

**BILLS FILED FOR THE 109TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT MAY HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT ON
MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOLS**

HB 1049/SB 0999

School Vouchers

Enacts the “Tennessee Choice and Opportunity Scholarship Act.”

When fully implemented, will allow 20,000 students to attend private schools using public tax dollars. Initially, affects schools in the bottom 5% of schools in overall achievement. However, unused vouchers can be used by any student in the district.

Voucher students—not entire private school—will be administered TCAP. Required special education services will be only those services already provided by the receiving school; if special education students need other services, parents can sign off to not receive those services. All state and local funds for the student will shift from the public school to the private. Quota: 5,000 students for FY 2016-17; 7,500 for 17-18.; 10,000 for 18-19; 20,000 for 19-20.

Fiscal Impact: For districts affected, shift of state and local funds to private schools: FY 2016-17, \$16,982,500; FY 2017-18, \$26,111,250; FY 2018-19, \$35,685,000; FY 2019-20 and subsequent years, an amount exceeding \$71,370,000. Plus, will require an increase in recurring state expenditures for state personnel to administer (2 new positions, benefits, printing, travel, etc.): \$185,008.

HB 1418/ SB 1439

Teaching of Religion

Prohibits the state board from including religious doctrine in the curriculum standards for grades prior to 10th grade.

HB 1905/ SB 2186

Appropriate Inclusion of Religion

Requires local school board to adopt a policy regarding the appropriate inclusion of religion in local curriculum and curriculum materials and requires opportunity for public comment before adoption. District must make public a syllabus for all grade 6-12 courses in social studies, math, science, and ELA. Syllabus must include a course calendar that contains standards, objectives, and topics covered; major assignments acquired; and procedures for parent access to instructional materials.

HB 0651/ SB 0600

Parent Trigger

This bill seems to be latent, but it is still available to be discussed/voted on. Allows parents in bottom 10% of schools to petition for restructuring of a school to a charter school or for restructuring under a transformation model or turnaround mode. Parents representing 51% of students are required to sign the petition for this to occur; type of restructure determined by parent petition.

Estimated fiscal impact: “To the extent that parents successfully petition for the restructuring of a school, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$100,000. Successful petitions to a public charter school model will also require a transfer of state and local funding from the LEA to the public charter school. The amount of any such transfer cannot be quantified and is dependent upon multiple unknown factors.”

HB 1425/ SB 2633

Limits Raises of DOS

Prohibits Board of Education from increasing salary or compensation for the Director of Schools unless the Board approves a raise for all licensed teachers.

HB 1630/ SB 1685

Safety Drills

Removes teacher’s duty to perform fire drills, intruder drills, or any other safety or emergency drills.

HB 1638/SB 1598

Regional School Funding

One school district can create a regional school (i.e., with a STEM focus) and students from other school districts can attend. State funds would follow the student. But in addition, local funds would be pulled from the sending district to the receiving district (even though the student would no longer be in the sending district).

Fiscal impact: State expenditures estimated to exceed \$10,250 for FY 2016-17 and subsequent years. Shift of state BEP funding estimated to exceed \$10,000 per year beginning in FY 2016-2017 from any home LEA to LEA where regional school is located.

HB 1737/ SB 1570

Lack of Director Control

Requires Board to hire legal counsel, finance staff, and communications staff for the district; prohibits Director of Schools from controlling or managing that staff.

HB 0824/SB 0884

Teacher Salary Funding

Sets BEP instructional salary unit for 2015-16 at statewide average licensed teacher salary as reported in November 2014 report which is \$50,116, instead of the current BEP instructional salary base which is \$42,065.

Fiscal impact: State: \$514,703,000. Local: \$4,890,000 (16 districts will have to increase their local match).

Additional bills to watch: Bills like HB 0035 or SB 0455 to allow preK in the summer or for a shortened period of time.

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