

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND  
TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED § 49-6-3115 TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
TO MAKE RETENTION DECISIONS FOR THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the role of the Kingsport City Schools Board of Education is defined in Board Policy 1.101, which describes the actions taken by the Board to provide the best educational opportunities possible for all children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kingsport City Schools Board of Education believes that retention decisions regarding children should be research-based, informed by multiple data sources, and include parental/guardian input; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee State Board of Education's Promotion and Retention Policy 3.300 lists a minimum of factors to be considered when identifying students for retention, including:

1. The student's ability to perform at the expectations of the current grade-level standards;
2. The results of local assessments, screening, or monitoring tools;
3. State assessments, as applicable;
4. The overall academic achievement of the student;
5. The student's likelihood of success with more difficult material if promoted to the next grade;
6. The student's attendance record; and
7. The student's social and emotional maturity; and

**WHEREAS**, the same Tennessee State Board of Education policy notes that "Retention shall be considered only when it is in the best interests of the student;" and;

**WHEREAS**, retention may have adverse effects on students, including those with disabilities and at-risk students; and

**WHEREAS**, other states that have adopted legislation regarding retention of third grade students have included a provision allowing school districts to promote students not proficient in ELA as measured by standardized tests based on school district data demonstrating an understanding of ELA via alternative knowledge assessments.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Kingsport City Schools Board of Education urges the General Assembly to amend Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-3115 to allow school districts to make retention decisions for all students based upon the totality of data, discussion among stakeholders, and the expertise of education professionals regarding the best interests of each student.



## Board of Education

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Passed and approved on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Woods".

Mrs. Melissa Woods  
President, Board of Education

Mr. Todd Golden  
Vice President, Board of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Byers".

Mrs. Julie Byers  
Board Member

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Fletcher".  

Dr. Brandon Fletcher  
Board Member

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Welch".  

Mr. Jim Welch  
Board Member

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Mrs. Melissa Woods – President Mr. Todd Golden – Vice President  
Mrs. Julie Byers Dr. Brandon Fletcher Mr. Jim Welch  
Superintendent Dr. Jeff Moorhouse