Tuesday, September 22, 2026
Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Work Session - 6:00 PM

Administrative Support Center, Tennessee Room (3rd Floor)
400 Clinchfield Street
Kingsport, TN 37660 Phone: (423) 378-2102

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **REPORTS**
   2.1. Request to Name Football Field at J. Fred Johnson Stadium (Greg Cross)
   2.2. Special Education Report (Dr. Brian Cinnamon/Magen Jones/Dr. Ben Robertson)
   2.3. Quarterly Financial Report for 4th Quarter FY 2025-2026 (David Frye)
   2.4. Draft Kingsport City Schools Calendar Review for SY 2027-2028 (Dr. Andy True)
   2.5. Policy Review (Dr. Andy True)
   2.6. BOE Committee Assignments for FY 2026-2027 (Melissa Woods)
   2.7. BOE Committee Reports (Melissa Woods)
   2.8. Superintendent Report (Dr. Chris Hampton)
3. **ADJOURNMENT**

A PROPOSAL TO THE KINGSPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Name the Field for the Coach

Honoring Graham Clark at J. Fred Johnson Stadium

Dobyns-Bennett High School | Kingsport, Tennessee

The proposal

Rename the playing surface

Designate the football field “Graham Clark Field”, while the stadium keeps its historic name.

Preserve the stadium legacy

J. Fred Johnson Stadium continues to honor the founder of modern Kingsport — nothing is taken away.

Recognize 25 seasons of service

A permanent tribute to the winningest football coach in Dobyns-Bennett history.





THE COACH

Graham Clark

Head coach, 1993–2018. Joined the Dobyns-Bennett athletics program as an assistant in 1982, giving more than three decades of service to one school and one community.

Under his leadership Dobyns-Bennett became known as the winningest football program in Tennessee, with 25 consecutive playoff appearances and nine undefeated regular seasons.

He retired in 2018 as the winningest coach in school history.

By the numbers

233
wins at D-B

25
seasons leading the program

77%
winning percentage

18
conference championships

25
straight playoff appearances

9
undefeated regular seasons

Career record including two seasons at Chilhowie High School: 252–71, with 14 seasons of ten or more wins.

MORE THAN A RECORD

“For a quarter century, Coach Clark has set the standard for excellence both as a coach and a person — a beloved leader of our football program, school, and community.”

Dr. Chris Hampton, Principal, Dobyns-Bennett High School, 2018

A career the state has already honored

2014	Inducted into the Tennessee Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame
2017	Inducted into the Mountain Empire Chapter, National Football Foundation
2021	Inducted into the Dobyns-Bennett Alumni Hall of Fame
10x	Named Conference Coach of the Year
National	Finalist, Top 12 in the country for the AFCA Power of Influence Award

Further accomplishments

Leadership that grew the game

- Founded the Tennessee Football Coaches Association in 1999
- Recruited 640 members, which over time dwindled to 40 active coaches. In 2014 he returned as President and helped rebuild membership to 1,200+

Built resources for D-B

- Helped raise $2.7 million for the Dobyns-Bennett Fieldhouse
- Started the Big East Football Clinic (1994-2016) that raised funds for plaques and a banquet for all-conference players

Opened doors for athletes

- Helped 100+ D-B students continue football at the college level (athletes from other local high schools)
- First coach to allow female athletes to participate in high school football

Invested beyond the scoreboard

- Started the first food pantry for D-B athletes -managed from the field house
- Coached in the TN East/West All-Star game for 11 years; Head Coach TN/KY All Star game 2003
- Made 100+ summer home visits each year to meet with parents/guardians of players

Why this honor fits

Continuity, not replacement

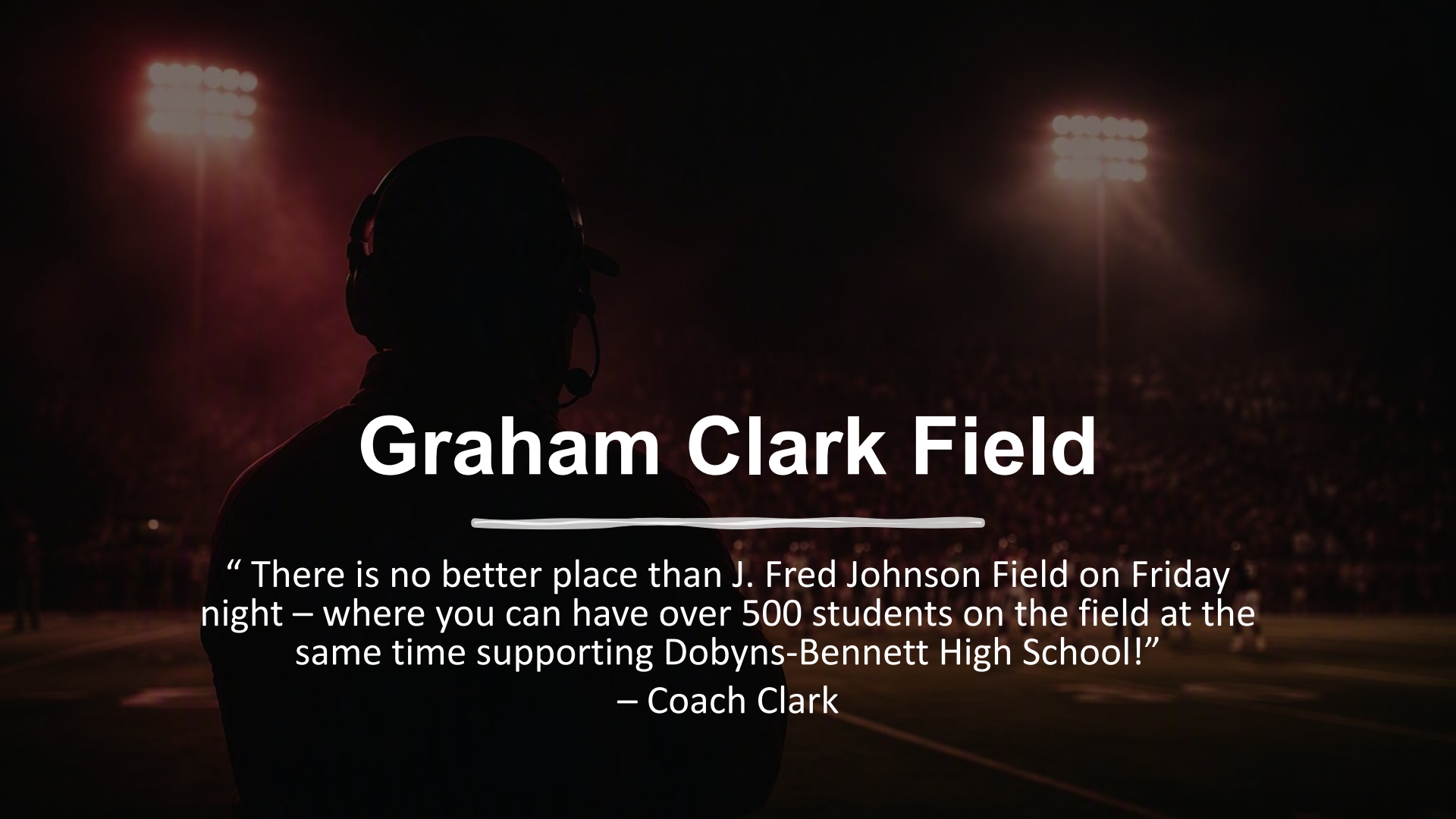
The stadium name honors the city's founder; the field name honors the man who shaped its Friday nights. Both stories can stand together.

A standard for players

Hundreds of student-athletes learned character, discipline, and accountability on that field. The name becomes a lesson every team walks onto.

A community landmark

The field is a gathering place for Kingsport. Naming it recognizes what generations of families already associate with it.



Graham Clark Field

“ There is no better place than J. Fred Johnson Field on Friday night – where you can have over 500 students on the field at the same time supporting Dobyns-Bennett High School!”

– Coach Clark

Kingsport City Schools Special Education

Magen Jones, Director of Special Education
Dr. Ben Robertson, Assistant Director of Special Education
Dr. Brian Cinnamon, Chief Program Officer - C&I

Kingsport City Schools
Special Education Department

Core Values

KCS Instructional Core Values:

- Exemplary student learning
- Guaranteed and viable curriculum
- Collaborative professional learning communities
- Engaged families and the community
- Data-driven decisions for continuous improvement
- Culture of collaborative leadership

Critical Questions

4 Critical Questions for PLC's:

- What is it we expect our students to master?
- How will we know when our students have mastered the content?
- How will we respond when our students do not master the content?
- How will we respond when our students have mastered the content?

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In a PLC, the fundamental purpose, and the reason for collaboration, is to **ensure all students learn at high levels.**

Not most students. Not all the regular education students. Not all the students who come to school ready to learn, or who show proper effort and self-responsibility.
All students.

Dufour, Dufour, Eaker, Mattos & Muhammand
Revisiting Professional Learning Communities at Work

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Fundamental Purpose of SPED

The fundamental purpose of special education (SPED) is to provide meaningful **access** to the general education curriculum and school environment for students with disabilities, to the extent possible

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Collective Responsibility for Learning

- Educators assume **ALL** students can learn at high levels
- Educators assume the primary responsibility to ensure high levels of learning for **ALL** students

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The Impact of Beliefs

In the book *Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximizing Impact on Learning*, John Hattie found that three of the factors with the highest effect size were related to having a **belief** that all students can learn at high levels.

- **Teacher Estimates of Achievement - 1.29**
- **Student Estimates of Achievement - 1.44**
- **Collective Teacher Efficacy - 1.57**

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Expectations

- We work collaboratively to limit labeling students or categorize them in ways that prevent high expectations.
- How we talk about students shouldn't change or lower our expectations for student learning.



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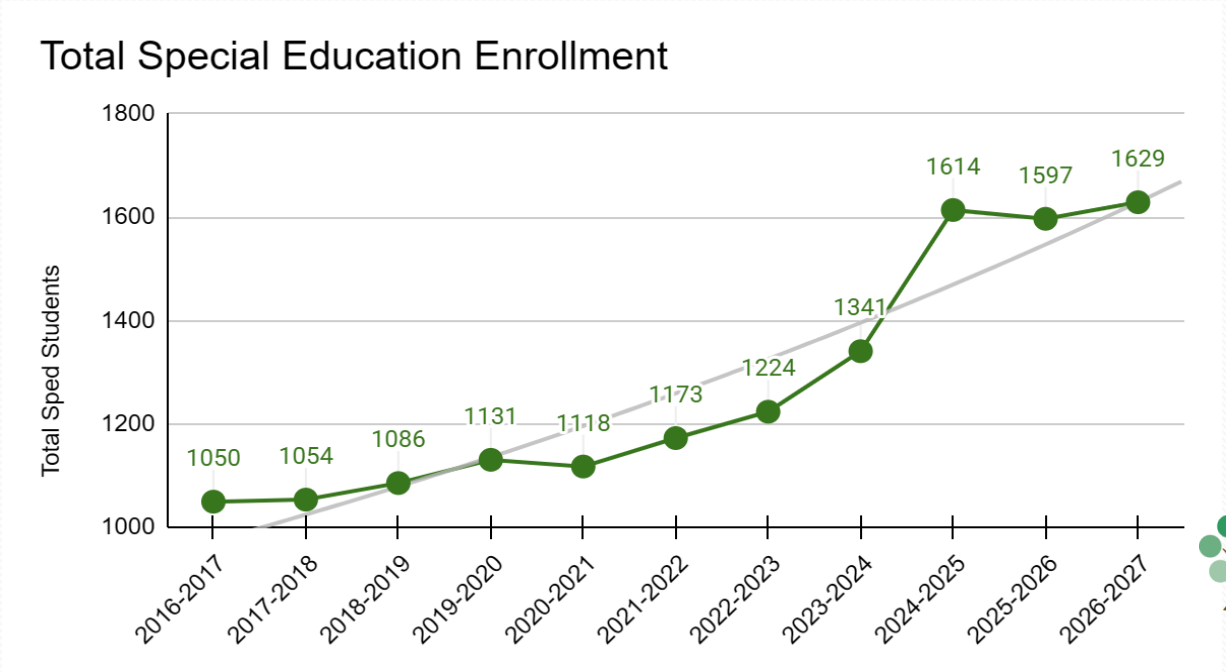
Don't call me "low" and then expect the best version of me. I will give you exactly what you expect.



Special Ed. Enrollment Ages 3-21



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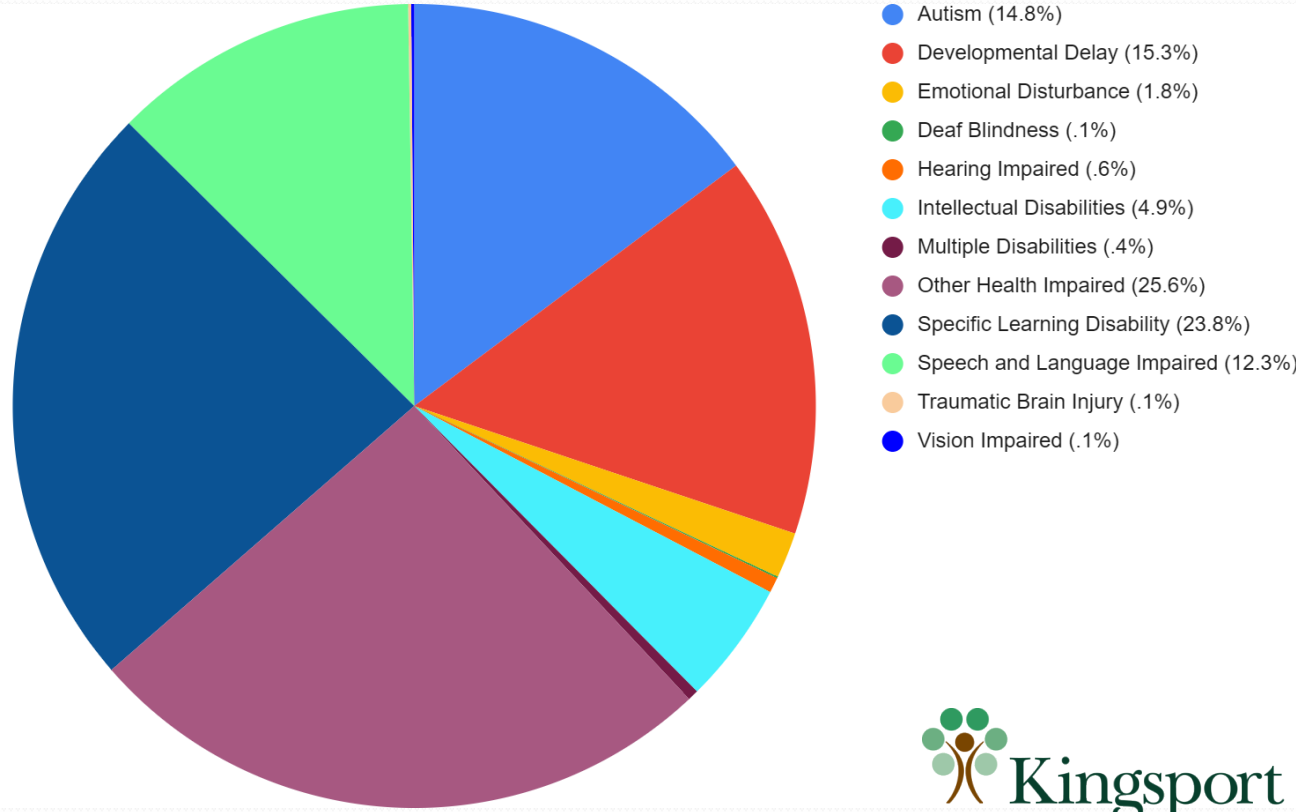
Enrollment by Disability Category



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Students with Disabilities (SWD) are Supported by:

- General Education Teachers
- Special Education Teachers
- Instructional Assistants
- Health Assistants/Nurses
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Child Find Coordinator
- Homebound Teacher
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Deaf Education Specialist
- Vision Specialist
- Gifted Coordinator
- Behavior Support Specialists
- School Psychologists
- Diagnostician
- Bus Drivers

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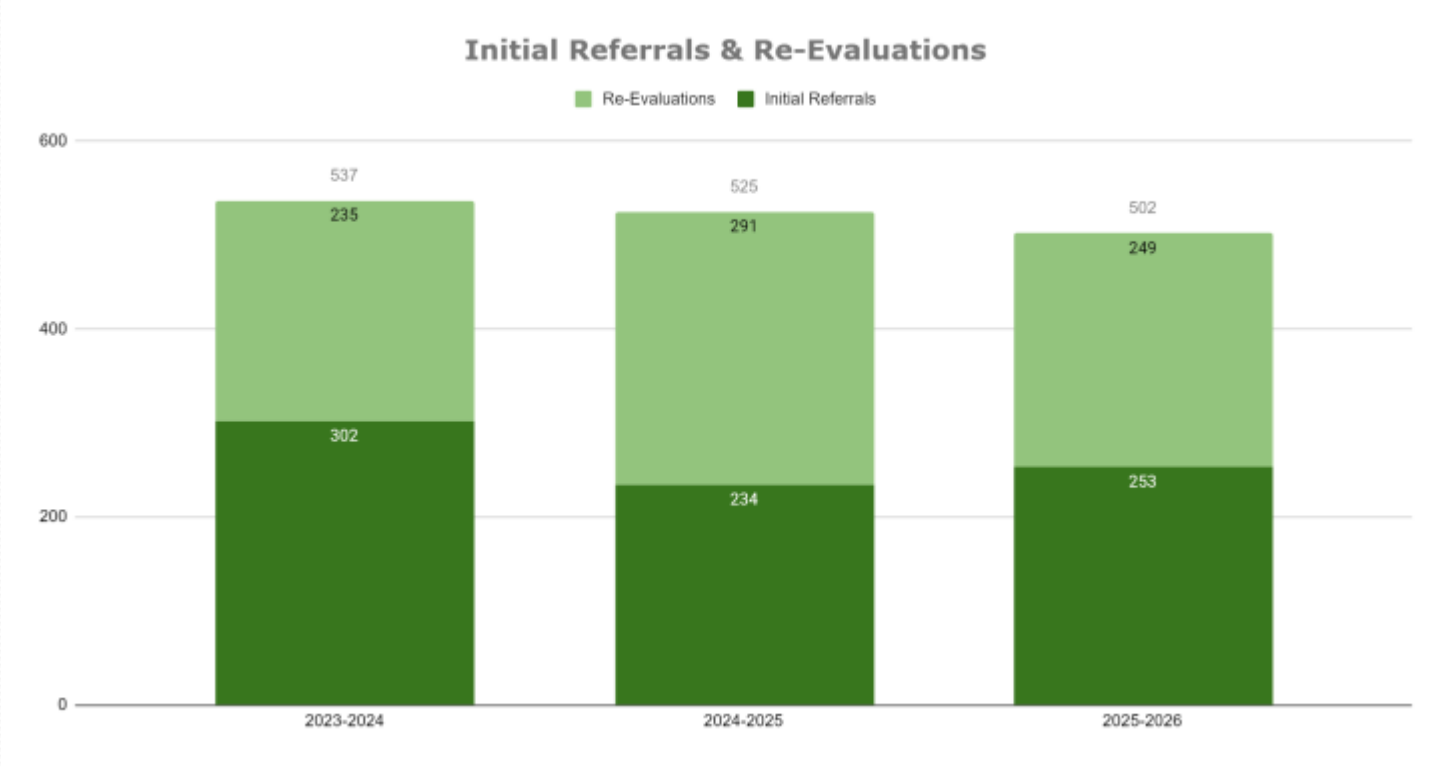
Special Ed. Evaluations



District Behavior Support

KCS currently has four Behavior Support Specialists who provide support specifically for students with disabilities across all schools and settings. Their support includes Tier I, II, and III school-level behavior support; developing Positive Support Plans (PSPs) and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs); conducting Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) and observations; providing behavior training; creating individualized behavior support materials; attending IEP meetings; and consulting with administrators, teachers, and support staff.

