


BENTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Making  Difference for All Students



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BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION 2023-03 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 mission of the Benton County Board of Education is to prepare all students for lives of learning, integrity, and service by providing an enjoyable, safe, and caring educational experience; and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Education believes that retention decisions regarding children should be research-based, informed by multiple data sources, and include parental 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 Benton County 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.

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