



Knox County Board of Education

2017 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.

Charter Schools

The Board believes that the Legislature should amend state law to enable local boards of education to retain a percentage of funds from charter schools to cover the costs of district oversight and administration.

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.

Property Tax Reappraisals

The Board opposes the state requirement that net tax revenues be the same before and after quadrennial property reappraisals, which over an extended period of time, forces the property tax rate down to unacceptable levels. Rather than being forced to raise the tax rate periodically, county commissioners should be given the option to lower it.