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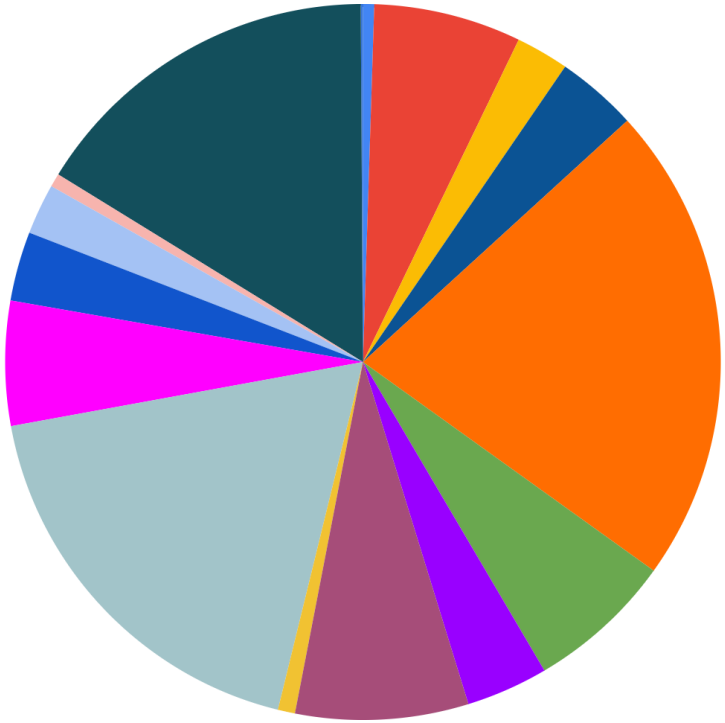
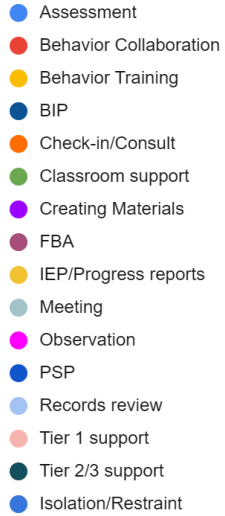
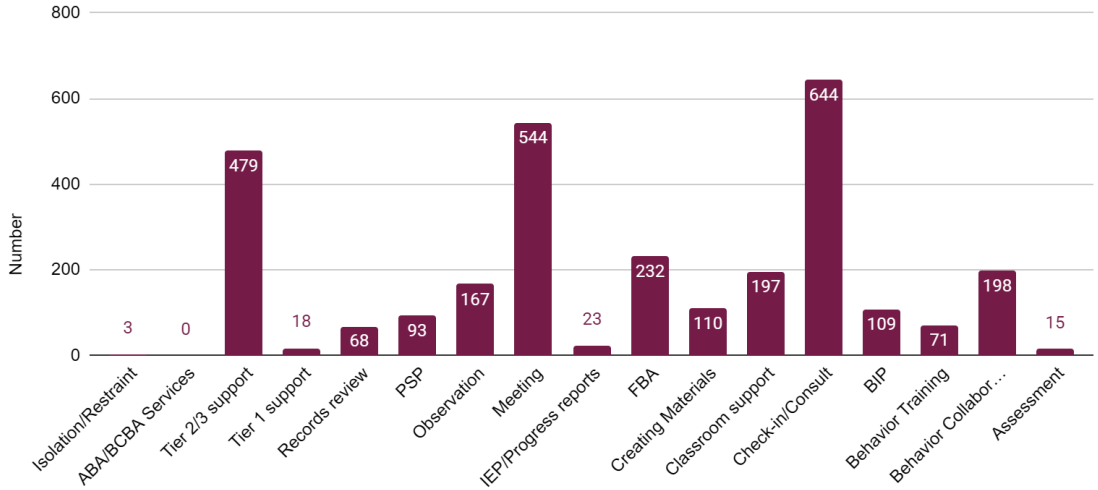



Assessment
Behavior Collaboration
Behavior Training
BIP
Check-in/Consult
Classroom support
Creating Materials
FBA
IEP/Progress reports
Meeting
Observation
PSP
Records review
Tier 1 support
Tier 2/3 support
Isolation/Restraint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Isolation/Restraint
ABA/BCBA Services
Tier 2/3 support
Tier 1 support
Records review
PSP
Observation
Meeting
IEP/Progress reports
FBA
Creating Materials
Classroom support
Check-in/Consult
BIP
Behavior Training
Behavior Collabor…
Assessment

Special Education Pre-K

Current Pre-K Classes in KCS

- Voluntary Pre-K (VPK)
- Blended
- Co-Taught
- Self-Contained 4-year olds
- Self-Contained 3-year olds

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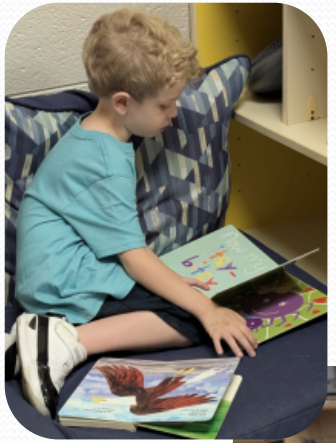
Voluntary Pre-K (VPK)

Description: VPK provides high quality early learning experiences and developmentally appropriate instruction to eligible four-year-old children to help prepare them for kindergarten. This class has a general education Pre-K teacher and an instructional assistant.





Class Locations and Number of Students:

- Jefferson
  - 18 general education students
- Johnson #1
  - 10 general education students
  - 2 students with disabilities
  - 12 students total
- Johnson #2
  - 9 general education students
  - 2 students with disabilities
  - 11 students total
- Kennedy
  - 19 general education students

Total students with disabilities in VPK: **4**

Blended Pre-K

Description: Blended has a general education Pre-K teacher and an itinerant special education Pre-K teacher that provides support and services during specific segments of the day based on individual needs. The itinerant Pre-K teacher serves all of the Blended classes. Each blended class also has an instructional assistant.

Class Locations and Number of Students:

- Palmer
  - 5 general education students
  - 8 students with disabilities
    - 2 of the 8 are 3-year-olds
  - 13 students total
- Jackson
  - 10 general education students
  - 6 students with disabilities
  - 16 students total
- Lincoln #1
  - 11 general education students
  - 5 students with disabilities
  - 16 students total
- Lincoln #2
  - 10 general education students
  - 4 students with disabilities
  - 14 students total





Total students with disabilities in Blended: **23**

Co-Taught Pre-K

Description: Co-taught has a general education Pre-K teacher and a special education Pre-K teacher teaching and collaborating together to provide developmentally appropriate instruction and individualized supports to both students with and without disabilities for the entire day. Each co-taught class also has an instructional assistant.



Class Locations and Number of Students:

- Palmer #1
  - 7 general education students
  - 8 students with disabilities
  - 15 students total
- Palmer #2
  - 8 general education students
  - 9 students with disabilities
  - 17 students total
- Jackson
  - 7 general education students
  - 9 students with disabilities
  - 16 students total



Total students with disabilities in Co-taught: **26**

Self-Contained 4-Year-Olds

Description: Self-contained Pre-K 4 only has students with disabilities who require significant support in adaptive development, social-emotional skills, cognitive development, and communication. Each class has a special education Pre-K teacher and 2 instructional assistants.

Class Locations and Number of Students:

- Palmer #1
  - 8 students with disabilities
- Palmer #2
  - 8 students with disabilities





Total students with disabilities in self-contained 4-year-olds: **16**

Self-Contained 3-Year-Olds

Description: Self-contained Pre-K 3 has students with disabilities who require anywhere from significant support to mild support. Each class has a special education Pre-K teacher and 2 instructional assistants. Pre-K 3 students attend 3 hours a day, 4 days a week which allows our teachers to have 2 classes per day.



Class Locations and Number of Students:

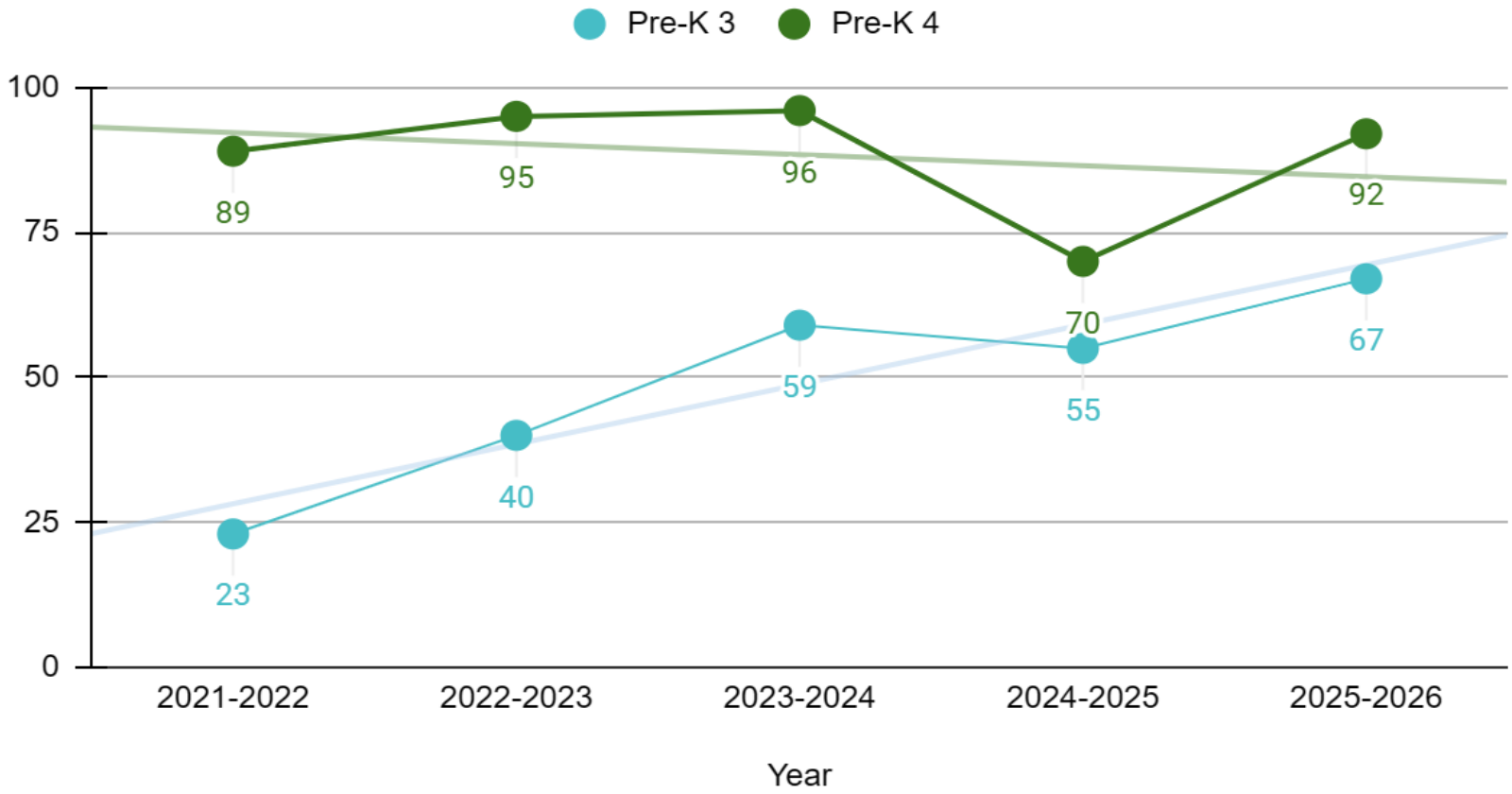
- Palmer # 1
  - AM Class: 6 students with disabilities
  - PM Class: 4 students with disabilities
- Palmer # 2
  - AM Class: 5 students with disabilities
  - PM Class: 4 students with disabilities
- Palmer # 3
  - AM Class: 6 students with disabilities
  - PM Class: 3 students with disabilities





Total students with disabilities in self-contained 3-year-olds: **28**

Special Ed. Pre-K



Expected Growth

- From now until May 2027, we have approximately 31 TEIS students who will turn 3 and KCS will be required to evaluate.
  - TEIS will continue to pick up students prior to their 3rd birthday which will require KCS to evaluate and that number will continue to grow.
- We have 20 Pre-K students (3, 4, and 5 year-olds) currently on our Child Find list waiting to be evaluated.

To reference, we had a total of **69 TEIS** students and **43 Child Find** students who were evaluated in 2025-2026. Out of those 112 students, 12 students did not qualify.

KCS SWD Classroom Supports

- ➔ Resource
- ➔ Inclusion
- ➔ Comprehensive Development Class (CDC)
- ➔ Modified Academic Program (MAP)
- ➔ Modified Academic Program-Behavior (MAP-B)
- ➔ AAD (high school only)
- ➔ Transition School to Work (high school only)
- ➔ Positive Academic & Social Support (PASS)

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Resource

- Students receive special education instruction in a small-group setting outside of the general education classroom for part of the day.
- Groups are typically based on similar academic or instructional needs, rather than disability category alone.
- Students may work on reading, writing, math, organization, or other academic skills based on their individual IEP goals.
- Students return to the general education classroom for the portions of the day where they can access instruction with their accommodations and supports.

Inclusion

- Students with disabilities learn alongside their peers in the general education classroom to the greatest extent appropriate.
- Students receive the supports, services, accommodations, and specially designed instruction they need to participate and be successful.
- Inclusion is more than simply being in the same classroom—students should be meaningfully participating in learning and classroom activities.
- Special education and general education teachers work together to support all students.
    - This could be 2 teachers in the same classroom or a teacher and an IA in the same classroom.

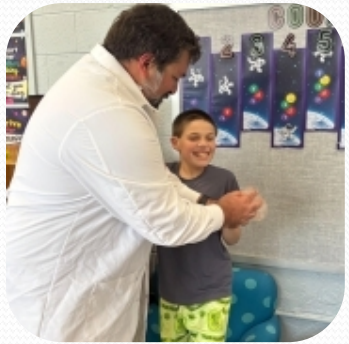
Comprehensive Development Class (CDC)

Description: CDC is a special education setting that addresses grade-level standards through a modified curriculum and instruction at a slower, more individualized pace. Students in CDC typically demonstrate significant academic, cognitive, social, and adaptive needs that are addressed through life skills, social skills, communication, self-care, independence, and pre-vocational skills.

