

2025 Legislative Session Recap

Policy and Legislative Affairs



Meet the Policy & Legislative Affairs Team



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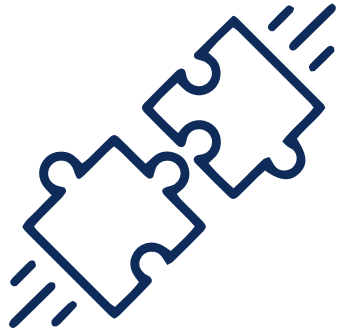


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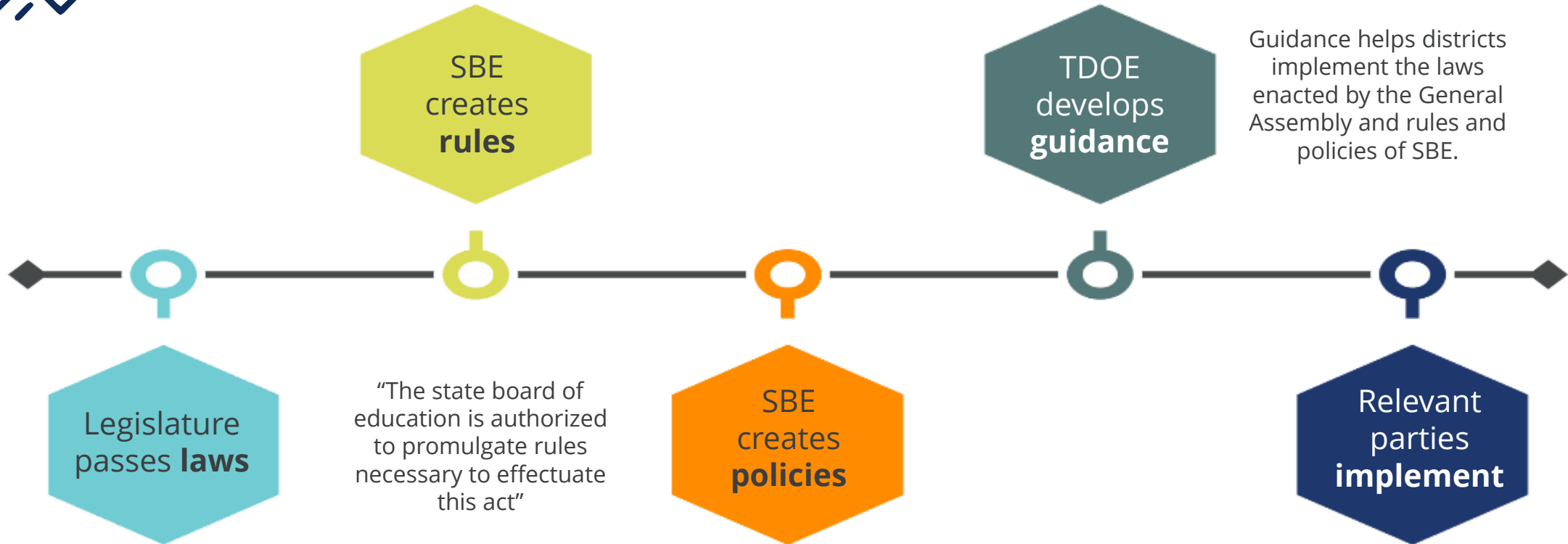
What do we do?

- Our team helps advance the department's strategic priorities with internal and external stakeholders.
- We advocate for the policy positions of the department and the Governor before the members of the Tennessee General Assembly.
- We coordinate with the State Board of Education in the development of policies and rules to implement the laws passed by the Tennessee General Assembly and the department's key priorities.





State Level Policymaking



1st Extraordinary Session of 2025

- Teacher Bonuses
- TISA Funding Floor
- Maintenance & Infrastructure
- Statewide School Choice
- More than just education!

2025 Legislative Session Recap

- Approx 80 education/operations related bills passed.
- The Department annually produces a summary report of laws passed from legislative session and posts it on our website under Legal Services > [Legal Resources Toolkit](#).
- We are currently developing the 2025 report and will post it online in the coming weeks.

Academics and Instruction

- **Public Chapter 103 (HB932/SB897)**

- Requires local boards of education and public charter school governing bodies to adopt a policy that prohibits a student from using a wireless communication device during instructional time, except in certain circumstances.

- **HB85/SB158**

- Increases, from 130 minutes per full school week to 40 minutes per school day, the minimum amount of physical activity required for elementary school students and establishes additional requirements for the minimum amount of physical activity required for elementary school students.



School Finance

- **Public Chapter 98 (HB546/SB509):**

- Authorizes a local government to execute a cooperative purchasing agreement with other local, state, and federal governmental entities for purposes of purchasing materials, labor, and services used for maintenance, operations, component replacement, or repairs of existing facilities and grounds owned or operated by an LEA or by a local government agency.

