



Knox County Board of Education 2018 Legislative Priorities

The Knox County Board of Education has identified the following legislative priorities:

Local Control of Schools

The Knox County Board of Education believes that local boards of education are best equipped and informed to make decisions to address the needs and challenges of their local schools. The Board opposes any efforts to diminish or impede this local control.

Funding for Public Education

The Knox County Board of Education believes it is crucial to the future of our state that the Legislature invest more in public education and fully fund the Basic Education Program (BEP).

Funding of RTI² Positions

The Knox County Board of Education urges the General Assembly to amend the BEP formula to include funding for Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²) positions within school districts.

Funding of School Nurse Positions

The Knox County Board of Education urges the General Assembly to amend the BEP formula for school nurses to one (1) nurse per 750 students based upon the recommendation of the BEP Review Committee which also echoes the recommendations of the National Association of School Nurses, the American Association of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Opposition to School Vouchers

The Board of Education opposes any legislation to create a voucher program in Tennessee diverting money to private schools that is intended for public education. Private schools are not required to serve all students nor meet Tennessee's nationally recognized standards and/or accountability measures. Vouchers would therefore diminish equal opportunity and public oversight of education. The Board supports school choice, within the public school system, for any student who is zoned to a school that is failing to meet accountability measures or student needs.

Teacher Performance Evaluation

The Knox County Board of Education embraces annual performance evaluations as a critical professional development and instructional improvement tool. However, it urges the Tennessee Legislature and State Board of Education to develop new guidelines and criteria for teacher evaluation models using educator input and that more adequately represent teacher performance. Until these new guidelines are developed, TEAM summative scores should only be used in an advisory capacity and not as the sole determinative factor in forming human capital decisions.

School Grading

The Knox County Board of Education opposes legislation requiring the A-F grading of public schools. We would like to see an accountability system that meets the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that does not stigmatize schools and students.

Assessments

The Knox County Board of Education opposes the optional Grade 2 assessment that was designed to provide data and feedback to both second and third grade teachers to help ensure students are on track to master grade-level content from the early grades because it is developmentally inappropriate for students at this age-level. The mandatory implementation of this assessment state-wide is also opposed.

The Knox County Board of Education also opposes the mandatory implementation of the Kindergarten Entry Inventory (KEI) due to the extensive amount of time required for its administration.