

**RESOLUTION OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
IN SUPPORT OF EXTENDING PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 652
FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a global pandemic that can lead to serious illness or death and spreads through close contact among individuals; and

WHEREAS, beginning on March 12, 2020, Governor Bill Lee declared Tennessee to be in a state of emergency until June 30, 2020, pursuant to Executive Orders 14 and 36, due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, beginning on March 16, 2020, Tennessee schools were closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, in response to requests made by Governor Bill Lee that they close to combat the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2020, the Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation to ensure that school districts, schools, teachers, and students were held harmless from testing requirements and accountability measures to provide some relief to Tennesseans during these difficult and uncertain times for the 2019-2020 school year;

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, Governor Bill Lee signed Public Chapter No. 652 which removed the requirement for TNReady testing, end-of-course examinations, and other related testing and assessments; the Chapter also suspended the student growth measure of teacher's evaluation, with other teacher evaluation exemption, and allowed the State Board of Education to promulgate necessary rules to address the issues created by COVID-19 in the 2019-2020 school year. As such, the State has established a precedent for suspending standardized testing as the pandemic situation warrants;

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, the Tennessee State Board of Education approved Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-.01, which requires Tennessee school district provide students in grades one (1) through twelve (12) access to six and one half (6 ½) hours of instructional time each school day during the 2020-2021 school year, even if there are school closures or disruptions related to outbreaks of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order 50 signed by Governor Bill Lee on June 29, 2020, the state of Tennessee is to remain in a state of emergency until at least August 29, 2020 and COVID-19 continues to spread at a rapid rate in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools, in order to comply with State Board requirements, will likely have to engage in remote learning, in whole or in part, during the 2020-2021 academic school year due to the continued spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to State Board Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-.01, Tennessee school districts are required to create and implement their own plans to facilitate continuous learning in light of the continued spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be implementing different plans for learning from county to county across the state for the 2020-2021 school year, based upon the needs of their students and COVID-19 outbreaks in each county; and the district's ability or lack thereof to provide the needed technology resources; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee students will likely face significant academic and behavioral regression upon returning to school, having lost approximately two (2) months of standard instruction and attendance due to the extended closure; and

WHEREAS, when schools resume in August 2020, students will have spent approximately five (5) consecutive months out of schools; and

WHEREAS, it will be difficult for school districts to comply with test security requirements if students are engaging in remote learning due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be focused not only on student growth and safety, but also recoupment of academic skills lost during the extended closure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

Supports and respectfully requests the State of Tennessee to suspend all state required student assessments, including but not limited to, TNReady testing, and suspend the student growth measure and/or any other portion of teacher evaluations directly related to student assessments to provide some relief to Tennesseans during these difficult and uncertain times and extend provisions contained in Public Chapter No. 652 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Votes: 8 In Favor 0 Against 0 Abstain

Approved this 8th day of September, 2020.



Tommy Stevenson, Board Chairman



Kevin Posey, Vice Chairman




Jared Bradley



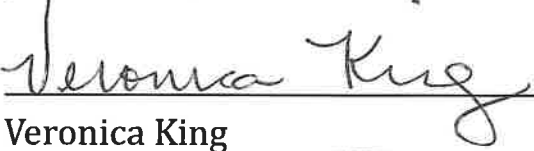
Jimmy Daniel



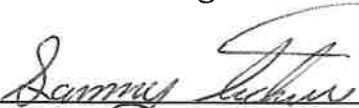
Rex Dunn



Jennifer Haynes



Veronica King



Sammy Tucker

A copy of Public Chapter No. 652 is attached to this resolution.