Class Locations and Number of Students:

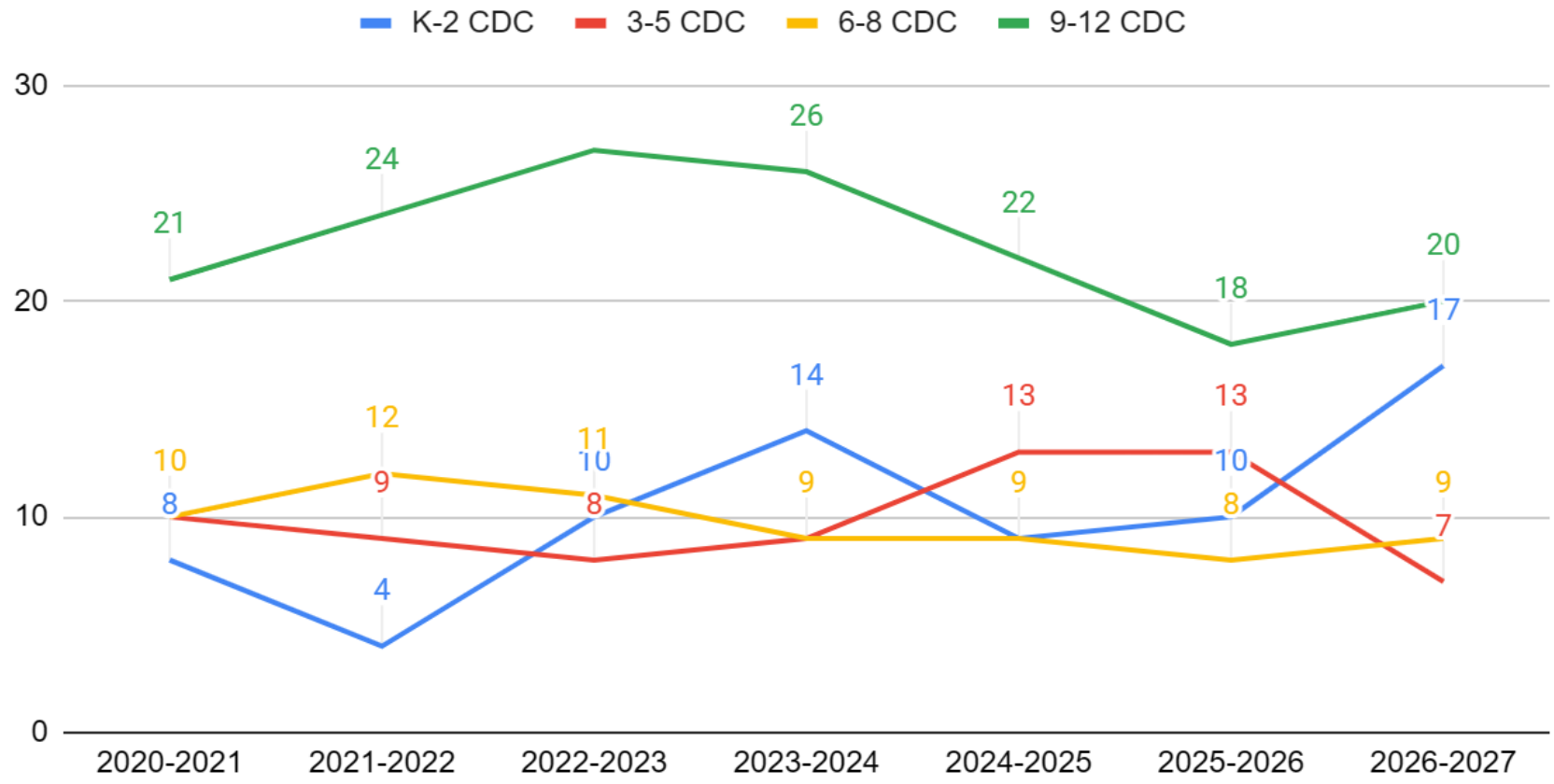
- K-2 Johnson # 1
  - 8 students with disabilities
- K-2 Johnson # 2
  - 9 students with disabilities
- 3-5 Johnson
  - 7 students with disabilities
- 6-8 Robinson
  - 8 students with disabilities
- 9-12 DB # 1
  - 12 students with disabilities
- 9-12 DB # 2
  - 8 students with disabilities





Total students with disabilities in CDC: **52**

Comprehensive Development Class



Modified Academic Program (MAP)

Description: MAP is a special education setting that addresses grade-level standards through a modified curriculum and instruction at a slower, more individualized pace. Students in MAP typically demonstrate cognitive and adaptive needs but are able to access and participate in more academic instruction. Deficit skills are addressed through functional academics, life skills, independence, and communication

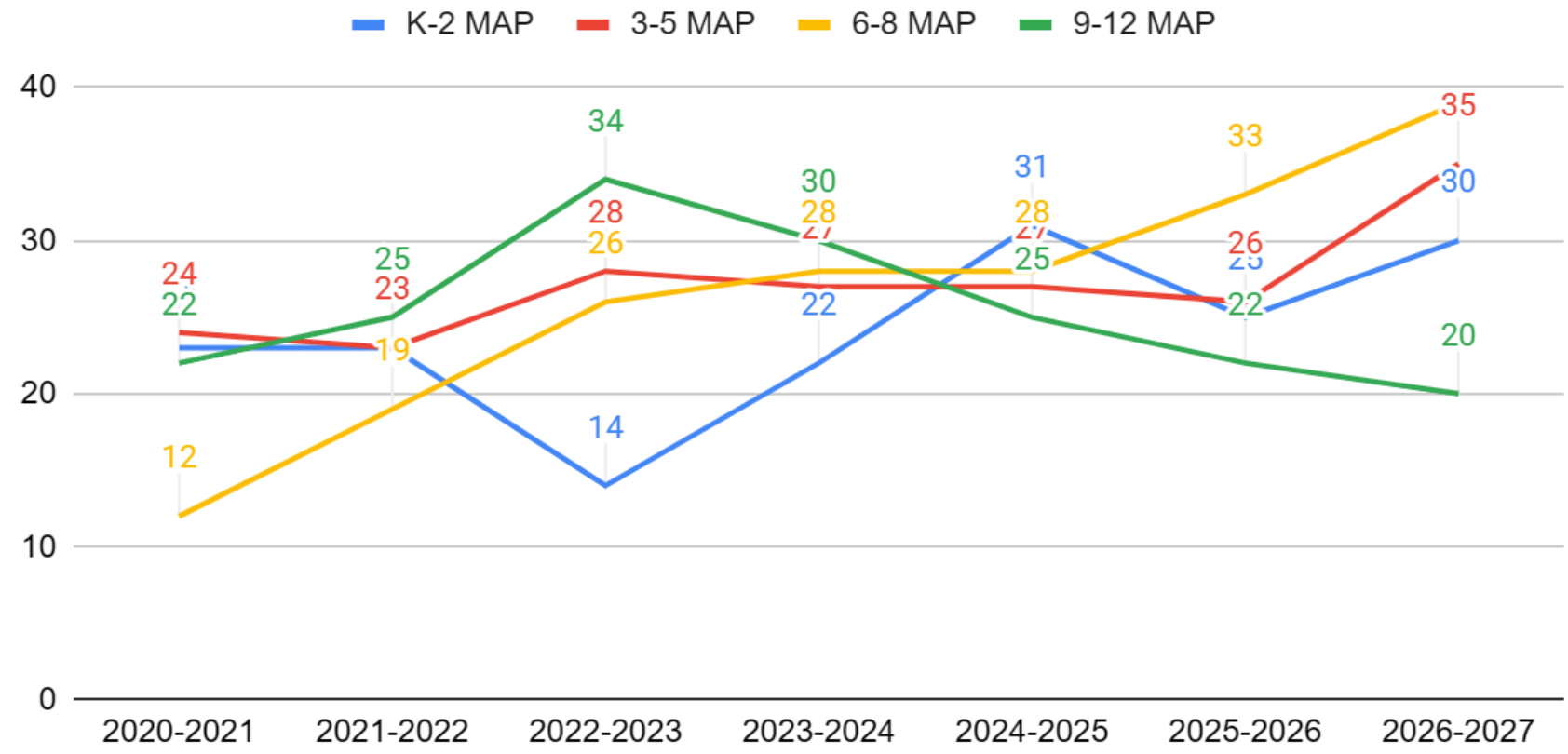
Class Locations and Number of Students:

- K-2 Johnson
  - 11 students with disabilities
- K-2 Adams # 1
  - 10 students with disabilities
- K-2 Adams # 2
  - 9 students with disabilities
- 3-5 Washington
  - 13 students with disabilities
- 3-5 Jefferson
  - 12 students with disabilities
- 2-5 Lincoln (MAP-B)
  - 10 students with disabilities
- 6-8 Robinson # 1
  - 11 students with disabilities
- 6-8 Robinson # 2
  - 12 students with disabilities
- 6-9 Sevier
  - 16 students with disabilities
- 9-12 DB # 1
  - 10 students with disabilities
- 9-12 DB # 2
  - 10 students with disabilities



Total students with disabilities in MAP: **124**

Modified Academic Program



*AAD currently supports 16 SWD in HS

Transition School to Work (TSW)

Description: TSW works with high school students with disabilities to help them prepare for employment and life after high school. The goal is to provide a coordinated, seamless transition from school to career development, postsecondary training, and employment.

Class Locations and Number of Students:

- ➔ High School, ages 14-22
  - ◆ 235 students with disabilities
    - Required by the state





Positive Academic & Social Support (PASS)

Description: PASS is a special education setting designed to provide social-emotional learning and academic support to students who require the most intensive behavior interventions. Students in PASS require a Behavior Intervention Plan and benefit from a highly structured environment with individualized behavior and academic supports. Instruction focuses on self-regulation, social skills, coping strategies, and appropriate behaviors.

Class Locations and Number of Students:

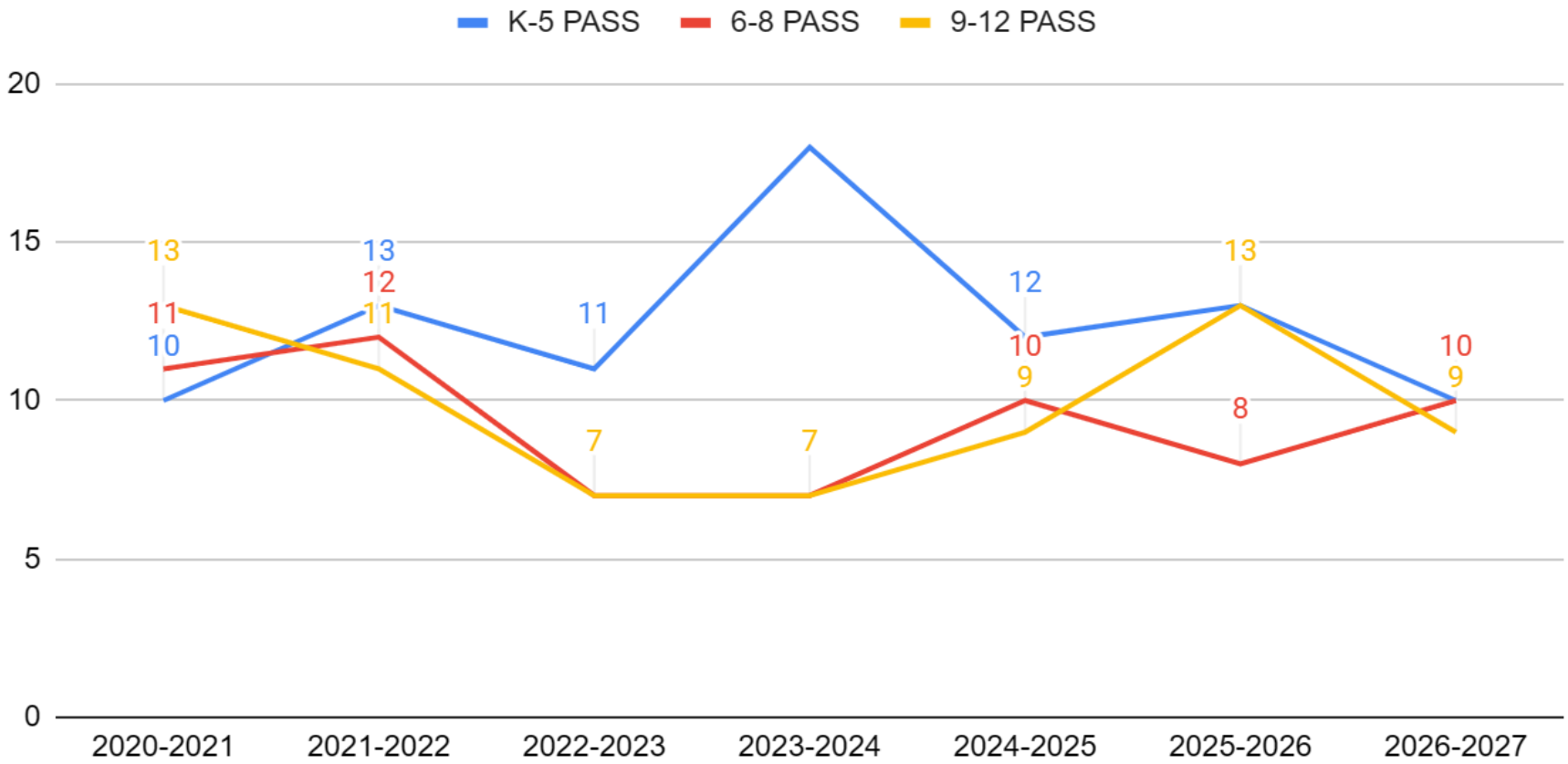
- K-5 Washington
  - 10 students with disabilities
- 6-8 Sevier
  - 10 students with disabilities
- 9-12 Cora Cox Academy
  - 9 students with disabilities





Total students with disabilities in PASS: **29**

PASS


K-5 PASS
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Professional Learning

- Instructionally Appropriate IEPs
- Specifically Designed Instruction (SDI)
- Behavioral supports
- APR Indicators and Compliance
- Special Education Office Hours
- New SPED teacher check-ins
- Case Management support meetings at each school

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Funding Reminders

- **Weighted Allocation (TISA):** Students with disabilities qualify for weighted funding under TISA. TISA applies specific weights reflecting varying levels of intensive support required to serve students.

- **State and Local Split:** Weighted funding components follow a split of **70% state funds and 30% local matching funds**.

- **Pre-K:** While we are legally required to provide “child find” services in order to evaluate and provide services to eligible students beginning at age 3, there are not federally provided funds that adequately support this mandate. Thus, PreK 3 and 4 year old services are provided with local funding at a significant cost. This early intervention is essential to ensuring students are on a path to school readiness.

Kingsport City Schools

Unique Learning Need (ULN)	Funding Weight	Service Tier Definition / Requirement
ULN 1	**+15%**	**Special Education Consultation:** Minimal direct intervention; primarily monitoring.
ULN 2	**+20%**	**Minimal Direct Services:** Basic direct services or low-intensity modifications.
ULN 3	**+40%**	**Limited Direct Services:** Moderate, localized support blocks.
ULN 6	**+75%**	**Moderate Direct Support:** Direct instruction/related services for localized parts of the week.
ULN 7	**+80%**	**High-Support Direct Services:** Intensive instruction or related services (**14 to 23 hours/week**).
ULN 8	**+100%**	**Ancillary Direct Services:** Extensive intervention packages or intensive behavioral therapies (minimum of 4 hours per day)
ULN 9	**+125%**	**Comprehensive Support:** Full-time instruction within highly specialized environments.
ULN 10	**+150%**	**Most Significant Care:** Full-time specialized instruction, medical tracking, and full-day auxiliary care (i.e. homebound, residential, or hospital)

Questions?











MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Education
Dr. Chris Hampton, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: David J. Frye, Chief Finance Officer

DATE: September 22, 2026 DJF

SUBJECT: Fourth Quarter - FY 2025-26 Financial Update

Attached to this memo are revenue and budget summaries for fiscal year 2025-26, as of June 30, 2026. The net operating results from FY 2026 resulted in a deficit of $1,099,573. This brings the General Purpose School Fund Unreserved Fund Balance, as of June 30, 2026, to $12,580,662.

REVENUE

State Revenues

- TISA Funds: The estimate for TISA funds was $49,644,600. The amount received was $50,397,227. The amount received was $752,627 above the estimate. The major difference for the overage is TISA Growth Funds of $764,284. The remaining difference is due to preliminary estimates for TISA being $74,123 greater than the actual payments and outcomes payments being $62,466 more than the estimate of $775,000. The growth funds were not appropriated in FY 2026 and were closed into the Unreserved Fund Balance and $700,000 of these funds were subsequently appropriated to the Dobyns-Bennett Renovation project ($430,000) and Lynn Garden elementary School project ($270,000).

- Other State Education Funds: The estimated revenue in this account included $1,407,100 the State Teacher Bonus and $895,141 for the Summer Learning Program. The actual revenue for the State Bonus was $1,362,151 and $680,044 for the Summer Learning program. The actual amounts for these two items were $260,046 less than the estimate. Since the actual revenues for these programs are equal to the actual expenses, there is no effect on the ending Fund Balance.

  In addition to these programs there was also State bonus funds of $2,000,000 received in this account which was a result of Kingsport earning the recognition of being a high performing school district. These funds were not appropriated in FY 2026 and were allowed to close into the Unreserved Fund Balance. Budget amendment number three to the FY 2026 budget will be presented at the Board's October board meeting and it will be recommended that these funds be appropriated to fund a three percent bonus for all Kingsport City School employees.

County Revenue

- Current Year Property Taxes: The amount collected for FY 2026 was $15,164,224. This

amount is above the estimate by $164,224. The amount received in FY 2025 was $15,619,656. This is a decrease of $455,432. This decrease is a result of the reduction of the education tax rate in Sullivan County.

- Sales Tax: The amount collected for FY 2026 was $16,316,191. This amount is above the estimate by $716,191. The amount received in FY 2026 was $534,919 more than the amount received in FY 2025. This represents an increase of 3.4%. A portion of this increase is due to an increase in the ADA percentage for Kingsport City Schools.

- Other County Revenues: The amount collected for all other county revenues in FY 2026 was $1,102,894. This amount is below the estimates by $261,556. The amount received in FY 2026 was $196,475 less than the amount received in FY 2025.

Charges for Services

- Tuition – Regular Students: There was $292,842 collected for regular tuition students. The estimate was $250.000.

- Early Childhood Fees: The amount collected for Early Childhood Programs in FY 2026 was $806,750. The amount collected was $64,850 less than the estimate. The amount spent on these programs was $882,744. The amount spent was $50,384 less than the budget. This resulted in an operating deficit of $75,994. These programs were budgeted to have a deficit of $52,600. The Washington program had a deficit of $48,349, and the Adams program had a deficit of $27,646.

- After-School Programs: The after-school programs generated revenue in the amount of $336,133. These programs had expenditures in the amount of $280,693. This represents a surplus of $55,440.

Other Sources

- Fund Balance/Reserve Appropriations: There was $7,160,526 appropriated from the Unreserved Fund Balance. Below is a listing of these appropriations. These amounts are reflected in the estimated revenues, but will not be reflected in actual revenues.

    - Fund Balance Appropriations

Prior Year Unpaid Purchase Orders	$1,132,126
Appropriation to Fund the FY 26 Budget	3,003,400
Washington HVAC Appropriation	2,675,000
Robinson Fire Alarm Appropriation	50,000
Lynn Garden Elementary School Appropriation	300,000

Also included with this update is a comparison of revenues as of June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026. I do not have any specific comments about this spreadsheet, but would be happy to address any questions or concerns that you may have.

