year and each school year thereafter.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2326

PASSED: April 25, 2024



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 21st day of May 2024



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR