



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

801 Second Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37201-1099

Contact: Tanya Ruder  
Phone: 615-242-8392 ext. 111  
Cell Phone: 414-587-9998  
Email: [truder@tea.nea.org](mailto:truder@tea.nea.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Tennessee teachers hopeful about SCORE report**

Nashville, TN (Monday, October 26, 2009) – The Tennessee Education Association (TEA) has embarked upon a cooperative effort with the Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE), a group headed by former Senator William H. Frist. Represented on the initial steering committee, TEA met with Sen. Frist and other stakeholders to assist in developing the report: “A Roadmap to Success: A Plan to Make Tennessee #1 in the Southeast for Education Within Five Years.”

TEA President and SCORE Steering Committee member Earl Wiman said, “We applaud the efforts of Sen. Frist and the committee for working to create a plan for student success. It has the potential to be a fascinating and high impact initiative as TEA teams with other organizations to achieve the goals laid out in the report. TEA believes that when you have a goal of achieving high standards, cultivating strong leaders, ensuring excellent teachers, and utilizing data to enhance student learning there are many different roads that can get you there. The voice of the classroom teacher must be

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heard in this discussion because they are the ones who can move education forward.”

TEA supports the overarching intent of the plan to ensure that educators have the tools needed to achieve their goals in educating the students of Tennessee. The TEA has committed to working with SCORE to jointly lead the creation of a new teacher effectiveness measure that could potentially be based on student achievement, student achievement gains, tests of teacher knowledge, principal evaluations, and peer assistance. Al Mance, executive director for the TEA, said, “It is time to do the research necessary to define what an effective teacher is.” Through TEA’s work with SCORE, together with support of some powerful education foundations, a definition should be attainable.

In addition to creating a valid and believable teacher effectiveness measure, TEA will collaborate with other stakeholders to enhance online professional development opportunities for educators, recognize top performing educational staff, conduct a survey of working conditions, and provide schools with the resources needed to use the survey results to improve schools. TEA members actively participated in the creation of the report and will continue to work with SCORE as the concepts in the “Roadmap to Success” are considered by policymakers.

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*The Tennessee Education Association is the state’s largest professional organization representing over 55,000 elementary and secondary teachers, school administrators, education support professionals, higher education faculty, and students preparing to become teachers.*