EXPENDITURES

We ended fiscal year 2025-2026 with our expenditures in very good shape. According to the budget summary, included with this update the budget was 97.5 % expended. This leaves a budget surplus of $2,705,598. Below is a listing of some unexpended appropriations that make up a portion of this surplus.

- Unexpended Appropriations:

Salaries and Benefits	$ 900,000
Health Insurance	616,000
Substitute Expense	133,000
School Allocations	175,000
Technology	39,000
General Administration Expenses	144,000
Other Departmental Expenses	42,000
Utilities	170,000
SACC/ECLC	78,000
Capital Outlay	165,000

FUND BALANCE

The audited Unreserved Fund Balance on June 30, 2025, was $13,680,235. The operations from fiscal year 2025-2026 resulted in a deficit of $1,099,573 (See calculation below). This results in an Unreserved Fund Balance of **$12,580,662**. Not included in this Unreserved Fund Balance are appropriations that have been made for the FY 2027 budget. There was $1,808,500 appropriated to balance the FY 27 budget and there has been an appropriation of $412,094 for outstanding purchase orders at the end of FY 2026. An additional $700,000 was appropriated with the approval of the FY 2027 budget amendment number two. This amount added $430,000 to the Dobyns-Bennett Renovation project and $270,000 to the Lynn Garden Elementary School project. In addition to these appropriations, an additional appropriation of approximately $2,200,000 will be recommended in budget amendment number three. This will fund a three percent staff bonus and funds to cover the transportation expenses of the Dobyns-Bennett Band to participate in the Macys Thanksgiving Day parade. The total of all these appropriations after June 30,2026 total $5,120,594, bringing the effective Unreserved Fund Balance to **$7,460,068**. This amount is equal to 6.91 % of the originally approved fiscal year 2027 operating budget.

FY 2026 Summary of Changes to Fund Balance

Revenues in Excess of Estimates	$3,332,203
Expenditures less than Budgeted	2.705,598
Fund Balance Appropriations	(7,160,526)
Adjustment of Reserve for Compensated Absences	23,723
Adjustment of Reserve for Career Ladder	(571)
Total FY 2026 Changes to Fund Balance	$(1,099,573)

SCHOOL NUTRITION SERVICES FUND

School Nutrition Services ended the year with a surplus of $154,699. This included expenses from the bonus payment of $44,844. These amounts include the operation of the summer feeding programs. I have calculated that those programs generated a surplus of approximately $128,000. In summary, the school year operations resulted in a surplus of approximately $75,000. The ending Unreserved Fund Balance is $2,830,198. This amount represents approximately 5 months of operating expenditures. The USDA guidelines suggest maintaining 3 months of operating expenditures in reserve.

KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS
DETAIL REVENUE ESTIMATES
FISCAL YEAR 2025- 2026

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	2025-2026 ESTIMATED	2025-2026 ACTUAL	OVER (UNDER)
FEDERAL DIRECT FUNDS				
141-0000-336.76-40	ROTC REIMBURSEMENT	$ 97,000	$ 66,377	$ (30,623)
TOTAL FEDERAL DIRECT FUNDS		**$ 97,000**	**$ 66,377**	**$ (30,623)**
FEDERAL FUNDS THROUGH STATE:				
141-0000-337.71-43	EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED ACT High Cost Funds	$ 52,000	$ 28,652	$ (23,348)
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS THROUGH STATE		**$ 52,000**	**$ 28,652**	**$ (23,348)**
STATE EDUCATION FUNDS:				
141-0000-338.61-75	ON-BEHALF CONTRIBUTION FOR OPEB	$ 350,000	$ 392,459	42,459
141-0000-338.65-10	TN INVESTMENT IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT April Estimate $48,869,600 Includes $775,000 in Outcomes Funding Received $779,000 in FY 2025	49,644,600	50,397,227	$ 752,627
141-0000-338.65-13	TISA ON-HALF PAYMENTS	0	127,948	127,948
141-0000-338.65-90	OTHER STATE EDUCATION FUNDS State Teacher Bonus Funds - $1,407,100	2,302,241	4,042,195	1,739,954
141-0000-338.65-96	PAID PARENTAL LEAVE	225,000	259,078	34,078
141-0000-338.66-10	CAREER LADDER	30,000	27,758	(2,242)
TOTAL STATE FUNDS		**$ 52,551,841**	**$ 55,246,665**	**$ 2,694,824**
COUNTY REVENUE:				
141-0000-339.01-10	CURRENT PROPERTY TAX Includes a 2.5% increase is assessed value Includes a TIF Adjustment of ($325,000)	$ 15,000,000	$ 15,164,224	$ 164,224
141-0000-339.01-20	TRUSTEE'S COLLECT/PR YR	450,000	169,730	(280,270)
141-0000-339.01-30	CIRCUIT CLK & MSTR/PR YR	250,000	128,075	(121,925)
141-0000-339.01-40	INTEREST AND PENALTY	175,000	118,768	(56,232)
141-0000-339.01-50	PICK UP TAXES	400,000	619,045	219,045
141-0000-339.02-10	LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX Current Year Estimate $15,050,000 FY 25 estimate is 3.0% above the FY 24 estimated actual amount.	15,600,000	16,316,191	716,191
141-0000-339.02-40	WHEEL TAX	14,000	15,468	1,468
141-0000-339.03-90	OTHER STATUTORY LOCAL TAX	75,000	51,808	(23,192)
TOTAL COUNTY REVENUE		**$ 31,964,000**	**$ 32,583,309**	**$ 619,309**

KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS
DETAIL REVENUE ESTIMATES
FISCAL YEAR 2025- 2026

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	2025-2026 ESTIMATED	2025-2026 ACTUAL	OVER (UNDER)
CHARGES FOR SERVICES:				
141-0000-349.35-11	TUITION-REG DAY STUDENT	$ 250,000	$ 292,842	$ 42,842
141-0000-349.35-81	FEES - PALMER CENTER ECLC	0	0	0
141-0000-349.35-82	FEES - WASHINGTON ECLC	421,000	358,405	(62,595)
141-0000-349.35-83	FEES - WASHINGTON DAY CARE	193,800	157,329	(36,471)
141-0000-349.35-84	FEES - ADAMS DAY CARE	102,800	103,674	874
141-0000-349.35-85	FEES - ADAMS ECLC	450,600	448,345	(2,255)
141-0000-349.35-87	FEES - JOHNSON DAY CARE	104,300	75,131	(29,169)
TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES		**$ 1,522,500**	**$ 1,435,726**	**$ (86,774)**
OTHER LOCAL REVENUES:				
141-0000-361.10-00	EARNINGS ON INVESTMENTS	$ 100,000	$ 103,879	$ 3,879
141-0000-369.41-20	LEASE/RENTALS	5,000	3,505	(1,495)
141-0000-369.41-46	ERATE FUNDING	760,000	793,165	33,165
141-0000-369.49-90	OTHER LOCAL REVENUE Includes $20,000 for 1:1 fees Includes $80,000 for miscellaneous	374,384	361,383	(13,001)
141-0000-369.49-91	ACTIVITIES PAYMENTS	80,000	207,320	127,320
TOTAL OTHER LOCAL REVENUES		**$ 1,319,384**	**$ 1,469,252**	**$ 149,868**
OTHER SOURCES:				
141-0000-392.01-00	FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATIONS	$ 7,160,526	$ 0	$ (7,160,526)
141-0000-399.98-00	FEDERAL PROJECTS- INDIRECT COSTS	75,000	85,422	10,422
141-0000-399.98-10	CITY GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS	11,245,300	11,245,300	0
141-0000-399.98-11	CITY GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS - DEBT	4,441,400	4,439,925	(1,475)
TOTAL OTHER SOURCES		**$ 22,922,226**	**$ 15,770,647**	**$ (7,151,579)**
TOTAL GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE		**$ 110,428,951**	**$ 106,600,628**	**$ (3,828,323)**

KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS
DETAIL REVENUE
2024-2025 COMPARED TO 2025-2026
AS OF JUNE 30, 2026

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	2024-2025 ACTUAL	2025-2026 ACTUAL	OVER (UNDER)
FEDERAL DIRECT FUNDS				
141-0000-336.76-40	ROTC REIMBURSEMENT	$ 84,337	$ 66,377	$ (17,960)
TOTAL FEDERAL DIRECT FUNDS		**$ 84,337**	**$ 66,377**	**$ (17,960)**
FEDERAL FUNDS THROUGH STATE:				
141-0000-337.71-43	EDUCATION OF THE HANDICAPPED ACT	$ 48,277	$ 28,652	$ (19,625)
141-0000-337.75-90	OTHER FEDERAL THROUGH STATE	129,946	0	(129,946)
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS THROUGH STATE		**$ 178,223**	**$ 28,652**	**$ (149,571)**
STATE EDUCATION FUNDS:				
141-0000-338.61-75	ON-BEHALF CONTRIBUTION FOR OBEP	$ 392,459	$ 392,459	$ 0
141-0000-338.65-11	TN INVESTMENT IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMEN	47,774,003	50,397,227	2,623,224
141-0000-338.65-13	TOISA IN-BEHALF PAYMENTS	180,778	127,948	(52,830)
141-0000-338.65-90	OTHER STATE EDUCATION FUNDS	633,551	4,042,195	3,408,644
141-0000-338.65-96	PAID PARENTAL LEAVE	285,478	259,078	(26,400)
141-0000-338.66-10	CAREER LADDER	28,037	27,758	(279)
141-0000-338.69-80	OTHER STATE GRANTS	2,000	0	0
TOTAL STATE FUNDS		**$ 49,296,306**	**$ 55,246,665**	**$ 5,952,359**
COUNTY REVENUE:				
141-0000-339.01-10	CURRENT PROPERTY TAX	$ 15,619,656	$ 15,164,224	$ (455,432)
141-0000-339.01-20	TRUSTEE'S COLLECT/PR YR	345,455	169,730	(175,725)
141-0000-339.01-30	CIRCUIT CLK & MSTR/PR YR	167,779	128,075	(39,704)
141-0000-339.01-40	INTEREST AND PENALTY	154,016	118,768	(35,248)
141-0000-339.01-50	PICK UP TAXES	538,545	619,045	80,500
141-0000-339.02-10	LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	15,781,272	16,316,191	534,919
141-0000-339.02-40	WHEEL TAX	16,396	15,468	(928)
141-0000-339.03-90	OTHER STATUTORY LOCAL TAX	77,178	51,808	(25,370)
TOTAL COUNTY REVENUE		**$ 32,700,297**	**$ 32,583,309**	**$ (116,988)**

KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS
DETAIL REVENUE
2024-2025 COMPARED TO 2025-2026
AS OF JUNE 30, 2026

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	2024-2025 ACTUAL	2025-2026 ACTUAL	OVER (UNDER)
CHARGES FOR SERVICES:				
141-0000-349.35-11	TUITION-REG DAY STUDENT	$ 224,396	$ 292,842	$ 68,446
141-0000-349.35-81	FEES - PALMER CENTER ECLC	228,343	0	(228,343)
141-0000-349.35-82	FEES - WASHINGTON ECLC	380,560	358,405	(22,155)
141-0000-349.35-83	FEES - WASHINGTON DAY CARE	157,022	157,329	307
141-0000-349.35-84	FEES - ADAMS DAY CARE	81,703	103,674	21,971
141-0000-349.35-85	FEES - ADAMS ECLC	421,345	448,345	27,000
141-0000-349.35-87	FEES - JOHNSON DAY CARE	67,348	75,131	7,783
TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES		**$ 1,560,717**	**$ 1,435,726**	**$ (124,991)**
OTHER LOCAL REVENUES:				
141-0000-361.10-00	INTEREST EARNINGS	$ 0	$ 103,879	$ 103,879
141-0000-369.41-20	LEASE/RENTALS	7,035	3,505	(3,530)
141-0000-369.41-46	ERATE FUNDING	734,109	793,165	59,056
141-0000-369.49-90	OTHER LOCAL REVENUE	442,862	361,383	(81,479)
141-0000-369-4991	ACTIVITY PAYMENTS	134,143	207,320	73,177
TOTAL OTHER LOCAL REVENUES		**$ 1,318,149**	**$ 1,469,252**	**$ 151,103**
OTHER SOURCES:				
141-0000-399.98-00	OPERATING TRANSFERS- INDIRECT COSTS	$ 95,474	$ 85,422	$ (10,052)
141-0000-399.98-10	CITY GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS	11,245,300	11,245,300	0
141-0000-399.98-20	CITY GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS - DEBT	4,434,431	4,439,925	5,494
TOTAL OTHER SOURCES		**$ 15,775,205**	**$ 15,770,647**	**$ (4,558)**
TOTAL GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE		**$ 100,913,234**	**$ 106,600,628**	**$ 5,689,394**

KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS
BUDGET SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR 2025- 2026

SERIES	2025-2026 BUDGET	2025-2026 ACTUAL	UNDER/(OVER) BUDGET	PERCENT OBLIGATED
INSTRUCTION:				
REGULAR EDUCATION PROGRAM	$ 49,764,521	$ 49,155,026	$ 609,495	98.78
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	8,652,300	8,123,511	528,789	93.89
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	2,224,668	2,011,635	213,033	90.42
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	**$ 60,641,489**	**$ 59,290,172**	**$ 1,351,317**	97.77
SUPPORT SERVICES:				
STUDENTS:				
ATTENDANCE	$ 110,200	$ 108,864	$ 1,336	98.79
HEALTH SERVICES	1,809,800	1,789,520	20,280	98.88
OTHER STUDENT SUPPORT	4,087,278	4,001,967	85,311	97.91
TOTAL STUDENT SUPPORT	$ 6,007,278	$ 5,900,351	$ 106,927	98.22
INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF:				
REGULAR EDUCATION PROGRAM	$ 5,438,569	$ 5,241,989	$ 196,580	96.39
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	1,473,600	1,460,327	13,273	99.10
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	289,163	285,319	3,844	98.67
TECHNOLOGY	3,785,758	3,743,912	41,846	98.89
TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF	$ 10,987,090	$ 10,731,547	$ 255,543	97.67
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:				
BOARD OF EDUCATION SERVICES	$ 1,353,200	$ 1,224,784	$ 128,416	90.51
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT	989,300	936,608	52,692	94.67
TOTAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	$ 2,342,500	$ 2,161,392	$ 181,108	92.27

KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS
BUDGET SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR 2025- 2026

SERIES	2025-2026 BUDGET	2025-2026 ACTUAL	UNDER/(OVER) BUDGET	PERCENT OBLIGATED
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:				
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL	$ 5,077,423	$ 5,046,324	$ 31,099	99.39
TOTAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	$ 5,077,423	$ 5,046,324	$ 31,099	99.39
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION:				
FISCAL SERVICES	$ 715,400	$ 691,102	$ 24,298	96.60
HUMAN RESOURCES	517,118	493,383	23,735	95.41
TOTAL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	$ 1,232,518	$ 1,184,485	$ 48,033	96.10
OPERATION AND MAINT. OF PLANT:				
OPERATION OF PLANT	$ 6,603,130	$ 6,198,303	$ 404,827	93.87
MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	3,403,455	3,360,124	43,331	98.73
TOTAL OPERATION/MAINT OF PLANT	$ 10,006,585	$ 9,558,427	$ 448,158	95.52
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION:				
TRANSPORTATION	$ 3,517,500	$ 3,514,849	$ 2,651	99.92
TOTAL STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	$ 3,517,500	$ 3,514,849	$ 2,651	99.92
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	**$ 39,170,894**	**$ 38,097,375**	**$ 1,073,519**	**97.26**
OPERATION OF NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES:				
COMMUNITY SERVICES	$ 1,269,328	$ 1,191,304	$ 78,024	93.85
TOTAL OPERATION OF NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	**$ 1,269,328**	**$ 1,191,304**	**$ 78,024**	**93.85**

KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS
BUDGET SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR 2025- 2026

SERIES	2025-2026 BUDGET	2025-2026 ACTUAL	UNDER/(OVER) BUDGET	PERCENT OBLIGATED
CAPITAL OUTLAY:				
REGULAR CAPITAL OUTLAY	$ 1,027,940	$ 862,773	$ 165,167	83.93
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	**$ 1,027,940**	**$ 862,773**	**$ 165,167**	**83.93**
DEBT SERVICE:				
DEBT SERVICE	$ 4,819,300	$ 4,818,165	$ 1,135	99.98
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	**$ 4,819,300**	**$ 4,818,165**	**$ 1,135**	**99.98**
OTHER USES:				
TRANSFERS	$ 3,500,000	$ 3,463,563	$ 36,437	98.96
TOTAL OTHER USES	**$ 3,500,000**	**$ 3,463,563**	**$ 36,437**	**98.96**
TOTAL-GENERAL PURPOSE	**$ 110,428,951**	**$ 107,723,353**	**$ 2,705,598**	**97.55**

2027-2028 School Calendar

10 In-Service Days (Includes Convocation)
5 Administrative Days
(Includes 2 Parent/Teacher Conference Days)

Teacher Work Days
(no student attendance)

New Teacher Orientation	TBD
Convocation/ In-Service Days	July 26-28
Administrative Days	July 29-30
*In-Service Day	Sept. 7
Parent/Teacher Conference Day	Oct. 8
In-Service Day	Oct. 18
*In-Service Day	Nov. 1
In-Service Day	Jan. 3
Parent/Teacher Conference Day	Feb. 4
*In-Service Day	Feb. 7
In-Service Day	Mar. 7
Administrative Day	May 19
In-Service Day	May 22
*All employees report	

School Dismissal Days
(no student or teacher attendance)

Labor Day	Sept. 6
Fall Break	Oct. 11-15
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 24-26
Winter Break	Dec. 20-Dec. 31
MLK Day	Jan. 17
Spring Break	Mar. 20-24
Spring Holiday	Apr. 14

Start of School
(for students)

1st Semester	Aug. 2, 2027
2nd Semester	Jan. 4, 2028

End of Nine Weeks

1st Nine Weeks	Oct. 1, 2027
2nd Nine Weeks	Dec. 17, 2027
3rd Nine Weeks	March 9, 2028
4th Nine Weeks	May 18, 2028

July 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	(2)	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
						22

September 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	*	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
						20

October 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						14

November 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	*	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
						18

December 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	~~17~~	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
						13

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January 2028

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	(4)	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					19

February 2028

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	*	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				
						19

March 2028

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
						17

April 2028

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						19

May 2028

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	~~18~~	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
						14

88

June 2028

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Admin. Day | In-Service Day | In-Service Day (All employees report) | No School | 1st Day of School | Early Dismissal | Parent/Teacher Conference Day

Report Card Distribution

Sept. 9 Progress Report	Oct. 7 Report Card	Nov. 11 Progress Report	Jan. 6 Report Card	Feb. 3 Progress Report	March 16 Report Card	April 13 Progress Report	May 18 Report Card

2027-2028 Draft Calendar A

(9/22/26)

Dr. Andy True
Assistant Superintendent - Administration

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Education, Principals, Administrators, and ASC Staff

FROM: Andy True

DATE: September 22, 2026

RE: PROPOSED 2027-28 Designated Holiday Schedule

In October 2026, it is expected that the BOE will approve the KCS student/academic calendar for the 2027-28 school year. Many of our employees base their work schedule on the academic calendar, and holidays for such employees are incorporated into that academic calendar.

All twelve-month employees receive twelve (12) paid holidays per year, per BOE Policy. Please share this proposed Designated Holiday schedule with all twelve-month employees under your supervision. The final 2027-28 Designated Holiday schedule is expected to be approved by the BOE in October 2026.

2027-28 Designated Holidays – PROPOSED (9/22/26)

Independence Day	Monday, July 5, 2027	(1 day)
Labor Day	Monday, September 6, 2027	(1 day)
Thanksgiving	Wednesday-Friday, November 24-26, 2027	(3 days)
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 23, 2027	(1 day)
Christmas Day	Friday, December 24, 2027	(1 day)
New Year's Eve	Thursday, December 30, 2027	(1 day)
New Year's Day	Friday, December 31, 2027	(1 day)
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 17, 2028	(1 day)
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29, 2028	(1 day)
Floating Holiday*	TBD	(1 day)

*The Floating Holiday may be designated with supervisor approval, may not be used to generate overtime, and will be forfeited if not utilized prior to July 1, 2028.

KINGSPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
For: Initial Review
September 22, 2026 - Board of Education Work Session

REVISED POLICIES CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION ON 1st Reading

4.600 – Grading System

This new law clarifies that the high school grading system will apply to coursework completed by students in middle school. TSBA has added clarifying information to this policy. Please note that Public Chapter 901 also includes a requirement that will go into effect for the 2027-2028 school year. Beginning in that school year, districts are required to automatically enroll students who achieve a performance level of "exceeds expectations" on the math portion of the 7th grade TCAP exam in Algebra I instead of an 8th grade math course, unless a parent/guardian opts them out.

4.603 – Promotion and Retention

TSBA has updated policy 4.603 to include another pathway for students to be promoted to fourth grade. This is based on Public Chapter 1030 that permits this promotion if the student was administered a state-mandated assessment in third grade and demonstrated proficiency in ELA based on scoring in the fiftieth percentile on the most recently administered universal reading screener.

6.200 – Attendance

Public Chapter 844 requires districts to determine whether a mid-year transfer student was previously enrolled in a public school in the same school year and request the student's attendance records. The receiving district must then include the unexcused absences from the previous school district in the student's current total to implement the appropriate truancy intervention tier, if applicable.

6.202 – Home Schools

Previously, state law required certain actions if a home school student fell below grade level. Public Chapter 912 has removed this portion of the statute. Additionally, this new law changes the types of tests that may be administered to home school students and permits the parent to select a standardized test.

6.318 – Admission of Suspended or Expelled Students

Public Chapter 760 permits school districts to continue an investigation of a student disciplinary incident even if the student withdraws. Further, it clarifies that the investigation and/or disciplinary consequences may resume if the student re-enrolls. TSBA has added information on this process to clarify those options in the corresponding model policy.

6.405 – Medicines

At the request of the City Attorney, a revision is recommended regarding the lack of necessary consent when medication is administered to adult students or emancipated minors.

6.506 – Students from Military Families
Public Chapter 834 updates requirements for school districts regarding students from military families. Previously, state law allowed Boards to choose how much time these students had to provide documentation of relocation to the district. Per this recent change, students must now provide this information within one calendar year of the date of enrollment. The new law further clarifies that districts must take appropriate steps to assist any of these students with IEPs, 504 plans, or individualized family service plans. Additionally, Public Chapter 834 states that if a military family relocates outside of the district, any students enrolled in grades 11 or 12 must be allowed to remain enrolled in the same high school until they either graduate or withdraw.

4.300 – Extracurricular Activities
4.301 – Interscholastic Activities
5.104 – Equal Opportunity Employment
6.303 – Interrogations and Searches
6.304 – Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Intimidation
6.3041 – Title IX and Sexual Harassment
Public Chapter 938 requires any policy that "includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth." These changes must be in place by January 1, 2027.

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in November	**Extracurricular Activities**	**4.300**	**08/08/23**
		Rescinds: **4.300**	Issued: **11/12/19**

The Board shall initially approve each specific extracurricular activity so that proper support and supervision may be assured. The superintendent shall develop procedures to oversee the safe and effective administration of these programs. No hazing, bullying or intimidation will be tolerated.[1]

STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS[2]

All students under the age of eighteen (18) shall present a signed and dated statement from their parent/guardian before joining any club or organization or participating in activities of a club or organization. The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall develop administrative procedures outlining this recordkeeping process.

Activities which restrict participation because of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities, or national origin are strictly forbidden.[3] Sex shall be defined as the "immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth."[4]

Legal References

1. 20 USCA § 1703; 34 CFR § 106.41
2. Public Acts of 2023, Chapter No. 353
3. 34 CFR § 106.41
4. Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 938

Cross References

Special Use of School Vehicles 3.402
Interscholastic Athletics 4.301
Field Trips and Excursions 4.302
Attendance 6.200

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 938

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

By Representatives Cochran, Moody, Maberry, Greg Martin, Capley, Lynn, Hawk, Powers, Bulso, Reneau

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 936

By Senators Rose, Bailey, Bowling, Haile, Hensley, Lowe, Stevens, White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1; Title 3; Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7 and Title 8, relative to biological sex.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each local governmental entity shall revise any existing ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a local governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person residing in the jurisdiction of a local governmental entity who believes the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1) may file a complaint in chancery court in that person's county of residence. The person filing the complaint shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1).

(3) If the court finds the local governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (a)(1), the court shall issue a writ of mandamus ordering the entity to comply with subdivision (a)(1), and may take any other action within the scope of the jurisdiction of the court to ensure such compliance.

(4) Upon a finding by the court that a local governmental entity has not complied with the court's order within ninety (90) days of the issuance of the order under subdivision (b)(3), the local governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department of economic and community development until such time as the local governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (a)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the court.

(5) As used in this subsection (a), "local governmental entity" means a county, incorporated city or town, metropolitan government, school district, utility district, or other political subdivision of this state.

(6) A local governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (a)(1) based solely on the local governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(b)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each state governmental entity shall revise any existing rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a state governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person may file a complaint with the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (b)(1). Upon receipt of a credible complaint, the comptroller may investigate whether the state governmental entity is in compliance with subdivision (b)(1).

(3) Upon a finding by the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is not in compliance with subdivision (b)(1), the comptroller shall provide written notice of such findings to the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable. If the comptroller finds that the state governmental entity has not come into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) within ninety (90) days of receipt of such notice of noncompliance, the comptroller:

(A) For a state governmental entity that is not an institution of higher education and that is eligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice to the department of the entity's noncompliance. Upon receiving such notice, the state governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; or

(B) For a state governmental entity that is an institution of higher education or otherwise ineligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice of the entity's noncompliance to the department of finance and administration and to the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives. Upon receiving such notice, the department:

(i) For a first notice of noncompliance, shall notify the entity that a second or third notice of noncompliance will result in a loss of general fund revenue from this state in accordance with this subdivision (b)(3)(B);

(ii) For a second notice of noncompliance, shall withhold ten percent (10%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a

certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; and

(iii) For a third notice of noncompliance, shall withhold twenty percent (20%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury. Upon receipt of a third notice of noncompliance, the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives shall require the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable, to appear before the committee for lack of compliance with subdivision (b)(1). After the meeting, the committee shall make recommendations to the speakers of the senate and house of representatives regarding the noncompliance of the entity.

(4) As used in this subsection (b), "state governmental entity" means a state agency, authority, board, commission, department, or office within the executive branch of state government or any autonomous state agency, authority, board, commission, department, office, or institution of higher education.

(5) A state governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (b)(1) based solely on the state governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(c) This section does not require a state governmental entity to adopt or enact a rule, policy, or procedure that violates federal law.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

PASSED: April 22, 2026

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 7th day of May 2026

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in November	**Interscholastic Athletics**	**4.301**	**09/08/26**
		Rescinds: **4.301**	Issued: **08/12/25**

No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another person, or otherwise be discriminated against in any athletic program of the school. Equal athletic opportunities shall be provided for members of both sexes.[1]

Sex shall be defined as the "immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth."[13] Student athletes shall only be allowed to participate in athletic activities or events that align with the student's sex indicated on his/her original birth certificate.[2] If the original birth certificate is not available or does not indicate the student's sex at the time of birth, the parent/guardian shall provide medical documentation showing evidence of the student's sex at birth.

Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be the principal's responsibility. Principals shall ensure that school regulations regarding participation in a sport are reasonable. Athletic schedules shall be filed in each school principal's office. The principal or his/her designee must accompany an athletic team on trips. Transportation of teams to athletic games is approved by the board, provided the team's school reimburses the board for mileage.

Bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall regulate the operation and control of athletics.[3]

INSURANCE AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

In the event that the school's insurance provider does not extend coverage to an athlete, that athlete must provide proof of independently secured catastrophic coverage and liability coverage, with the school system as a named insured, of not less than the limits set forth in TCA § 29-20-403.[4]

There shall be a complete annual physical examination of every student prior to his/her participation in interscholastic athletics.[5] Cost of the examination shall be borne by the parent or guardian of the student. These records shall be on file in the principal's office or principal's designee. It shall be the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all students participating in interscholastic athletics.

SCHEDULING CONFLICTS

No principal or teacher of any school under the control of the board shall dismiss his/her school or any group of students for the purpose of permitting them to practice or play baseball, football, basketball, or any similar game within the regular school hours of any school day of the week without written permission from the superintendent. This does not prevent the inclusion of regular physical training lessons in the daily school program.[6]

Students shall not be required to attend a school athletic event, or event related to participation on a school athletic team, if the event is on an official school holiday, observed day of worship, or religious holiday. The student's parent or legal guardian shall notify the coach in writing three (3) full school days prior to the event.[7] Prior written notice to the coach or administrator of the school athletic event may not be required if the absence is due to an unforeseen emergency.

PROHIBITION AGAINST HAZING[8]

Coaches, employees, and volunteers of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate hazing activities.

SEVERE WEATHER[9]

Severe weather is any type of weather that could impede the safety of any athlete by compromising the playing conditions of the interscholastic sport. Severe weather includes, but is not limited to, thunder, lightning, and extreme temperatures. When severe weather is forecasted, suspension of play shall be discussed with all players, coaches, and officials, if applicable.

All coaches who oversee or participate in outdoor training, practice, or competition shall annually complete a heat illness prevention course approved by the Tennessee Department of Health as well as receive training on activity modifications based on environmental conditions.

HOME SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION[10]

Home school students shall be permitted to participate in accordance with TSSAA or TMSAA guidelines. If a school is not a member with these organizations, home school students that are zoned for the school shall be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics to the same extent as other students.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION[11]

Virtual school students shall be permitted to participate in accordance with TSSAA or TMSAA guidelines. If a school is not a member with these organizations, virtual school students that are zoned for the school shall be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics to the same extent as other students.

PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION[12]

While students from private schools are permitted to try out for interscholastic athletics teams, this does not guarantee that they will make the team. As with all students, those from other schools shall only be admitted to the team subject to the independent decision of the coach or other relevant school official.

Private school students shall be permitted to participate in accordance with TSSAA or TMSAA guidelines subject to the following conditions. These students must:

- Attend a private school that is not a member with TSSAA or TMSAA and serves fewer than two-hundred (200) students in grades six through eight (6-8) or fewer than two hundred students in grades nine through twelve (9-12);
- Satisfy the eligibility requirements established by TSSAA or TMSAA; and
- Reside within the geographic boundaries of the district.

These students shall be permitted to participate in athletic programs not offered by the private school, but only in the middle or high school that they are zoned to attend.

Legal References

1. 34 CFR § 106.41; 20 USCA § 1681 *et seq*.
2. TCA 49-6-310(a)
3. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.08(1)
4. TCA 49-6-3601
5. TCA 29-20-403
6. 20 USCA § 1232h(c); TRR/MS 0520-01-13-.01(1)(a)
7. TCA 49-6-1002(a)
8. TCA 49-6-1002(c)
9. TCA 49-2-120
10. TCA 49-6-3050(e)(1)(B)
11. Public Acts of 2025, Chapter No. 173
12. Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 893
13. Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 938

Cross References

Special Use of School Vehicles 3.402
Student Insurance Program 3.601
Extracurricular Activities 4.300
Attendance 6.200

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 938

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

By Representatives Cochran, Moody, Maberry, Greg Martin, Capley, Lynn, Hawk, Powers, Bulso, Reneau

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 936

By Senators Rose, Bailey, Bowling, Haile, Hensley, Lowe, Stevens, White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1; Title 3; Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7 and Title 8, relative to biological sex.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each local governmental entity shall revise any existing ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a local governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person residing in the jurisdiction of a local governmental entity who believes the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1) may file a complaint in chancery court in that person's county of residence. The person filing the complaint shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1).

(3) If the court finds the local governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (a)(1), the court shall issue a writ of mandamus ordering the entity to comply with subdivision (a)(1), and may take any other action within the scope of the jurisdiction of the court to ensure such compliance.

(4) Upon a finding by the court that a local governmental entity has not complied with the court's order within ninety (90) days of the issuance of the order under subdivision (b)(3), the local governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department of economic and community development until such time as the local governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (a)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the court.

(5) As used in this subsection (a), "local governmental entity" means a county, incorporated city or town, metropolitan government, school district, utility district, or other political subdivision of this state.

(6) A local governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (a)(1) based solely on the local governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(b)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each state governmental entity shall revise any existing rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

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(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person may file a complaint with the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (b)(1). Upon receipt of a credible complaint, the comptroller may investigate whether the state governmental entity is in compliance with subdivision (b)(1).

(3) Upon a finding by the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is not in compliance with subdivision (b)(1), the comptroller shall provide written notice of such findings to the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable. If the comptroller finds that the state governmental entity has not come into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) within ninety (90) days of receipt of such notice of noncompliance, the comptroller:

(A) For a state governmental entity that is not an institution of higher education and that is eligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice to the department of the entity's noncompliance. Upon receiving such notice, the state governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; or

(B) For a state governmental entity that is an institution of higher education or otherwise ineligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice of the entity's noncompliance to the department of finance and administration and to the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives. Upon receiving such notice, the department:

(i) For a first notice of noncompliance, shall notify the entity that a second or third notice of noncompliance will result in a loss of general fund revenue from this state in accordance with this subdivision (b)(3)(B);

(ii) For a second notice of noncompliance, shall withhold ten percent (10%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a

certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; and

(iii) For a third notice of noncompliance, shall withhold twenty percent (20%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury. Upon receipt of a third notice of noncompliance, the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives shall require the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable, to appear before the committee for lack of compliance with subdivision (b)(1). After the meeting, the committee shall make recommendations to the speakers of the senate and house of representatives regarding the noncompliance of the entity.

(4) As used in this subsection (b), "state governmental entity" means a state agency, authority, board, commission, department, or office within the executive branch of state government or any autonomous state agency, authority, board, commission, department, office, or institution of higher education.

(5) A state governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (b)(1) based solely on the state governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(c) This section does not require a state governmental entity to adopt or enact a rule, policy, or procedure that violates federal law.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

PASSED: April 22, 2026

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 7th day of May 2026

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in April	**Grading System**	**4.600**	**11/12/24**
		Rescinds: **4.600**	Issued: **07/12/22**

The Board believes that the issuance of grades serves to promote continuous evaluation of students' performance, to inform students and parents of students' progress and to provide a basis for bringing about changes in students' performance, if such changes are necessary.

Subject-area grades shall be expressed by the letters “A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, and “F”, with corresponding numerical values. This grading system shall be uniform throughout the school system for each grade. The grading system to be used is as follows:[1]

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F .....Below 60[1]

Conduct shall be marked as follows:

O .....Outstanding

S .....Satisfactory

N.....Needs Improvement

U .....Unsatisfactory

Conduct grades are based on behavior and shall not be deducted from scholastic grades.

Grading floors with a minimum above zero are not permitted.[3]

Attendance records shall be used in determining the awarding of grades, or the passing of a course, or promotion or retention. Absences, however, shall not be used in awarding grades.[1]

Plus and minus evaluations are not to be added to letter grades with the exception of Honors and AP courses. Grades are not to be changed once recorded on the report card. If an erroneous grade has been recorded or grades are changed due to retesting, etc. the new grades must be corrected and updated in the system database.

Grade reports and/or progress reports given at the end of each four and one-half (4 1/2) weeks, nine (9) weeks shall be determined from academic performance.

Class of 2023 and All Subsequent Classes

Weighting for Honors Courses

Shall include the addition of three percentage (3%) points to the grades used to calculate the semester average.

Weighting for Local Dual Credit, State Dual Credit, and Industry Certification Courses

Shall include the addition of four percentage (4%) points to the grades used to calculate the semester average.

Weighting for Dual Enrollment Courses

Shall include the addition of five percentage (5%) points to the grades used to calculate the semester average.

Weighting for Advanced Placement

A student must take the AP Exam in an Advanced Placement course in order to receive AP level credit (+5% points). Students who do not take the AP Exam will only receive honors level credit (+3% points) for the course in question.

Quality Points

- Add .5 points to the base grade weight (4-A, 3-B, etc.) for honors courses, .75 points to the base points assigned for local dual credit, state dual credit, and industry certification courses, and 1.0 points to the base points assigned for a dual enrollment and AP courses.
- Add .1 point to the base weight grade for the upper numerical ranges of A's, B's, and C's in honors courses and .2 points to the base weight grade for the upper numerical ranges of A's, B's, and C's in Advanced Placement courses. These are designated as + grades.

Weighted Grading System

Students who take Honors level courses will have three percentage (3%) points added to their final semester numerical average. Students who take Advanced Placement courses and complete the Advanced Placement Test will have five percentage (5%) points added to their final semester numerical average. This internal weighting is consistent with what is allowed for the Tennessee Lottery Scholarship Program, the Tennessee Board of Regents Colleges and Universities, and the

University of Tennessee College System. The unweighted (4.0 scale) GPA allows for the internal weighting of the additional three and five percentage points.

The external weighted grade point average will be in place to recognize rigor and strength of schedule for students. This is the grade point average that will be utilized for class rank and submitted to colleges and universities. This average incorporates the internal addition of 3 percentage points for Honors courses and 5 percentage points for Advanced Placement courses. The external rank will incorporate plus (+) grades for the higher numerical ranges for A's, B's, and C's. The grade point average will be calculated and rounded to the thousandths place. This procedure could result in more than one person having the same rank.

Grades issued on the first and third nine weeks report card and on progress reports will not reflect the additional 3 or 5 percentage points. The additional percentage points are reflected on the final semester grade. The final semester grade is the only grade that appears on the transcript. The grade scales for Honors, Advanced Placement, and all other courses are reflected in the following chart.

Grade	**Non-Honors/ Non-AP**		**Honors +3%; +0.5 (+ = +.1)**		**Local Dual Credit State Dual Credit** **Industry Certification +4%; +.75**		**Dual Enrollment +5%; +1.0**		**#Advanced Placement +5%; +1.0 (+ = +.2)**	
	Grading Scale	**Quality Points**	**Grading Scale**	**Quality Points**	**Grading Scale**	**Quality Points**	**Grading Scale**	**Quality Points**	**Grading Scale**	**Quality Points**
A+			96-100	4.6					96-100	5.2
A	90-100	4.0	90-95	4.5	90-100	4.75	90-100	5.0	90-95	5.0
B+			86-89	3.6					86-89	4.2
B	80-89	3.0	80-85	3.5	80-89	3.75	80-89	4.0	80-85	4.0
C+			76-79	2.6					76-79	3.2
C	70-79	2.0	70-75	2.5	70-79	2.75	70-79	3.0	70-75	3.0
D	60-69	1.0	60-69	1.5	60-69	1.75	60-69	2.0	60-69	2.0
F	0-59	0.0	0-59	0.0	0-59	0.0	0-59	0.0	0-59	0.0

#Kingsport School Board policy states that a student must take the AP Exam in an Advanced Placement course in order to receive AP level credit. Students who do not take the AP Exam will only receive honors level credit (+3 percentage points) for the course in question.

Weighted Course Listing

AP Level Courses

AP Calculus AB, AP Computer Science A, AP Calculus BC, AP Calculus AB Topics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics C, AP Physics I, French 5, Spanish 5, Latin 5, German 5, AP Human Geography, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, AP European History, AP United States History, AP American Government, AP Psychology, AP English 12, AP English 11, AP Music Theory, AP Statistics, AP Drawing, AP World History, AP Computer Science Principals, AP Seminar, AP Research, AP Environmental Science, AP Art History.

Advanced/Honors/Pre-AP Level Courses

Honors Algebra 2, Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus, Honors Accounting, Honors Biology, Biology 2 Pre-AP, Honors Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2 Pre-AP, Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of engineering, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Engineering Design and Development, French 1, French 2, French 3, French 4, Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Spanish 4, German 1, German 2, German 3, German 4, Latin 1, Latin 2, Latin 3, Latin 4, Honors US History, Honors Economics, Honors Government, Honors Philosophy, Honors Sociology, English 9 Pre-AP, English 10 Pre-AP, English 11 Pre-AP, Honors Band, Honors Studio Art. Additional courses may receive approval for weighted status at a later date.

GRADES 9-12[1]

Semester grades for students in grades 9-12 shall be determined by an average of grades within the semester and the semester exam. The semester exam grade shall have a weight of fifteen (15) percent of the semester grade.

The grading shall be continuous throughout the semester, with progress reports being sent home to parents and/or guardians at the end of the fourth, ninth, and thirteenth week of the given semester, as well as a final semester grade at the end of the semester.

GRADES NINE - TWELVE GRADING SCALE AND LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS[3]

Schools teaching grades nine through twelve shall use the uniform grading system established by the State Board of Education. This shall also apply to students enrolled in eighth grade for the grades achieved on high school courses. Using the uniform grading system, students' grades shall be reported for the purposes of application for post-secondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

Each school counselor shall provide incoming freshman with information on college core courses required for lottery scholarships as well as necessary criteria (grade point average, ACT, and SAT score, etc.) that must be met in order to receive a scholarship.

Seniors may apply for the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is available at the guidance office or on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The priority date for FAFSA completion is May 1.

Elementary school counselors should explain the HOPE Scholarship and its requirements to their students and impress upon them the benefits of making good grades.

STATE APPROVED COURSES

State approved courses shall meet all appropriate content standards, learning expectations, and performance indicators as approved by the State Board of Education and are eligible for the points listed above.

HONORS COURSES AND NATIONAL INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION COURSES

Local education agencies may elect to offer honors courses (see policy 4.602, Section 1) and National Industry Certification (NIC) courses. Local education agencies electing to offer honors courses will ensure that the approved honors courses substantially exceed the content standards, learning expectations, and performance indicators as approved by the State Board of Education. Further, each local education agency offering honors courses will ensure that additional rigor is being provided by implementing the framework of standards for honors courses listed below. Students enrolled in honors courses and/or NIC courses who complete the course/pass certification assessment will have a total of three (3) points added to their final semester numerical average.

FRAMEWORK OF STANDARDS FOR HONORS COURSES

Honors courses will substantially excel the content standards, learning expectations, and performance indicators approved by the State Board of Education. Teachers of honors courses will model instructional approaches that facilitate maximum interchange of ideas among students: independent study, self-directed research and learning and appropriate use of technology. All honors courses must include multiple assessments exemplifying coursework (such as short answer, constructed-response prompts, performance-based tasks, open-ended questions, essays, original or creative interpretations, authentic products, portfolios, and analytical writing). Additionally, an honors course shall include a minimum of five (5) of the following components:

1. Extended reading assignments that connect with the specified curriculum.
2. Research-based writing assignments that address and extend the course curriculum.
3. Projects that apply course curriculum to relevant or real-world situations. These may include oral presentations, power point presentations, or other modes of sharing findings. Connection of the project to the community is encouraged.
4. Open-ended investigations in which the student selects the questions and designs the research.
5. Writing assignments that demonstrate a variety of modes, purposes, and style.
    - Examples of mode include narrative, descriptive, persuasive, expository, and expressive;
    - Examples of purpose include to inform, entertain and persuade; and
    - Examples of style include formal, informal, literary, analytical, and technical.

6. Integration of appropriate technology into the course of study.
7. Deeper exploration of the culture, values, and history of the discipline.
8. Extensive opportunities for problem solving experiences through imagination, critical analysis, and application.
9. Job shadowing experiences with presentations which connect class study to the world of work.

If honors courses and courses that offer National Industry Certification are offered, the local education agency shall annually approve the list of such courses. This list of National Industry Certification courses and of approved honors courses with a complete syllabus for each course shall be approved by the local educational agency and made readily available to the public.

Each local education agency shall adopt policies for honors courses and technical courses that offer national industry certification that may allow for the addition of three (3) points to all grades used to calculate the semester average.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE COURSES

Local education agencies may elect to offer Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. If Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses are offered, the local education agency shall annually approve a list of such courses. This list of approved courses shall be made readily available to the public. Local education agencies will ensure that approved courses substantially incorporate the learning objectives and course description as defined by the College Board of International Baccalaureate Agency.

Each local education agency that elects to offer Advanced Placement courses and International Baccalaureate courses shall adopt policies for the approved courses that may allow for the addition of five (5) points to all grades used to calculate semester averages. Only Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses that have end-of-course national examinations qualify for the addition of five (5) points.

Legal References

1. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.02; State Board of Education Policy 3.301; TCA 49-6-407
2. TCA 49-4-904, 905, 907
3. Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 1005

Cross References

Alternative Credit Options 4.209
Credit Recovery 4.210
Reporting Student Progress 4.601
Honor Roll, Awards, & Class Ranking 4.602
Promotion and Retention 4.603
Transcript Alterations 4.608



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 901

SENATE BILL NO. 2375

By Hensley, Akbari, Yarbro

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2276

By Cepicky

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

The state board of education, in consultation with the department of education, shall promulgate rules, in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, to establish a pathway for an educator who currently holds a license or endorsement to teach eighth grade mathematics to also teach Algebra I or an equivalent mathematics course, as determined by the state board of education, to students in eighth grade at no additional cost to the educator.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-312, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(d) The standards recommendation committee shall include in their final recommendation for the academic standards for mathematics to the state board of education advanced mathematics academic standards for students in an advanced mathematics course in grades five through seven (5-7).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, each LEA and public charter school shall enroll a student who achieves a performance level rating of "exceeds expectations" on the mathematics portion of the student's seventh grade Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) test in Algebra I or an equivalent mathematics course, as determined by the state board of education, instead of enrolling the student in the eighth grade mathematics course, unless the student's parent or legal guardian submits a written request to the LEA or public charter school to remove the student from the course in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) An LEA or public charter school shall notify, before the beginning of the school year, the parent or legal guardian of each student who achieved a performance level rating of "exceeds expectations" on the mathematics portion of the student's seventh grade TCAP test that the student will be enrolled in Algebra I or an equivalent mathematics course in the eighth grade pursuant to subsection (a). The notice must inform the student's parent or legal guardian that the parent or legal guardian may remove the student from the Algebra I or equivalent mathematics course by submitting a written request to the LEA or public charter school no later than thirty (30) days after the first day of the school year.

(c) A student who is enrolled in Algebra I or an equivalent mathematics course pursuant to this section must be administered the end-of-course examination for the course.

(d) If the successful completion of an Algebra I course or the equivalent mathematics course is required by the state board of education pursuant to § 49-6-6001(a) for students to

receive a full high school diploma, then a student's successful completion of the Algebra I course or the equivalent mathematics course in the eighth grade also satisfies the Algebra I or the equivalent mathematics course requirement for high school.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(a)(14), is amended by adding the following immediately following the first sentence of the subdivision:

The uniform grading system must include the high school course grades achieved by students in eighth grade.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-407(a), is amended by adding "and for students enrolled in eighth grade for the grades achieved on high school courses" after "grades nine through twelve (9-12)" wherever it appears.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-407(b), is amended by adding "for kindergarten through eight (K-8) coursework" after "in kindergarten through grade eight (K-8)" wherever it appears.

SECTION 7. Sections 4-6 of this act take effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it. All other sections of this act take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 2375

PASSED: April 16, 2026

RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

CAMERON SEXTON, *SPEAKER*
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 5th **day of** May **2026**

BILL LEE, *GOVERNOR*

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in November	**Promotion and Retention**	**4.603**	**02/11/25**
		Rescinds: **4.603**	Issued: **11/12/24**

Students shall progress in sequential order from grade to grade. The professional staff shall place students at the grade level best suited for them academically, socially and emotionally. Retentions may be made when, in the judgment of the teacher, such retentions are in the best interest of the students. Decisions to retain are subject to review and approval of the principal after consultation with the teacher. However, no student enrolled in the third grade shall be promoted unless the student has shown a basic understanding of curriculum and ability to perform the skills required in the subject of reading as demonstrated by the student's grades or standardized test results. This requirement shall not apply to students who are participating in a Board approved research-based intervention prior to the beginning of the next school year or to students who have IEPs pursuant to 20 U.S.C.§ 1400 et seq.[1]

In order to enhance the opportunity for remediation, students with problems shall be identified as early as possible in the school year. Parents shall be notified when problems are identified and shall be informed periodically of remedial efforts and given progress reports.

Before a student is retained, the parents shall be informed in writing and shall have the opportunity to participate in a conference at least six (6) weeks before the end of the school year.

Students who have difficulty in achieving the requirements for promotion may be considered for retention. Schools shall identify these students by February 1st.

The following factors shall be considered in making a decision on promotion and retention:[2]

1. *Mastery of essential competencies.* Students shall have mastered essential skills sufficiently to ensure a likelihood of success at the next grade level.

2. *Special procedures for special students.* Students who have been identified as having special problems, including high risk students and others with special needs, shall be given special consideration. Placement of students with IEPs shall be determined by the IEP-Team.

3. *Flexible placement.* Use of conditional promotion, remedial summer programs, assignment to transitional classes, and other approaches to meeting the needs of students shall be given consideration.

4. *Attendance.* Attendance shall become a relevant factor only when excessive absenteeism becomes an educational problem.

5. *Conduct.* Retention shall not be used as a disciplinary measure.

6. *Previous retention.* Except under unusual circumstances, students shall not be retained more than once in the same grade.

7. *Grade level.* Retention shall be considered more appropriate in grades K-3.

8. *Assessments*. The results of local or state assessments, if applicable.

9. *Maturity*. Social and emotional maturity.

When a student is considered for retention, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified within fifteen (15) calendar days, and an individualized promotion plan shall be developed to help the student avoid retention. The plan shall be developed in coordination with the student's teachers and may also include input from the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), school counselor, or other appropriate school personnel. A copy of the plan will be provided to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).[3,4]

Once the decision to retain has been made:

1. A report of each student retained shall be made to the director of schools;
2. Documentation verifying student deficiencies shall be placed in the student's record;

Students may be identified for retention after the February 1st deadline if the delay in identifying a student is due to:[5]

1. Date of enrollment;
2. Additional information acquired after results of local assessment, screening, or monitoring are released

K – 3 Reading Notification

If it is determined through a student's overall performance or a state or local assessment that a student in grades kindergarten through three (K-3) is not meeting grade-level standards in reading, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified within fifteen (15) calendar days of such determination.

VOLUNTARY RETENTION

A parent/guardian of a student enrolled in kindergarten through second grade may choose to retain his/her student in the current grade if:

1. The student has a documented academic or behavioral delay; and
2. The parent/guardian believes that retention may benefit the student.[11]

This information shall be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days of the end of the school year. The district shall send written notice to the parent/guardian confirming whether the student is eligible for retention under state law.

RETENTION[5]

A student may be retained when such retention is in the best interests of the student or when retention is required per additional requirements for students in third and fourth grade.

Decision of Retention – General[6]

If a student is retained, the Director of Schools/designee shall develop an individualized academic remediation plan within thirty (30) calendar days after the beginning of the next school year. A copy of the plan shall be provided to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) within ten (10) calendar days of its development. The plan shall include at least one of the following strategies:

1. Adjustment to the current instructional strategies or materials;
2. Additional instructional time;
3. Individual tutoring;
4. Modification to the student's classroom assignment to ensure the student receives instruction from a teacher with a level of overall effectiveness of above expectations (level 4) or significantly above expectations (level 5); or
5. Attendance or truancy interventions.

A student shall not be retained more than once in any grade. The progress of students who are retained shall be closely monitored and reported to parent(s)/guardian(s) at least three (3) times during the school year in which the student is retained. The Director of Schools shall develop procedures to ensure appropriate recordkeeping of students who are retained.

Decision of Retention – Third Grade[7]

Third grade students shall not be promoted to the next grade unless they are determined to be proficient (i.e., receive a performance level rating of "on track" or "mastered") in English language arts (ELA) based on the student's most recent TCAP test.

Students who are not proficient in ELA may still be promoted if the following conditions are met:

1. A student in third grade receiving a performance level rating of "approaching" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:
    a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full years of ELA instruction;
    b. The student was previously retained in grades K-3;
    c. The student is retested before the next school year and scores proficient in ELA;
    d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the next school year, maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate, and demonstrates adequate growth on the post-test at the end of the camp;
    e. The student receives tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with state law; ~~or~~
    f. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the student demonstrates proficiency in ELA standards by scoring within the fiftieth percentile on the most recently administered state-provided benchmark assessment and the district provides tutoring services to the student during the entire fourth grade school year and notifies the student's parent/guardian, in writing, of the benefits of enrolling the student in summer programming; or
    g. The student was administered a state-mandated assessment pursuant to TCA 49-1-616(d) as a third-grade student and the student demonstrates proficiency in ELA based on the student scoring within the fiftieth percentile on the most recently administered

universal reading screener approved by the State Board of Education or the Tennessee universal reading screener.[12]

2. A student in third grade receiving a performance level rating of "below" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:
    a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full years of ELA instruction;
    b. The student was previously retained in grades K-3;
    c. The student is retested before the next school year and scores proficient in ELA; or
    d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the next school year, maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate, and receives tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with state law.

Decision of Retention – Fourth Grade[7]

Students in the following categories may be promoted to fifth grade if they demonstrate adequate growth on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test:

1. A student who was promoted to fourth grade due to receiving tutoring for the entirety of the fourth-grade school year; and
2. A student who was promoted to fourth grade due to attending a learning loss bridge camp while maintaining a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate and receiving tutoring for the entirety of the fourth grade school year.

If a student that was promoted to fourth grade under one of the provisions above does not demonstrate adequate growth on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test, then the following shall occur:

1. The student's principal shall convene a conference consisting of the following parties: the student's parent(s)/legal guardian, the student's ELA teacher, and the student's principal.
2. The conference shall review the student's fourth grade ELA performance to determine if the student should be promoted to fifth grade.
3. At the conclusion of the conference, a majority of the parties shall agree to one of the following:
    a. The student will be promoted to fifth grade and be assigned a tutor for the entirety of the student's fifth-grade year; or
    b. The student will be retained in fourth grade. A student shall not be retained more than once in fourth grade.

Decision of Retention – Students with Disabilities[8]

Retention and promotion decisions shall be made on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the student's IEP and/or 504 team to determine whether the student's performance on the ELA portion of TCAP was due to the student's disability. The school district shall not retain a student with a disability or a suspected disability that impacts their ability to read.

APPEALS[4,9]

When a student is identified for retention, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified about the decision to retain the student and provided with information on the right to appeal the decision. Appeals shall be

made to the district Retention Review Team committee prior to May 15. The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided written or actual notice of the appeal hearing and shall be given the opportunity to address the committee. The committee shall conduct a hearing prior to May 30 to determine if the student will be promoted and issue such decision within five (5) business days of the date of the appeal hearing. Upon notification of the committee decision, the principal shall send written notification to the Superintendent of Schools/designee and the parent(s)/guardian(s). The notification shall advise parent(s)/guardian(s) of their right to appeal such action to the Superintendent of Schools/designee.

The appeal to the Superintendent of Schools/designee shall be heard no later than ten (10) business days after the request for appeal is received. A decision shall be issued within five days. The action of the Superintendent of Schools/designee shall be final.

For students where retention is required per the additional requirements for students in third and fourth grade, parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal this decision directly to the Department of Education in accordance with state law.[10]

Legal References

1. 20 USCA § 1400 *et seq.*; 29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504); TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16; TCA 49-6-3115
2. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(5)
3. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)(e)
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(4)
6. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)(g)
7. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)
8. 29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504); 20 USCA § 1400 *et seq.*; TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)(e); Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 989
9. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(3); TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.17(7); TCA 49-6-3102(e)(1)
10. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)(f)
11. Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 829
12. Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 1030

Cross References

Credit Recovery 4.210
Grading System 4.600
Reporting Student Progress 4.601
Attendance 6.200
Student Assignments 6.205
Homeless Students 6.503
Student Records 6.600

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1030

HOUSE BILL NO. 2422

By Representatives Greg Martin, Hakeem, Reneau, Vital, Helton-Haynes, Cochran, Leatherwood

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2317

By Senators Watson, Pody, Lowe, Rose, Stevens, White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to assessments.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 6, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

49-1-616.

(a) The department of education shall implement a pilot program to evaluate whether administering fewer district- and state-mandated assessments results in students achieving greater academic success.

(b) By no later than July 1, 2026, the department shall select up to ten (10) LEAs to participate in the pilot program. To be eligible to participate in the pilot program, an LEA must, for the 2024-2025 school year, have:

(1) Received an "advancing" or "exemplary" district designation from the department of education;

(2) Demonstrated a proficiency rate for students in grades three through five (3-5) in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics that is greater than forty percent (40%); and

(3) Achieved a chronic absenteeism rate for the district that is below twenty percent (20%).

(c) If an LEA participates in the pilot program, then, notwithstanding another law to the contrary:

(1) Assessments for the 2027-2028 school year must be limited as described in subsections (d) and (e) for each student in any of the grades kindergarten through eight (K-8) who achieves above the fortieth percentile on the universal reading screener and on the universal screener in mathematics that are administered to the student at the beginning of 2027-2028 school year; and

(2) Assessments for the 2028-2029 school year must be limited as described in subsections (d) and (e) for each student in any of the grades kindergarten through eight (K-8) who achieves above the fortieth percentile on the universal reading screener and on the universal screener in mathematics that are administered to the student at the beginning of 2028-2029 school year.

(d) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, the department of education shall limit the state mandated assessments in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics for:

(1) A student described in subdivision (c)(1) by requiring no more than the following assessments to be administered in the 2027-2028 school year to any such student, as applicable:

(A) One (1) universal reading screener approved by the state board of education or one (1) Tennessee universal reading screener;

(B) One (1) universal screener in mathematics;

(C) One (1) Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) test in the subject of English language arts; and

(D) One (1) TCAP test in the subject of mathematics; and

(2) A student described in subdivision (c)(2) by requiring no more than the following assessments to be administered in the 2028-2029 school year to any such student, as applicable:

(A) One (1) universal reading screener approved by the state board of education or one (1) Tennessee universal reading screener;

(B) One (1) universal screener in mathematics;

(C) One (1) Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) test in the subject of English language arts; and

(D) One (1) TCAP test in the subject of mathematics.

(e) An LEA participating in the pilot program shall limit the assessments mandated by the district in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics for:

(1) A student described in subdivision (c)(1) by requiring the following assessments to be administered in the 2027-2028 school year to any such student, as applicable:

(A)

(i) Two (2) benchmark assessments in the subject of English language arts;

(ii) Two (2) universal reading screeners approved by the state board of education, in addition to the screener required in subdivision (d)(1)(A); or

(iii) Two (2) Tennessee universal reading screeners, in addition to the screener required in subdivision (d)(1)(A); and

(B)

(i) Two (2) benchmark assessments in the subject of mathematics; or

(ii) Two (2) universal screeners in mathematics, in addition to the screener required in subdivision (d)(1)(B); and

(2) A student described in subdivision (c)(2) by requiring the following assessments to be administered in the 2028-2029 school year to any such student, as applicable:

(A)

(i) Two (2) benchmark assessments in the subject of English language arts;

(ii) Two (2) universal reading screeners approved by the state board of education, in addition to the screener required in subdivision (d)(2)(A); or

(iii) Two (2) Tennessee universal reading screeners, in addition to the screener required in subdivision (d)(2)(A); and

(B)

(i) Two (2) benchmark assessments in the subject of mathematics; or

(ii) Two (2) universal screeners in mathematics, in addition to the screener required in subdivision (d)(2)(B).

(f) Each LEA participating in the pilot program shall provide a report to a parent or legal guardian of a student in any of the grades kindergarten through three (K-3) who is being administered a limited number of state- and locally mandated assessments through the pilot program, describing the student's progress after the student is administered a universal reading screener approved by the state board of education or the Tennessee universal reading screener.

(g) Each LEA selected to participate in the pilot program must submit the results of the assessments administered to students pursuant to subsection (e) to the department of education by no later than June 15, 2029.

(h)

(1) Notwithstanding subsection (b), in order to participate or continue participating in the pilot program, an LEA that meets the required eligibility criteria in subsection (b) must also, for at least two (2) consecutive years beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, have:

(A) Received an "advancing" or "exemplary" district designation from the department of education;

(B) Demonstrated a forty percent (40%) or greater proficiency rate for students in grades three through five (3-5) in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics; and

(C) Achieved a chronic absenteeism rate for the district that is below twenty percent (20%).

(2) The department shall notify an LEA that does not meet the additional eligibility criteria described in subdivision (h)(1) that the LEA is not eligible to participate in the pilot program.

(i) The department of education shall review the results of the assessments administered to students pursuant to this section and the results of the assessments administered to the same students in the immediately preceding school year to evaluate whether administering fewer district- and state-mandated assessments results in students achieving greater academic success. The department shall submit a report detailing the findings of the review and evaluation required in this subsection (i) to the general assembly.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3115(a)(2)(A), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(vii) The student was administered a limited number of state-mandated assessments pursuant to § 49-1-616(d) as a third-grade student and the student demonstrates proficiency in ELA based on the student scoring within the fiftieth percentile on the most recently administered universal reading screener approved by the state board of education or the Tennessee universal reading screener; and

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2422

PASSED: April 23, 2026

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 21st day of May 2026

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in February	**Equal Opportunity Employment**	**5.104**	**11/12/19**
		Rescinds: **5.104**	Issued: **02/08/18**

The Kingsport Board of Education is committed to operation of the school system as a learning organization that honors and respects its members as empowered persons in the community. Such a commitment requires fair and equitable treatment of everyone in all aspects of system operation. Kingsport City Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its program and activities.[1] The system shall be in compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1994, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Kingsport City Schools maintains a policy of non-discrimination with employees and applicants for employment. No aspect of employment shall be influenced in any manner by race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, veteran status, marital status, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by statute. Sex shall be defined as the "immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth."[2]

The Superintendent of Schools shall take action to correct and/or prevent any practice which may cause discrimination in employment and in areas of personnel policy and practice.

The system shall engage in fair and sound personnel practices relating to employment actions, including but not limited to, hiring, transfers and promotions. In an effort to achieve this end, Board of Education members shall remain neutral in these procedures/practices.

Legal References

1. U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIV; Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; Age Discrimination Act of 1967; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and 42 USCA § 12101-12213
2. Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 938

Cross References

Section 504 & ADA Grievance Procedures 1.802
Discrimination/Harassment 5.500

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 938

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

By Representatives Cochran, Moody, Maberry, Greg Martin, Capley, Lynn, Hawk, Powers, Bulso, Reneau

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 936

By Senators Rose, Bailey, Bowling, Haile, Hensley, Lowe, Stevens, White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1; Title 3; Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7 and Title 8, relative to biological sex.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each local governmental entity shall revise any existing ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a local governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person residing in the jurisdiction of a local governmental entity who believes the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1) may file a complaint in chancery court in that person's county of residence. The person filing the complaint shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1).

(3) If the court finds the local governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (a)(1), the court shall issue a writ of mandamus ordering the entity to comply with subdivision (a)(1), and may take any other action within the scope of the jurisdiction of the court to ensure such compliance.

(4) Upon a finding by the court that a local governmental entity has not complied with the court's order within ninety (90) days of the issuance of the order under subdivision (b)(3), the local governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department of economic and community development until such time as the local governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (a)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the court.

(5) As used in this subsection (a), "local governmental entity" means a county, incorporated city or town, metropolitan government, school district, utility district, or other political subdivision of this state.

(6) A local governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (a)(1) based solely on the local governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(b)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each state governmental entity shall revise any existing rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a state governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person may file a complaint with the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (b)(1). Upon receipt of a credible complaint, the comptroller may investigate whether the state governmental entity is in compliance with subdivision (b)(1).

(3) Upon a finding by the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is not in compliance with subdivision (b)(1), the comptroller shall provide written notice of such findings to the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable. If the comptroller finds that the state governmental entity has not come into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) within ninety (90) days of receipt of such notice of noncompliance, the comptroller:

(A) For a state governmental entity that is not an institution of higher education and that is eligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice to the department of the entity's noncompliance. Upon receiving such notice, the state governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; or

(B) For a state governmental entity that is an institution of higher education or otherwise ineligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice of the entity's noncompliance to the department of finance and administration and to the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives. Upon receiving such notice, the department:

(i) For a first notice of noncompliance, shall notify the entity that a second or third notice of noncompliance will result in a loss of general fund revenue from this state in accordance with this subdivision (b)(3)(B);

(ii) For a second notice of noncompliance, shall withhold ten percent (10%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a

certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; and

(iii) For a third notice of noncompliance, shall withhold twenty percent (20%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury. Upon receipt of a third notice of noncompliance, the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives shall require the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable, to appear before the committee for lack of compliance with subdivision (b)(1). After the meeting, the committee shall make recommendations to the speakers of the senate and house of representatives regarding the noncompliance of the entity.

(4) As used in this subsection (b), "state governmental entity" means a state agency, authority, board, commission, department, or office within the executive branch of state government or any autonomous state agency, authority, board, commission, department, office, or institution of higher education.

(5) A state governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (b)(1) based solely on the state governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(c) This section does not require a state governmental entity to adopt or enact a rule, policy, or procedure that violates federal law.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

PASSED: April 22, 2026

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 7th day of May 2026

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in April	**Attendance**	**6.200**	**02/10/26**
		Rescinds: **6.200**	Issued: **09/28/21**

The Board of Education directs the principals at each school division (high school, middle school and elementary school) to implement procedures to record, evaluate, excuse and report to the parent/guardian a child's absence from school. No procedure shall be implemented without the approval of the Superintendent of Schools and the Attendance Supervisor. Principals shall review procedures and revise as needed.

Copies of approved procedures shall be filed in the offices of the Superintendent, Attendance Supervisor and each principal. A copy of the procedures shall be distributed to all students at the beginning of each school year.

This policy and the related procedures in no way supersede state or federal laws relative to school attendance. Student attendance records shall receive the same level of confidentiality as other student records. Only authorized school officials with legitimate educational purposes may have access to student attendance information without the consent of the parent/guardian (or adult student).

Absences shall be classified as either excused or unexcused as determined by the principal/designee.

Excused absences shall include:[1]

1. Personal illness;
2. Illness of immediate family member;
3. Death in the family;
4. Extreme weather conditions;
5. Religious observances;[2]
6. Pregnancy;
7. School-endorsed activities;
8. Summons, subpoena, or court order; or
9. Circumstances which in the judgment of the principal create emergencies over which the student has no control.

Progressive Truancy Intervention Plan[3]

Prior to referral to juvenile court, the following progressive truancy intervention plan will be implemented.

Tier I

Tier I of the progressive truancy intervention plan shall apply to all students within the district and include the following:

1. A conference with the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) beginning with the 3rd unexcused day;
2. An attendance contract, based on the conference, signed by the student, the parent(s)/guardian(s), and an attendance supervisor or designee. The contract shall include:
    a. A specific description of the school's attendance expectations for the student;
    b. The period for which the contract is effective; and
    c. Penalties for additional absences and alleged school offenses, including additional disciplinary action and potential referral to juvenile court; and
3. Regularly scheduled follow-up meetings to discuss the student's progress.

Tier II

If a student accumulates additional unexcused absences in violation of the attendance contract in Tier I, beginning with the 8th unexcused day, the student will be subject to Tier II.

Under this tier, a school district employee shall conduct an individualized assessment detailing the reasons a student has been absent from school. The employee may refer the student to counseling, community-based services, or other services to address the student's attendance problems.

Tier III

This tier shall be implemented if the truancy interventions under Tier II are unsuccessful, beginning with the 12th unexcused day.

The interventions shall address student needs in an age-appropriate manner. Finalized plans shall be approved by the Superintendent of Schools/designee.

TRANSFER STUDENTS AND TRUANCY TRACKING

The district shall request attendance records for students enrolling after the start of the school year from the previous public school district. Unexcused absences accumulated at a previous district for the current school year shall be factored into the student's placement on the truancy intervention plan tiers, if applicable.[4]

Legal References

1. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.17(5); State Board of Education Policy 4.100
2. TCA 49-6-2904(b)(5)
3. TCA 49-6-3007; TCA 49-6-3009
4. Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 844



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 844

SENATE BILL NO. 1968

By Lowe

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1823

By Raper, White, Cepicky, Haston

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 1; Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to attendance.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3001(c)(1)(B)(i), is amended by adding "attendance," before "academic," wherever it appears.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3009, is amended by adding the following as new subsections:

(o)(1) If a student withdraws from an LEA, as defined in § 49-1-103, in which the student was receiving tier three interventions pursuant to the LEA's progressive truancy plan, and the student does not transfer to another LEA, as defined in § 49-1-103, then the director of schools shall report the student's absences to the judge with juvenile jurisdiction in the county in which the student resides.

(2) Each case must be dealt with in such manner as the judge may determine to be in the best interest of the student, consistent with §§ 37-1-132, 37-1-168, and 37-1-169. In the event a student in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) is adjudicated to be unruly because the student has accumulated five (5) days or more of unexcused absences during any school year, the judge may assess a fine of up to fifty dollars ($50.00) or community service, in the discretion of the judge, against the parent or legal guardian of the student.

(3) A referral to juvenile court for conduct described in this subsection (o) must be accompanied by a statement from the director of schools certifying that:

(A) The school applied the progressive truancy interventions of the progressive truancy plan adopted under subsection (d) for the student while the student was enrolled in the LEA; and

(B) The student withdrew from the LEA and has not enrolled in another LEA.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3009(i), is amended by adding "or subsection (o), if applicable" after "with subsection (h)".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3009(g), is amended by deleting "five (5) hours of".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3007, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(i)(1) The attendance records for a student who transfers or withdraws from an LEA or public school, including a public charter school, after the school year has commenced must be maintained by the LEA or public school from which the student transferred or withdrew for the remainder of the school year.

(2) An LEA or public school that enrolls a student after the school year has commenced shall determine during the enrollment process whether the student was previously enrolled in another LEA or public school at any time during that same school year. If the LEA or public school determines that the student was previously enrolled in another LEA or public school in the same school year for which the student seeks to enroll in the LEA or public school, then the enrolling LEA or public school shall request the student's attendance records from each LEA or public school at which the student was previously enrolled during that same school year. A former LEA or public school that receives a request from another LEA or public school for a student's attendance records pursuant to this subdivision (i)(2) shall provide the attendance records for the respective school year to the requesting LEA or public school within five (5) business days of the date on which the request was received.

(3) An LEA or public school that enrolls, after the school year has commenced, a student who was previously enrolled in another LEA or public school at any time during that same school year shall include the number of any unexcused absences accumulated by the student at the student's former LEA or public school in the same school year in the number of unexcused absences for the student at the enrolling LEA or public school and shall implement the appropriate tier of the enrolling LEA's progressive truancy plan, if applicable.

SECTION 6. This act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 1968

PASSED: April 15, 2026

RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

CAMERON SEXTON, *SPEAKER*
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 27th **day of** April **2026**

BILL LEE, *GOVERNOR*

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in April	**Home Schools**	**6.202**	**11/14/23**
		Rescinds: **6.202**	Issued: **10/11/22**

A "home school" is a school conducted or directed by a parent or parents or legal guardian or guardians for their own children. Home schools which teach K-12 where the parents are associated with an organization that conducts church-related schools[1] *(as defined by §49-50-801)* which are supervised by such organization and which administer standardized achievement tests at the same time tests are given in their regular day schools are exempt from the following provisions but must follow procedures issued by the State Department of Education.

