



2012 Legislative Agenda

TSBA firmly believes in the success of Tennessee's public schools and the opportunities they have provided and continue to provide to children. The association acknowledges the challenges that public schools face as well as the need for continued improvement, and its member boards of education are dedicated to reaching the goal of every child achieving his or her highest potential. We believe we can help accomplish this goal by focusing our legislative efforts on the following areas:

Basic Education Program/State Funding

- TSBA believes the General Assembly should continue to emphasize education and its sustained funding as the top budget priority while making every effort to recognize increased costs due to inflation and growth.

Publically Funded Vouchers

- TSBA opposes any legislation to create a voucher program that would divert money intended for public education to private schools.

Federal and Private Grants

- TSBA believes that public schools need all of the funding they can obtain and supports legislation to enable a local board of education to spend dollars received through private or federal grants without having to seek appropriation or approval by a local funding body.

Fiscal Independence

- TSBA supports legislation to provide fiscal autonomy to boards of education.

Minimum Instructional Time

- TSBA believes that students need a sufficient amount of instruction during an academic year to ensure success and supports legislation that provides an option for school systems to meet this standard through a minimum number of instructional days or a minimum number of instructional hours.

School Board Meetings and Video Conferencing

- TSBA supports legislation to amend the open meetings laws to enable a local school board member to attend a school board meeting through video conferencing or other electronic means.

Appointed Directors of Schools

- TSBA supports the appointment of the director of schools by the board of education and opposes any measure to revert to the process of electing superintendents.

The Tennessee School Boards Association will actively support legislation relative to these and other issues, as determined by our 2012 Resolutions and Position Statements.