



Charlotte Mullins  
Director of Schools

# Hancock County Schools

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## **Hancock County Board of Education Resolution Requesting General Assembly to Amend Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-3115 to Allow School Districts to Make Retention Decisions for Students**

WHEREAS, the role of the Hancock County Board of Education is defined in Board Policy 1.101, which includes striving to provide the best educational opportunities for all children; and,

WHEREAS, during its 2021 first extraordinary session, the Tennessee General Assembly adopted Public Chapter No.1, now codified as T.C.A. 49-6-3115, which provides in pertinent part that, “Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, a student in third-grade shall not be promoted to the next grade level unless the student is determined to be proficient in English language arts (ELA) based on the student achieving a performance level rating of “on track” or “mastered” on the ELA portion of the student's most recent Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) test”; and,

WHEREAS, the Hancock County Board of Education believes that retention decisions regarding students 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. 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,

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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, on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2023, that the Hancock 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.

  
School Board Chair

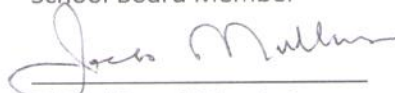
  
School Board Vice-Chair

  
School Board Secretary

  
School Board Member

  
School Board Member

  
School Board Member

  
School Board Member

  
School Board Member