

HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

FUTURE READY

Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

RESOLUTION REQUESTING GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE TENNESSEE INVESTMENT IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ACT (TISA) FUNDING FORMULA

WHEREAS, the Hardeman County Board of Education is charged with governing the school district so that all students receive the best educational opportunities in order to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the education of eligible preschool students with special needs between the ages of three (3) and five (5) is required by federal law under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and monitored by the Tennessee Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, despite this requirement by the federal government and monitoring by the Tennessee Department of Education, even preschool students eligible for such a program due to their special needs are not currently considered in the TISA funding formula; and

WHEREAS, under IDEA, these students must be educated in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) possible, which means that students with disabilities must learn in classrooms alongside their "typical peers" without disabilities to the greatest extent appropriate; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Education, Tennessee currently serves over 13,000 preschool students each year who are eligible for individualized special education services under IDEA; and

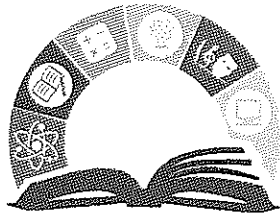
WHEREAS, many of these students require additional services such as speech and occupational therapy; and

WHEREAS, federal law and state guidance require LEAs to budget for staff needed to assist and instruct these students; and

WHEREAS, while TISA directly ties funding dollars to individual students; and

WHEREAS, TISA currently does not fund either preschool students with a qualifying special need or the additional typical peers needed to ensure these classrooms comply with federal law and state guidance for best practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hardeman County Board of Education urges the General Assembly to amend Tennessee Code Annotated 49-3-103 by including both preschool students who are eligible to receive special education services under IDEA and the required typical peers in the TISA funding formula.



HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

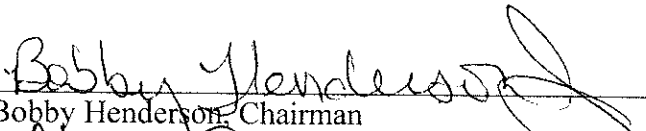
FUTURE READY

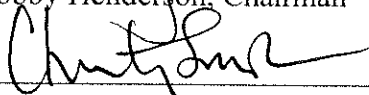
Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

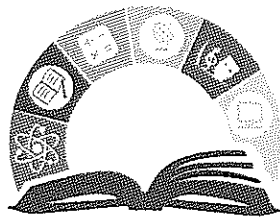
grade for each of the individual school performance indicators of achievement, growth, growth of the students performing in the bottom twenty-five percent (25%), and career and college readiness.

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted as of this 11th day of January, 2024.

HARDEMAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION


Bobby Henderson, Chairman


Christy Smith, Ed.D., Director of Schools



HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

FUTURE READY

Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

RESOLUTION REQUESTING GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED § 49-1-228 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PUBLISH A LETTER GRADE FOR EACH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

WHEREAS, the Hardeman County Board of Education is charged with governing the school district so that all students receive the best educational opportunities in order to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated 49-1-228 requires that “the Department of Education shall develop a school grading system that annually assigns A, B, C, D, and F letter grades to schools...”; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated 49-1-228 further instructs the Tennessee Department of Education to consider the following indicators of school performance in the development of this grading system: (1) Student performance on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests or end-of-course exams; (2) Student growth as indicated by the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) data or data from other measures of student growth; and (3) Other outcome indicators of student achievement that the Department finds to be reliable measures of school performance; and

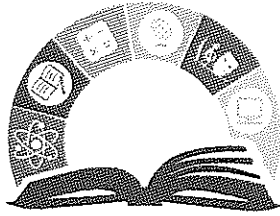
WHEREAS, the Department announced it will use the following performance indicators and weights to determine schools’ letter grades: achievement – 50%, growth – 40%, and growth of students performing in the bottom twenty-five percent (25%) of a school – 10% (for elementary and middle schools); achievement – 50%, growth – 30%, growth of the students performing in the bottom twenty-five percent (25%) of a school – 10%, and career and college readiness – 10% (for high schools); and

WHEREAS, while presenting their methodology for determining schools’ letter grades, the Department regularly communicated the need for an accountability system which transparently indicates schools’ performance for families and the public; and

WHEREAS, multiple factors impact a child’s education that cannot be measured by a single letter grade; and

WHEREAS, the current letter grade calculation already requires the Department to determine schools’ sub scores on each of the performance indicators used in their overall letter grade calculation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hardeman County Board of Education urges the General Assembly to amend Tennessee Code Annotated 49-1-228 to require the Department of Education to publish, in addition to each school’s overall letter grade, a letter



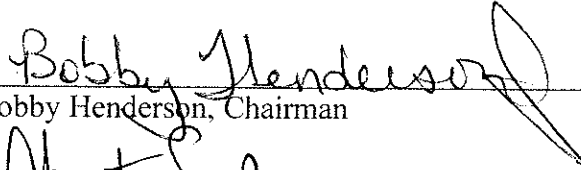
HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

FUTURE READY

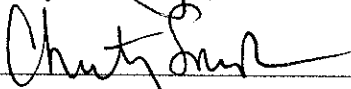
Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted as of this 11th day of January, 2024.

