



# 2023 Legislative Agenda

CONTRIBUTED TO BY:  
The TOSS  
Legislative Team

Approved by the Board  
of the Tennessee  
Organization of School  
Superintendents on  
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**The Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS) is committed to advancing public education in the state by advocating on behalf of Tennessee's students, educators, and administrators.**

**Our legislative agenda is based on feedback from superintendents across Tennessee and approved by the TOSS Board.**

**We will work to advance these priorities through our work with the Governor's office, the 113th Tennessee General Assembly, the State Board of Education, and the Tennessee Department of Education.**

# TOSS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## IMPROVED FUNDING

- Analyze the TN Investment in Student Achievement Act (TISA) to ensure additional, adequate, and equitable funding with local flexibility.
- Supports increased funding for mental and behavioral supports for students, such as counselors, school psychologists, social workers, behavioral specialists, etc.
- Supports sustainable funding for K-2 summer school, while maintaining local flexibility.
- Supports reinstating funding, outside of TISA, for School Resource Officers and safety/security personnel.

## ADDRESS TEACHER & SUPPORT STAFF SHORTAGES

- Supports the work of the State Board of Education and the TN Department of Education to increase licensure flexibility for teachers, while maintaining high-quality standards for the teaching profession.
- Remove barriers for bus driver applicants to ensure an expedited process of receiving the credentials for becoming a state approved bus driver. Increase the number of third party testing sites for examinations.

## CURRICULUM & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Supports modifications to math pathways for high school graduation requirements.
- Supports the continued utilization of both growth and achievement in the teacher evaluation system and in school and district accountability.
- Supports modifying the TN Learning Loss-Student Acceleration Act to reduce the number of third grade students impacted by the retention provision.
- Supports protecting local flexibility for curriculum and operational decisions.
  - Districts must continue to have flexibility to adopt instructional and supplemental materials in partnership with teachers and families.

# TOSS LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

## APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENTS /DIRECTORS

- Supports the appointment of superintendents by the elected local board of education and urges the TN General Assembly to reject any proposals that would lead to the election of school superintendents/directors in the state.

## ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENTS

- Supports implementing a working group, consisting of TOSS leadership, superintendents, and other key stakeholders, to convene before changes of the Accountability System can be submitted for approval to the USDOE.
- Supports protecting local flexibility for curriculum and operational decisions.
- Supports a more comprehensive view of school effectiveness than the “single letter grading” of schools.
- Supports the continuation of using both growth and achievement in our state approved accountability system.

## COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

- Supports increased teacher licensure flexibility and incentivizing districts with partnerships with local industry/ post-secondary institutions.
- Supports expanding the definition of "ready-graduate" to include more career pathway options.
- Supports improvements to current graduation requirements that better address the needs of students and our local and state economies.

## EDUCATION FUNDING

- Supports improving Tennessee’s teacher salary ranking against neighboring states to address teacher and staff shortages.
- Supports funding for Pre-K education, while maintaining local flexibility and autonomy for all school funding.

## SCHOOL SAFETY

- Supports additional and recurring funds for all school safety measures, school resource officers, and safety personnel in all schools.

## VOUCHERS

- Opposes any legislation that uses public funds to sponsor private school vouchers or education savings accounts. Public funds should remain with public education.

## OTHER

- Encourages the TN General Assembly to not approve any unfunded mandates.