



Legislative Report

Volume 20, No. 17

for the week ending February 19, 2010

Bill Would Allow For-Profit Businesses to Run Schools Applies to those Placed in Achievement School District

Almost before the “ink dried” on the Race to the Top legislation passed in the January special session, a bill has been filed to remove the language prohibiting a for-profit entity from operating a school in the newly created Achievement School District authorized in the law. The Achievement School District would apply only to those schools or local education agencies (LEAs) placed in improvement status under the provisions of TCA 49-1-602. The current law allows the Commissioner of Education to contract with individuals, governmental entities, or **non-profit** entities to “manage” schools – or an entire LEA -- placed in the Achievement School District.

During the special session, attempts to qualify for-profit entities failed, but **HB 3118/SB 3029** would again attempt to qualify **for-profit** companies to operate these schools. **TEA strongly opposed allowing profiteering on public schools during special session and strongly opposes this new effort during the regular session.** Section one of the legislation deletes the language “individuals, governmental entities or nonprofit entities” from the law and would substitute instead the language “individuals or entities.” **HB 3118/SB 3029** is sponsored by Rep. Bill Dunn (R-Knoxville) and Sen. Mike Faulk (R-Kingston). The bill is scheduled for the K-12 Subcommittee of the House Education Committee for Wednesday, February 24. **TEA members are urged to contact the K-12 committee and ask that they vote “NO” on HB 3118.** The message should be simple:

- The education of Tennessee’s children should not be subject to profiteering.
- For-profit school management has a very murky record in other states when it has been tried.

Contact information for the K-12 Subcommittee is listed below.

Member (Party & District)	Office	Phone Area Code (615)	E-Mail Address (Please include your name, postal address, and phone number in your e-mail.)
Chairman Les Winningham (D-38)	36 LP	741-6852	rep.leslie.winningham@capitol.tn.gov
Vice Chairman Ron Lollar (R-99)	209 WMB	741-7084	rep.ron.lollar@capitol.tn.gov
Judy Barker (D-77)	24 LP	741-0718	rep.judy.barker@capitol.tn.gov
Tommie F. Brown (D-28)	36 LP	741-4374	rep.tommie.brown@capitol.tn.gov
Bill Dunn (R-16)	110 WMB	741-1721	rep.bill.dunn@capitol.tn.gov
Beth Harwell (R-56)	107 WMB	741-0709	rep.beth.harwell@capitol.tn.gov
David Hawk (R-5)	219 WMB	741-7482	rep.david.hawk@capitol.tn.gov
Joey Hensley (R-70)	106 WMB	741-7476	rep.joey.hensley@capitol.tn.gov
Ulysses , Jones Jr. (D-98)	35 LP	741-4575	rep.ulysses.jones@capitol.tn.gov
Mark L. Maddox (D-76)	17 LP	741-7847	rep.mark.maddox@capitol.tn.gov
Johnnie Turner (D-85)	208 WMB	741-6954	rep.johnnie.turner@capitol.tn.gov
Terri Lynn Weaver (R-40)	204 WMB	741-2192	rep.terri.lynn.weaver@capitol.tn.gov

Student Testing, School Start Date, Major Areas of Concern Several Bills Filed – TEA will Closely Monitor Developments

Several bills which propose to make various changes in the state law relative to student testing have been filed in the regular session. Some of the legislation ties the school starting date issue to the schedule of student testing. Other bills make student tests more “high stakes” in nature. Listed below are bills filed to date. Members can easily get a copy of the bill, a summary, fiscal note, and track legislative developments by going to <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/> and typing in the appropriate bill number.

