



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Tennessee Education Association Supports State's Race to the Top Application**

Nashville, TN (Wednesday, January 13, 2010) – Governor Phil Bredesen addressed a joint session of the House and Senate Tuesday regarding the changes he proposes to make to K-12 education to help strengthen Tennessee's chances of being granted federal "Race to the Top" dollars.

The following statement can be attributed to Tennessee Education Association (TEA) President Earl Wiman:

"The TEA will continue to work with Gov. Bredesen on his legislative initiatives by agreeing to support 50 percent of teacher and principal evaluations to be based on student achievement. Of this number, only 35 percent will be based on value-added scores. The remaining 15 percent will be based on data sources selected from a menu of items and collaboratively determined by the teacher and principal.

"With this agreement, the issue becomes more about how teachers and principals can use the student performance data to improve schools and teacher practices. Over and over we have learned that we cannot fire our way to school success. Rather we must honor and support educators in their efforts.

"With such a large amount of funding at stake, the TEA is considering both our members and the condition of public education in our state for years to come. Without the support of the TEA, the potential for being granted any of the federal funds is scarce. We are working in the best interest of our members, Tennessee's teachers.

"As Gov. Bredesen stated in his address to the public on Tuesday evening, '...we share a common goal – to ensure that every child in Tennessee receives a year's worth of growth from a year's worth of instruction. Teachers matter: you bring something to this effort that no one else can.'

"We look forward to working with Governor Bredesen, the General Assembly and the State Board of Education to improve public schools and student learning in Tennessee."

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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.*