- **HB1163/SB1019**

- Requires the Department to allocate the state share of the TISA funds generated by student members of a public charter school in the prior school year directly to the public charter school instead of allocating such funds to the LEA in which the public charter school is located.

- **HB1385/SB1417**

- Requires SSOs that are not booster clubs, parent teacher associations, parent teacher organizations, or parent teacher support associations to annually provide a detailed report of the organization's receipts and expenditures to the department of education by July 1 each year.



School Operations

- **HB826/SB895**

- Clarifies the Families' Rights and Responsibilities Act. Allows for basic first aid to be administered without parental consent. Specifies that prior parental consent is not required for a government entity to initiate a video or voice recording of a child for an activity approved by the school related to academic instruction. However, parental consent is required before the video or voice recording is published.

- **HB1308/SB1272**

- Makes various statutory changes to address a variety of issues to increase efficiency, reduce administrative burden on schools, and improve student outcomes. Specific changes include:
 - Excluding virtual school students in the calculation of a district's TISA allocation for the purposes of the safety net provision.
 - Adjusting statute to allow the department to administer any appropriated grant funds to support all forms of student tutoring supports, not just online tutoring supports.
 - Increasing flexibility for how districts can use stockpile and remote instruction days in the event of future natural disasters.

- **HB134/SB476**

- Starting August 1, 2027, prohibits LEAs and public charter schools from selling or providing to students on school property through a school nutrition program food or beverage items that contain Allura Red AC (Red 40).



School Personnel

- **HB1323/SB1311**

- Creates a new “limited occupational teaching license” to allow an individual with industry or work experience to obtain an occupational license without attending an EPP. Clarifies requirements for emergency teaching credentials, including temporary teaching permits and endorsement exemptions.

- **HB1125/SB602**

- Authorizes an LEA to compensate the estate of a teacher the unused and accrued annual and sick leave upon the teacher’s death.

- **HB1253/SB1410**

- Specifies that the 6 weeks of paid parental leave of a teacher must be taken consecutively or in no less than 1 week increments as determined by local board policy. Also increases from 20 to 30 days, the maximum number of consecutive days a substitute teacher may substitute for a regular teacher.



School Safety

- **HB1088/SB946**

- Requires an LEA that receives credible information regarding a threat of violence or significantly disruptive behavior directed toward, or occurring on the grounds of a public school in the LEA, and that reports the threat or disruptive behavior to a state or local law enforcement agency, to notify the parents and guardians of students enrolled in the public school of the same threat or disruptive behavior within 48 hours of the LEA making its report to law enforcement.

- **HB764/SB290**

- Specifies that certain physical searches of students and searches of lockers, vehicles, and other property must be conducted by a school resource officer (SRO), school security officer (SSO), or school administrator who has completed a training program provided by the Department.



Advisory Committees and Reports

- **HB675/SB415**

- Creates an advisory committee on K-12 education to study teacher evaluation, state and locally mandated assessments, instructional hour requirements, graduation substitutions, and educator licensure and training requirements. Report due December 31, 2025.

- **HB958/SB950**

- Creates a federal education deregulation cooperation task force to prepare the state for potential deregulation of federal laws, regulations, requirements and guidance for K-12 education. Report due December 31, 2025.

- **HB410/SB246**

- Requires the Department to convene a working group to study and develop best practices and strategies for English language learner (EL) instruction. Report due January 1, 2026.

- **HB1193/SB870**

- Requires the Department to conduct a landscape analysis on teacher evaluation practices in Tennessee and other states. Also requires the Department to convene a teacher evaluation advisory committee to assist with the report. Report due January 31, 2026.



Bills Not Passed Related to Finance

- **HB348/SB614**

- Would have required a local funding body that failed to appropriate or allocate the full amount budgeted to the LEA to appropriate and allocate the unfunded portion to the LEA in the following fiscal year before increasing its MOE to other local divisions.

- **HB164**

- Would have made TISA allocations based on real time enrollment data, rather than prior year enrollment. Would have provided for infrastructure stipends based on square footage.

- **HB9/SB426 and HB226/SB637**

- Would have expanded the number of LEAs who could receive weighted funding for being considered a small district.

- **HB401/SB679**

- Would have added pre-kindergarten students with disabilities and their peer models to the categories of students who generate education funding through TISA.



Resources

- TDOE Legislative Report
 - Compiles new laws pertaining to education, available early summer.
- Tennessee General Assembly
 - For recently passed laws, check the Secretary of State's website for Tennessee 114th General Assembly Public Acts.
- Tennessee State Board of Education
- Tennessee Code Annotated
 - Title 49 includes all education-related laws





Thank You!

Contact Info or Questions?

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