



HAMBLEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Arnold W. Bunch, Jr., Superintendent of Schools

HAMBLEN 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 role of the Hamblen County Board of Education is defined in Board Policy 1.101, which includes striving to provide the best educational opportunities possible for all children; and
WHEREAS, the Hamblen 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 4.603 lists a minimum of factors to be considered when identifying students for retention, including:

1. Mastery of Essential Competencies;
2. Special procedures for special students;
3. Flexible placement;
4. Attendance;
5. Conduct;
6. Previous retention;
7. Grade level


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 Hamblen 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.

ADOPTED THIS 4TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2022.

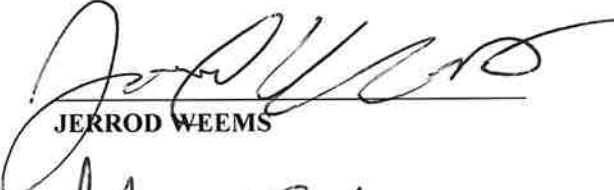

CAROLYN HOLT CLAWSON, CHAIRMAN


JIM GRIGSBY, VICE-CHAIRMAN


DR. JOE GIBSON

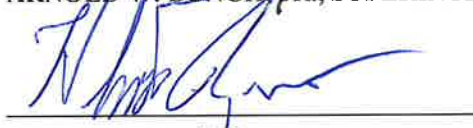

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:
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