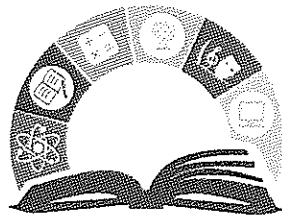
HARDEMAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



Bobby Henderson, Chairman



Christy Smith, Ed.D., Director of Schools



HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

FUTURE READY

Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

RESOLUTION REQUESTING GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED § 49-5-106 TO ALLOW FOR TEACHERS OF COURSES FOR WHICH AN END-OF-COURSE EXAM IS REQUIRED TO BE GRANTED A TEMPORARY TEACHING PERMIT

WHEREAS, the Hardeman County Board of Education is charged with governing the school district so that all students receive the best educational opportunities in order to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee and many other states continue to experience a shortage of licensed teachers, particularly in specialized, hard-to-staff subject areas; and

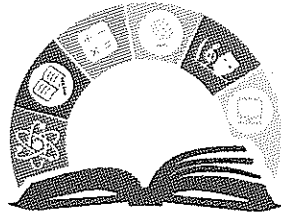
WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated 49-5-106 allows the Commissioner of Education to grant, under certain circumstances, a temporary permit to teach in an unfilled position to a person recommended by a Director of Schools; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated 49-5-106 does not allow the Commissioner of Education to grant a temporary teaching permit to an individual teaching a course for which an end-of-course examination is required; and

WHEREAS, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with no licensed teacher candidates for a vacancy might be able to identify non-licensed candidates with relevant education and experience that would be applicable in courses for which an end-of-course examination is required; and

WHEREAS, LEAs are held accountable for student performance on EOC examinations and should have the discretion to request temporary permits for teachers who they believe are the best candidate available in any given subject, even in those for which end-of-course examinations are required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hardeman County Board of Education urges the General Assembly to amend Tennessee Code Annotated 49-5-106 to allow the Commissioner of Education to grant temporary teaching permits for courses for which an end-of-course examination is required.



HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

FUTURE READY

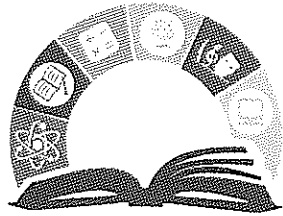
Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted as of this 11th day of January, 20 24.

HARDEMAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Bobby Henderson
Bobby Henderson, Chairman

Christy Smith
Christy Smith, Ed.D., Director of Schools



HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

FUTURE READY

Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

RESOLUTION REQUESTING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XI, SECTION 5, OF THE TENNESSEE CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the Hardeman County Board of Education is charged with governing the school district so that all students receive the best educational opportunities in order to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce;

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 5, of the Tennessee Constitution prohibits any lotteries or lottery type events except as provided in said Article; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Constitution should be amended to allow officially recognized Boards of Education to hold a lottery type event to assist in raising money for educational programs and extracurricular activities held within the school district; and

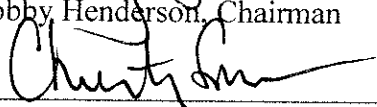
WHEREAS, the additional funding generated by these events would create a significant benefit as it would allow school districts the opportunity to better support current educational programs and extracurricular activities as well as provide the opportunity to create new ones.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hardeman County Board of Education urges the General Assembly to enact an amendment to Article XI, Section 5, of the Tennessee Constitution to allow Boards of Education to conduct lotteries or lottery-type events to obtain funds that will be solely and exclusively used to supplement the educational and extracurricular programs officially recognized and approved by said Boards of Education.

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted as of this 11th day of January, 2024.

HARDEMAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION


Bobby Henderson, Chairman


Christy Smith, Ed.D., Director of Schools



HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

FUTURE READY

Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

RESOLUTION OPPOSING GOVERNOR LEE'S EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, in Article XI, Section 12, states that the Tennessee legislature "shall provide for the maintenance, support, and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools;" and

WHEREAS, the fulfillment of this constitutional guarantee is heavily reliant upon adequate state funding, which is vital for equipping schools with the necessary resources to serve the various needs of Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, the Hardeman County Board of Education is charged with governing the school district so that all students, regardless of background, needs, or ability, receive the best possible educational opportunities in order to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Hardeman County is an educational community that serves a student population of 3210 students, with 48% of those coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Hardeman County offers an array of specialized programs including special education services, career and technical education training aligned with local workforce needs, STEM, early childhood education services, middle college, alternative education, and dual enrollment which are invaluable for meeting both individual student needs and the Tennessee Constitution's requirement of a free and public education; and

WHEREAS, Hardeman County is a cornerstone of the local community, not only providing education services to all students regardless of background, need, or ability, but also employing 550 staff members;

WHEREAS, Hardeman County is committed to maintaining local control over its schools, ensuring that they are reflective of the community's needs and values; and

WHEREAS, Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) threaten the district's ability to maintain the quality of its educational offerings as ESAs would divert state funds to private actors and disrupt local control of education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hardeman County Board of Education hereby expresses its opposition to the Governor's "Education Freedom Act" as well as any other voucher or Education Savings Account legislation due to the detrimental impacts these programs will have on our students, schools, and community, and



HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS


FUTURE READY

Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

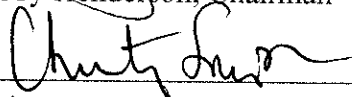
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hardeman County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to consider the effects that Education Savings Accounts will have on local school districts and to instead seek out ways to support and strengthen public schools throughout the state.

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted as of this 11th day of January, 2024.

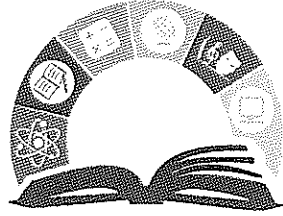
HARDEMAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



Bobby Henderson, Chairman



Christy Smith, Ed.D., Director of Schools



HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

FUTURE READY

Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LIFTING THE MORATORIUM ON THE CREATION OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, the Hardeman County Board of Education is charged with governing the school district so that all students receive the best educational opportunities in order to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, local Boards of Education in Tennessee face multiple accountability standards at the national, state and local level for student and school performance but are dependent upon other elected bodies for the fiscal resources needed to meet those standards; and

WHEREAS, local Boards of Education are elected for the sole purpose of overseeing public education in the community and have a deeper understanding of the needs of their school district and the students it serves; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, it would benefit all Boards of Education if an option were available for an existing school district to convert to a special school district, allowing that district to have fiscal independence when making decisions for its students; and

WHEREAS, fiscal independence would allow school districts to be their own funding body and have fiscal authority to approve a budget based on a tax rate for education as established in a legislative act; and

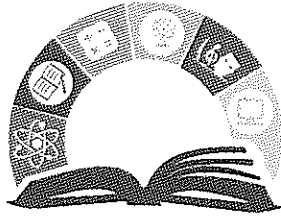
WHEREAS, the majority of elected Boards of Education in the country are fiscally independent – with thirty (30) states having one hundred percent (100%) fiscally independent school districts; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee currently has fourteen (14) special school districts, many of which are among the state's most successful school districts; and

WHEREAS, however, in 1982, the Tennessee General Assembly placed a moratorium on the creation of new special school districts; and

WHEREAS, by lifting the moratorium on the creation of special school districts, the General Assembly could provide fiscal independence for local Boards of Education who are elected for the purpose of leading the school district and determine its needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tennessee School Boards Association hereby urges the General Assembly to lift the moratorium on the creation of new special school districts and allow an existing school district the option to convert into a special school district.



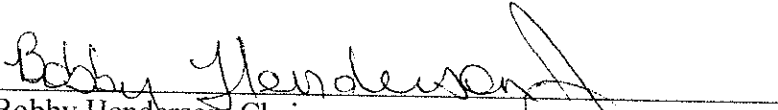
HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

FUTURE READY

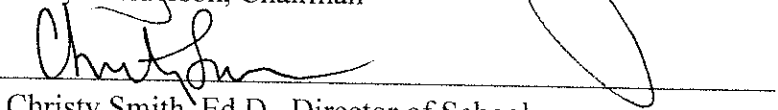
Christy D. Smith, Ed.D. - Director of Schools

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted as of this 11th day of January, 2024.

HARDEMAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



Bobby Henderson, Chairman



Christy Smith, Ed.D., Director of Schools