Bill Number	Sponsors	Description
HB 281 SB 204	Rep Matheny Sen. Stewart	Defines "proficient" on the TCAP tests as demonstrating knowledge of content area and "advanced" as demonstrating critical thinking and problem solving skills. Amends TCA Title 49.
HB 975 SB 452	Rep. McCord Sen. Overbey	Requires that TCAP tests be administered by LEAs during five-day period between last week of March and first three weeks of April each year. Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60.
HB 2957 SB 2791	Rep. Maggart Sen. Black	Requires that a percentage of student's final grade in a subject to be derived from the student's TCAP score; the department of education will determine the percentage, but it must be at least 15 percent. Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 6 and Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60.
HB 2958 SB 2788	Rep. Maggart Sen. Black	Requires that TCAP tests be given no earlier than May 1. Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60.
HB 2996 SB 3088	Rep. J Deberry Sen. Burchett	Makes certain changes to the school start dates, administration of TCAP for non-proficient students, and the reporting of such results. Amends TCA Title 49.
HB 3011 SB 3796	Rep. Harwell Sen. Bunch	Requires that TCAP tests be given no earlier than May 1. Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60.
HB 3545 SB 3427	Rep. Maddox Sen. L Finney	Requires that a student's TCAP test score comprise 20 percent of the student's final grade for the corresponding subject. Amends TCA Title 49.
HB 3710 SB 3309	Rep. Towns Sen. Kelsey	Requires students to demonstrate through grades or test scores an understanding of the curriculum and an ability to perform the skills required for the current grade before being promoted. - Amends TCA Title 49.
HB 3838 SB 3845	Rep. M Turner Sen. Kyle	Requires that subject matter test reflect "the complete range of content covered within the state approved curriculum standards for that subject" instead of "the complete range of topics covered within the list of state approved textbooks for that subject." - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 1.
HB 3839 SB 3836	Rep. M Turner Sen. Kyle	Authorizes LEAs to develop diagnostic assessments and screening procedures for students in early childhood programs as well as students in grades K-2. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6.

TEA to Conduct Regional Meetings on New Education Law Members Invited to Attend – Reservations Are Necessary

TEA is sponsoring a series of en meetings across the state to explore the content and implications of the recently passed Tennessee First to the top Act of 2010. This is a great opportunity for TEA local leaders and members to learn about this new legislation and what it means to Tennessee’s teachers. These meetings will provide attendees an opportunity to get your questions answered and to provide input into the work of the newly created Teacher Evaluation Advisory Committee. Meetings are scheduled from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the exception of the February 23 meeting in Columbia, which will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served, so **reservations are essential**. You should make your reservations by calling or sending an e-mail to the UniServ coordinator designated as the site contact person for the meeting you will attend.

Sites for RTTT Regional TEA Meetings

Unless indicated otherwise, meetings will be 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., local time.

WEST TENNESSEE

	Date	Location	Site Contact Person
Memphis	February 22	MEA Office 126 South Flicker Street Memphis, TN	Debra Slonim (Ext. 30) Telisha Starnes (Ext. 11) 901.454.0966
Dyersburg	March 1	Dyersburg Professional Development Center 305 College Street Dyersburg, TN	Karla Carpenter kcarpenter@tea.nea.org 901.590.2543
Jackson	February 25	Liberty High School 3470 Ridgecrest Rd Ext Jackson, TN	Lorrie Butler lbutler@tea.nea.org 731.989.4860

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

	Date	Location	Site Contact Person
Columbia	February 23 4:30-6:30	Columbia Central H. S. Auditorium 921 Lion Parkway Columbia, TN	Jackie Pope jpope@tea.nea.org 615.898.1060
Clarksville	February 24	CMCEA Office 1820 Memorial Dr., Suite 102 Clarksville, TN	Alice Spicer aspicer@tea.nea.org 615.826.1394

Sites for RTTT Regional TEA Meetings (Con't)

Unless indicated otherwise, meetings will be 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., local time.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE (Con't)

	Date	Location	Site Contact Person
Cookeville	February 25	Cookeville H. S. 1 Cavalier Drive Cookeville, TN	Shannon Bain sbain@tea.nea.org 615.547.7769
Murfreesboro	March 1	Rutherford County Schools Central Office 2240 South Park Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN 37130	Susan Young syong@tea.nea.org 615.865.9700

EAST TENNESSEE

	Date	Location Site	Site Contact Person
Chattanooga	February 23	HCEA Office 4655 Shallowford Road Chattanooga, TN	Rhonda Catanzaro rcatanzaro@ tea.nea.org 423.485.9535
Knoxville	February 25	KCEA Office 2431 Magnolia Avenue Knoxville, TN	Jim Petrie jpetrie@tea.nea.org 865.522.9793
Tri-Cities (Johnson City)	March 2	Science Hill 8-9 Campus Little Theater 1318 Pactolas Road Johnson City, TN	Marilyn Hankins mhankins@tea.nea.org 423.753.9444

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During the legislative session, the TEA Legislative Report is mailed each week to local leaders and association representatives. It is also available on the TEA website at www.teateachers.org. If you are not already a member of TEA's GreatTeam, and would like to receive this Report electronically, send a request — giving your HOME e-mail address — to GreatTeam@tea.nea.org. Please include your first and last name and local association. This service is available to **TEA MEMBERS ONLY**, and you must provide us with your HOME — not work — e-mail address.