

RESOLUTION

By the

Board of Directors

Of the

Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents

As Authorized by

The Members of the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents

And the

State Superintendent Study Council

Whereas, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee adopted language that became Chapter 2 of the Public Acts of the First Extraordinary Session of the 112th General Assembly, which became effective on January 22, 2021; and,

Whereas, there are varying opinions within the education law community regarding the inclusion of 2020-2021 testing data in the calculation of Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) based on the interpretation of Public Chapter 2; and,

Whereas, the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS) and the State Superintendent Study Council (SSC) recognize the importance of collaborating with the Tennessee General Assembly to clarify the original expressed intent of Public Chapter 2; and,

Whereas, on July 23, 2021 the State Board of Education included agenda Item EE, titled “Annual Performance Goals for 2021-2022” for first and final reading as well as the adoption of a Department of Education recommendation regarding said goals; and, upon thoughtful deliberation the State Board of Education voted to delay this item and seek additional stakeholder input; and, the Department of Education is allowing time for superintendents to work with the General Assembly on needed legislation to address this issue before submitting an AMO recommendation to the State Board of Education; and,

Whereas, since this meeting, collective and meaningful discussion from Tennessee superintendents has produced many valid considerations supporting why the 2020-2021 data should be used in the AMO calculation, which include the following:

- Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS), State Superintendent Study Council (SSC), State Board of Education, and the Tennessee Department of Education collaboratively collected stakeholder input to determine the most accurate metric for the 2021-2022 AMO calculation;

- Tennessee public schools received unprecedented federal support to accommodate for learning loss through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER);
- The exceptional participation rate of 95% by Tennessee students in statewide testing in spring of 2021, that not only met but far exceeded the Department of Education's goal of 80%:
 - "If 80 percent (80%) or more of an LEA's or public charter school's students enrolled in grades three through twelve (3-12) participate in the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests administered in the 2020-2021 school year, then notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, student performance and student growth data from TCAP tests administered in the 2020-2021 school year shall not be used to identify a school as a priority school or to assign a school to the achievement school district" (Public Chapter 2);
- The influence of COVID-19 on school districts and students in Tennessee has heavily impacted, not only the safety of students and staff, but also the day-to-day operations of all school systems;
- COVID-19 remains a danger in Tennessee and affects the ability of school districts to function as they would in a "non-COVID" year;
- Use of the 2020-2021 data validates the extraordinary efforts of school districts' staffs, students, and families to support teaching and learning in an abnormal year; now, therefore,

Be it resolved that the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS), the organization that collectively speaks on behalf of all school superintendents in Tennessee, and the State Superintendent Study Council (SSC), advocate for transparent accountability in all school districts and that inclusion of TN Ready data collected in the 2020-2021 school year should be used to calculate the Annual Measureable Objectives (AMO) for 2021-2022 school year;

Be it further resolved that to achieve the clearest, most accurate, and realistic depiction of the academic performance of Tennessee students and to equitably set goals and targets for future school years require that student data from the 2020-2021 academic year be used; and,

Be it further resolved Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents and the State Superintendent Study Council seek the assistance of the House of Representatives Education Committee, the Senate Education Committee, and the Tennessee General Assembly in establishing the use of the 2020-21 TN-Ready data in setting 2021-2022 AMO's.

Adopted and approved this 25th day of October, 2021.

DocuSigned by:
Danny K. Hays
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President
Tennessee Organization of
School Superintendents

DocuSigned by:
Steve Starnes
62A76E0D5C7A2E1

Chair
State Superintendent Study Council

DocuSigned by:
Dale Lynch
62A76E0D5C7A2E1

Executive Director
Tennessee Organization of
School Superintendents