

Federal and State Education Policy Overview

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Agenda

- Federal and State Government Overview
- Comparison of Federal and State Law
- State Legislative Update, Federal Education



Federal and State Government Overview

Congress and the Tennessee General Assembly (TGA)

- Congress and the TGA are the legislative branches of federal and state government.
- **House of Representatives** ("lower house") and **Senate** ("upper house")
- **Differences between the two chambers:**
 - Number of years in term
 - Age and residency requirements
 - Some legislative powers

United States Congress

- **435** Representatives and **100** Senators.
 - ***Representatives:***
 - (1) At least 25 years old and (2) US citizen for 7 years
 - 2-year terms
 - ***Senators:***
 - (1) At least 30 years old and (2) US citizen for 9 years
 - 6-year terms
- **9** Representatives and **2** Senators currently serving Tennessee

Tennessee General Assembly (TGA)

- **99** Representatives and **33** Senators
 - ***Representatives:***
 - (1) At least 21 years old, (2) a citizen of the state for at least 3 years, and (3) a resident of the represented county for at least one year before the election
 - 2-year terms
 - ***Senators:***
 - (1) At least 30 years old, (2) a citizen of the state for at least 3 years, and (3) a resident of the represented county for at least one year before the election
 - 4-year terms
- TGA meets for 90 legislative days in regular session over the two-year assembly period.

114th General Assembly

- Current leadership of TGA : House Speaker Sexton and Lt. Governor McNally
- Organizational and Regular Session: January 14th – April 22nd, 2025
- 1st Extraordinary Session of the 114th General Assembly
- [Who is your state Representative and Senator?](#)

Congress and the Tennessee General Assembly (TGA) Responsibilities

- **Lawmaking**

- Draft and pass proposed legislation
- Hold committee hearings to support the legislative process

- **Oversight of the Executive Branch**

- Confirm or reject nominations from the executive branch (President and Governor)
- Adjust funding of government agencies and programs (“power of the purse”)

- **Represent interests of constituents**

Legislation of Bills

- Refers to policy initiative and ideas that become law.
- Federal Bill Legislation:
 - **United States Code (USC)**
 - **Code of Federal Regulation (CFR)**

Legislation of Bills

- Tennessee Bill Legislation:
 - **Tennessee Code** (e.g., T.C.A. § 49-6-1018)
 - **Uniform Administrative Procedures Act** (UAPA)
- Example: Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Legislation of Funding

- Refers to laws that are directly tied to funding.
- Examples:
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B § 611
 - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504")
 - Title III, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Legislation of Funding

- Other ESSA Titles providing supplemental funding:
 - Title I, Part A: Low-income students
 - Title II, Part A: Effective instruction
 - Title IV, Part A: Extended learning programs
 - Title IX, Part A: Homeless children and youth

Comparison of Federal and State Law

Federal and State Law Parallels

- **Serving Students with Disabilities via an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**
 - **Federal:** Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 - **State:** Tennessee Code Title 49, Chapter 10, Part 1

- **Identification of English Learners**
 - **Federal:** Equal Educational Opportunities Act (EEOA)
 - **State:** Tennessee State Board of Education (SBE) Rule 0520-01-19



Federal and State Law Parallels

- **School Nutrition:**

- ***Federal:*** 7 CFR 210 (National School Lunch Program)
- ***State:*** Tennessee SBE Rule 0520-01-06

Federal and State Law Parallels

- **Race, Color or National Origin Discrimination**

- **Federal:** Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- **State:** Tenn. Code. Ann. § 49-50-1801

- **Sex-based Discrimination in Education Programs**

- **Federal:** Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- **State:** Tenn. Code. Ann. § 49-50-1801



State Legislative Update, Federal Education

Legislative Update of Federal Requirements

- **2023: Federal Education Funding Task Force**
 - Considered options:
 - Exercising current flexibilities
 - Requesting waivers for specific requirements
 - Seeking changes through a reauthorization of federal law
 - Creating legislative involvement in the grant processes

Legislative Update of Federal Requirements

- **Chapter 722 (PC 722) of the Public Acts of 2024**
 - U.S. Department of Education's (USDOE) interpretations and directives
 - Interpretations and directives sent to the members of the joint government operations rule review committees

Legislative Update of Federal Requirements

- **Chapter 454 (PC 454) of the Public Acts of 2025**
 - Creates a federal education deregulation task force
 - Task force report development
 - First meeting took place on July 29th, 2025



Questions?

2025
FEDERAL
PROGRAMS
INSTITUTE

MEMPHIS ★
TO
BRISTOL ★

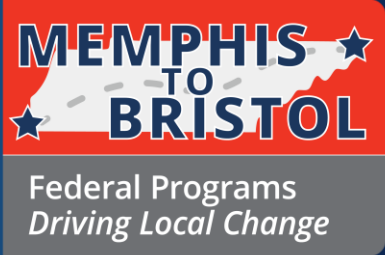
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