A parent wishing to conduct a home school shall meet the following requirements:[2]

1. Provide annual notice to the Superintendent of Schools by August 1 of each school year of the intent to conduct a home school;

2. Submit to the Superintendent of Schools the name, number, age, grade level of children involved, location of the school, curriculum to be offered, proposed hours of instruction, qualifications of the parent/teacher, whether a college preparatory or general course of education will be taught in grades 9-12, and a description of the courses to be taught each year;

3. Maintain attendance records, subject to inspection of the local Superintendent of Schools;

4. Submit attendance records to the Superintendent of Schools at the end of each school year;

5. Provide instruction for at least four (4) hours per day for the same number of instructional days as are required by state law for public schools;[3]

6. Possess a high school diploma or a high school equivalency credential approved by the State Board of Education;

7. Cooperate in the administration to home school students of appropriate tests by the Commissioner of Education, his/her designee or by a professional testing service Ensure the administration to home school students of appropriate tests approved by the State Board of Education or a standardized test selected by the parent-teacher that provides nationally normed analytics in English and math in grades five (5), seven (7), and nine (9);

~~8. Take action according to state law if home school student falls behind appropriate grade level;~~

9. Submit proof to the Superintendent of Schools that other health services and examinations as required by law have been received by the home school student; and

10. In the event of illness or inadequacy of the home school parent-teacher to teach a specific subject, employ a tutor having the same qualifications as required of parent/teacher.

If one or more of these requirements are not met, the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to take formal action to bring the child into compliance with the compulsory attendance law (until the child has reached age 17), either in the home school or in a public, private or church-related school.

It shall be the policy of this Board that public school facilities shall be available for home school instruction only when *all* of the following conditions exist:*

1. Special needs courses are being taught which require services unavailable to the home school student;

2. These services cannot be provided through any means other than the public schools;

3. Requests for services are made known by the home school parent when notice is given to the Superintendent of Schools of the intent to conduct a home school;

4. The Superintendent of Schools investigates request and make recommendations to the Board;

5. No overcrowding, additional expenses, including providing transportation, or other special situations which interfere with the normal operation of the school system shall be incurred; and

6. Approval by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

EXCEPTION: A 9th-12th grade home school student, pending approval by the Superintendent of Schools or Superintendent's Designee, shall be permitted to enroll at Dobyns-Bennett High School for the sole purpose of obtaining high school credit through the completion of coursework via the D-B EXCEL learning program.

The Superintendent of Schools, through the attendance supervisor, shall have the attendance records of the home school inspected at least two (2) times each school year in order to provide assistance in implementing the Compulsory Attendance Law.

~~If a home school student falls more than one (1) year behind his appropriate grade level in his/her comprehensive test score for two (2) consecutive tests, and if a certified teacher who would have taught the child at his/her grade level determines through appropriate means that the student is not~~

~~learning disabled, the Superintendent of Schools shall require the parents to enroll the child in a public, private or church-related school.~~[5]

Home school students are not permitted to participate in non-athletic extracurricular programs within Kingsport City Schools. Students must enroll and attend schools under the supervision and control of the Kingsport City Schools Board of Education to be permitted to participate in student organizations/extra-curricular activities. Home school students may participate in TSSAA athletic programs (pursuant to Article II, Section 25 of the TSSAA Bylaws) by notifying the principal of the school in which the home school athlete wishes to try out and possibly participate before the first official practice date for that sport.[6]

Legal References

1. TCA 49-50-801(a)
2. TCA 49-6-3050(b)
3. TCA 49-6-3004(a); TCA 49-6-3050(b)(3)
4. TCA 49-6-3050(b)(4); Public Acts of 2023, Chapter No. 114
5. TCA 49-6-3050(b)(6)
6. 2022-23 TSSAA Bylaws Article II, Section 25

Cross References

Compulsory Attendance Ages 6.201

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 912

HOUSE BILL NO. 1729

By Representatives Slater, Moody, McCalmon, Bricken

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2636

By Senators Roberts, Bowling, Seal, Rose

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3050(b)(5), is amended by deleting subdivision (A) and substituting:

(A) Ensure that if the parent-teacher's student is in any of the grades five (5), seven (7), or nine (9), that the student is administered:

(i) A standardized test selected by the parent-teacher that provides nationally normed analytics in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics, that is proctored by an individual who is not related to the student, and that is recorded by the developer of the nationally normed examination, at the expense of the parent-teacher; or

(ii) The same state board-approved standardized tests required of public school students in the same grade as the parent-teacher's student that is administered by the commissioner of education, or the commissioner's designee, or by a professional testing service approved by the LEA; provided, however, that the test for grade nine (9) is not an end-of-course examination required by the state board of education pursuant to § 49-6-6001;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3050(b)(5)(B), is amended by deleting subdivision (iii) and substituting:

(iii) All results from tests administered pursuant to this subdivision (b)(5) must be provided to the parent-teacher, the director of schools, and the state board of education;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3050(b), is amended by deleting subdivision (6).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3050(f), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(f)

(1) As used in this subsection (f):

(A) "Advanced course" means a college-level course administered to high school students for a particular subject area that may earn students college credit through a standardized examination that includes, but is not limited to, an advanced placement program offered by the College Board; and

(B) "Preparatory college entrance examination" means a test administered to students for the purpose of preparation for a college entrance exam that includes the:

(i) Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) administered by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation;

(ii) Pre-ACT administered by ACT; and

(iii) CLT10 administered by Classic Learning Initiatives, LLC.

(2) A public school that administers an advanced course or preparatory college entrance examination shall provide notice of the following on its website:

(A) The date and time for which an advanced course or preparatory college entrance examination is offered;

(B) The student capacity and availability of an advanced course or preparatory college entrance examination being offered; and

(C) The availability of outside financial assistance for low-income and at-risk students to assist such students in taking an advanced course and preparatory college entrance examination.

(3) A public school shall allow a home school student to take an advanced course or preparatory college entrance examination offered by the public school if space is available.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6010(a)(1), is amended by adding "or Classic Learning Test (CLT)" after "SAT".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-705(a), is amended by adding the following new subdivisions:

( ) "CLT" means the Classic Learning Test administered by Classic Learning Initiatives, LLC;

( ) "CLT10" means a college preparatory examination administered by Classic Learning Initiatives, LLC, to prepare students for the CLT;

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-705(c), is amended by deleting subdivision (1) and substituting:

(1) The purpose of the pilot after school educational programs is to increase performance for at-risk students on the ACT, SAT, or CLT examinations, in order to expand the number of students in the at-risk population eligible for lottery scholarships and to increase the abilities of students to excel in postsecondary education. The programs must serve at-risk students in grades seven through nine (7-9). The programs must prepare students to take the EXPLORE and PLAN ACT preparatory examinations, the PSAT/NMSQT preparatory examination, or the CLT10 preparatory examination and eventually to take the ACT, SAT, or CLT examinations.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-705(d)(2), is amended by deleting subdivision (A) and substituting:

(A) Academic tutoring and skills development in subjects covered by EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT examinations; PSAT/NMSQT and SAT examinations; or CLT10 and CLT examinations; and

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-702(a)(2), is amended by deleting subdivision (B) and substituting:

(B) Exhibits an average student ACT score of 21 or higher, or the concordant equivalent score on the SAT or Classic Learning Test (CLT) or higher; provided, that prior to an LEA using the average student ACT, SAT, or CLT score, at least thirty (30) students within the LEA or at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the graduating class, whichever is larger, took the ACT, SAT, or CLT;

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-613(a), is amended by deleting "proficiency, graduation rates, ACT or SAT scores where applicable" and substituting

"proficiency; graduation rates; ACT, SAT, or Classic Learning Test (CLT) scores where applicable;".

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-8103(c)(4), is amended by deleting "either the ACT or the SAT" and substituting "the ACT, SAT, or Classic Learning Test (CLT)".

SECTION 12. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1729

PASSED: April 13, 2026

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 1st day of May 2026

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Document: Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050

Copy Citation

Current through the 2026 Regular Session and the 2026 2nd Extraordinary Session.

Tennessee Code Table of Contents PAW- ET TABLE OF CONTENTS Title 49 Education Chapter 6 Elementary and Secondary Education Part 30 Attendance

49-6-3050. Home schools.

(a)

(1) A "home school" is a school conducted or directed by a parent or parents or a legal guardian or guardians for their own children. Public school facilities may be used by home school participants with the approval of the principal of the school, but this permissive authority shall not be construed to confer any right upon the participants to use public school facilities. If approved, use shall be in accordance with rules established by the local board of education.

(2)

(A) Home schools that teach kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), where the parents are associated with and where students are enrolled with a church-related school, as defined by § 49-50-801, that are supervised by the church-related school's director and that administer or offer standardized achievement tests, are exempt from this section.

(B) Parent-teachers who register with an organization, as defined by § 49-50-801, for conducting a home school for students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) must possess at least a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education.

(3) A parent-teacher may enroll the parent's home school student or students in a church-related school, as defined in § 49-50-801, and participate as a teacher in that church-related school. Such parent-teacher shall be subject to the requirements established by the church-related school for home school teachers and exempt from the rest of this section.

(b) Except for home schools operated under subdivision (a)(2) or (a)(3), a parent-teacher conducting a home school shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) Provide annual notice to the local director of schools prior to each school year of the parent-teacher's intent to conduct a home school and, for purpose of reporting only, submission to the director of schools of the names, number, ages and grade levels of the children to be home schooled, the location of the school, the proposed curriculum to be offered, the proposed hours of instruction and the qualifications of the parent-teacher relative to subdivision (b)(4). Information contained in the reports may be used only for record keeping and other purposes for which similar information on public school students may be used in accordance with guidelines, rules and regulations of the state board of education. The director of schools or the director's designee shall ensure that attendance teachers are informed of parents' rights to conduct a home school pursuant to § 49-6-3001(c)(4), subsection (a) and § 49-50-801 upon employment of the attendance teachers and at the beginning of each school year;

(2) Maintenance of attendance records, subject to inspection by the local director of schools, and submission of these records to the director of schools at the end of each school year;

(3) Instruction for at least four (4) hours per day for the same number of instructional days as are required by state law for public schools;

(4) Possession of a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education by the parent-teacher;

(5)

(A) Ensure that if the parent-teacher's student is in any of the grades five (5), seven (7), or nine (9), that the student is administered:

(i) A standardized test selected by the parent-teacher that provides nationally normed analytics in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics, that is proctored by an individual who is not related to the student, and that is recorded by the developer of the nationally normed examination, at the expense of the parent-teacher; or

(ii) The same state board-approved standardized tests required of public school students in the same grade as the parent-teacher's student that is administered by the commissioner of education, or the commissioner's designee, or by a professional testing service approved by the LEA; provided, however, that the test for grade nine (9) is not an end-of-course examination required by the state board of education pursuant to § 49-6-6001;

(B)

(i) Tests administered by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall be at the same time tests are administered to public school students, and shall be administered in the public school that the home school student would otherwise be attending, or at whatever location students at such school are tested. Tests administered by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall be administered without charge. The parent-teacher may be present when the home school student is tested in grade five (5). Both parent-teacher and home school student shall be under the supervision of the test administrator;

(ii) Tests administered by a professional testing service shall be administered within thirty (30) days of the date of the statewide test. Tests administered by a professional testing service shall be administered at the expense of the parent-teacher;

(iii) All results from tests administered pursuant to this subdivision (b)(5) must be provided to the parent-teacher, the director of schools, and the state board of education;

(6) [Deleted by 2026 amendment.]

(7) [Deleted by 2023 amendment.]

(8) Submission by the home school student entering public schools to the evaluation test provided for in § 49-50-801, if the local system requires the test, or the tests required by the state board of education for transfer students.

(c) In the event of the illness of a parent-teacher, or at the discretion of the parent-teacher, a tutor, having the same qualifications that would be required of a parent-teacher teaching the grade level or course, may be employed by the parent-teacher.

(d) The department of education shall provide annually to home schools with which they have contact information about meningococcal disease and the effectiveness of vaccination against meningococcal disease at the beginning of every school year. This information shall include the causes, symptoms and the means by which meningococcal disease is spread and the places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children. This information may be provided electronically or on the department's website. Nothing in this subsection (d) shall be construed to require the department of education to provide or purchase vaccine against meningococcal disease.

(e)

(1)

(A) If any of the public schools established under the jurisdiction of an LEA are members of an organization or an association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition, and if such organization or association establishes or maintains eligibility requirements for home school students desiring to participate in interscholastic athletics at a member school, then the LEA shall permit participation in interscholastic athletics at those schools by home school students who satisfy the eligibility requirements established by the organization or association.

(B) If a public school established under the jurisdiction of an LEA offers students the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletic competition without the school being a member of an organization or an association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition, then the LEA shall permit participation in interscholastic athletics at such school by home school students who are zoned to attend the school. This subdivision (e)(1)(B) does not prevent or interfere with the application and enforcement of eligibility requirements of an organization or association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition as set forth in subdivision (e)(1)(A) if the school at which the home school student desires to participate is a member of such an organization or association.

(2) This subsection (e) does not guarantee that a home school student trying out for an interscholastic athletics team will make the team or supplant the authority of coaches or other school officials in deciding who makes the team. This subsection (e) is intended to guarantee only that the home school student shall not be prohibited from trying out for an interscholastic athletics team, if the student is eligible under the rules of the organization or association, solely by reason of the student's status as a home school student.

(3) This subsection (e) shall not be construed to limit or supplant the authority of the organization or association to determine eligibility and to establish, modify and enforce its rules and eligibility requirements, including those applicable to home school students.

(f)

(1) As used in this subsection (f):

(A) "Advanced course" means a college-level course administered to high school students for a particular subject area that may earn students college credit through a standardized examination that includes, but is not limited to, an advanced placement program offered by the College Board; and

(B) "Preparatory college entrance examination" means a test administered to students for the purpose of preparation for a college entrance exam that includes the:

(i) Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) administered by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation;

(ii) Pre-ACT administered by ACT; and

(iii) CLT10 administered by Classic Learning Initiatives, LLC.

(2) A public school that administers an advanced course or preparatory college entrance examination shall provide notice of the following on its website:

(A) The date and time for which an advanced course or preparatory college entrance examination is offered;

(B) The student capacity and availability of an advanced course or preparatory college entrance examination being offered; and

(C) The availability of outside financial assistance for low-income and at-risk students to assist such students in taking an advanced course and preparatory college entrance examination.

(3) A public school shall allow a home school student to take an advanced course or preparatory college entrance examination offered by the public school if space is available.

(g) If a home school student participates in an LEA-sponsored interscholastic activity or event or an LEA-sponsored extracurricular activity, then the LEA may request and receive proof that the student received a health service or examination that is required for the LEA's students to participate in the activity or event by law generally.

History

Acts 1985, ch. 398, § 3; 1987, ch. 42, §§ 2-5; 1987, ch. 308, § 33; 1994, ch. 725, §§ 1-3; 1995, ch. 534, § 1; 1997, ch. 434, §§ 4, 5; 2005, ch. 177, § 4; 2011, ch. 499, §§ 1-8; 2013, ch. 225, § 1; 2016, ch. 732, § 1; 2021, ch. 493, §§ 29, 30; 2023, ch. 114, § 30; 2023, ch. 296, §§ 1, 3; 2024, ch. 658, § 1; 2026, ch. 912, §§ 1-4.

TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED

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Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in March	**Interrogations and Searches**	**6.303**	**07/08/25**
		Rescinds: **6.303**	Issued: **11/14/23**

INTERROGATIONS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Students may be questioned by teachers or principals about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school and/or the enforcement of its rules. Questioning shall be conducted discreetly and under circumstances which will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the student. Any student answering falsely or evasively or refusing to answer a question may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.

If a student is suspected or accused of misconduct or infraction of the student code of conduct, the principal or designee may interrogate the student without the presence of parent(s)/guardian(s).

INTERROGATIONS BY POLICE AT PRINCIPAL'S REQUEST

If the principal has requested assistance by law enforcement to investigate a crime involving his/her school, the police may interrogate a student suspect in school during school hours. The principal shall first attempt to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student unless circumstances require otherwise. However, the interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), but the principal/designee shall be present during the interrogation.[1]

POLICE-INITIATED INTERROGATIONS

If the police deem circumstances of sufficient urgency to interrogate students at school for unrelated crimes committed outside of school hours, the police department should first contact the principal regarding the planned interrogation and inform him/her of the probable cause to investigate. The principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the interrogation unless circumstances require otherwise. The interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s).

SEARCHES BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

The school principal shall authorize all searches at the outset per state law.[2] All principal initiated searches shall be conducted by a school security officer or a school administrator who has completed the state required training.[3] The following conditions shall apply to principal initiated searches:

1. All the following standards of reasonableness must be met:
    a. A particular student has violated school policy;
    b. The search will yield evidence of the violation of school policy or will lead to finding dangerous weapons, drugs, or drug paraphernalia;
    c. The search is in pursuit of legitimate interests of the school in maintaining order, discipline, safety, supervision, and education;

d. The search is not conducted for the sole purpose of discovering evidence to be used in criminal prosecution; and
e. The search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive considering the age and sex of the student (Sex shall be defined as the "immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.") as well as the nature of the alleged infraction.[4]

2. A school administrator shall be on-site at any principal-initiated search;
3. A school administrator shall oversee the search and may end the search at any time; and
4. If a student is under the age of eighteen (18), the principal must notify the student's parent or guardian within a reasonable time of the search.[3]

If a school resource officer searches a student, based on having probable cause, the principal shall notify the Superintendent of Schools/designee.[5]

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the Superintendent of Schools shall develop procedures regarding the searching of students, lockers, vehicles, and containers which are consistent with state law. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop additional procedures to ensure compliance with all of the provisions of the School Security Act of 1981.[6]

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-4203(b)
2. TCA 49-6-4204(a); TCA 49-6-4205(a)
3. Public Acts of 2025, Chapter No. 244
4. TCA 49-6-4205(b); Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 938
5. State v. R.D.S., No. M200801724COAR3JV, 2009 WL 2136324, at *1 (Tenn. Ct. App. July 16, 2009)
6. TCA 49-6-4201; Tenn. Op. Att'y Gen. No. 14-21 (February 24, 2014)

Cross References

Traffic and Parking Controls 3.403
Procedural Due Process 6.302
Reporting Child Abuse 6.409

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 938

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

By Representatives Cochran, Moody, Maberry, Greg Martin, Capley, Lynn, Hawk, Powers, Bulso, Reneau

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 936

By Senators Rose, Bailey, Bowling, Haile, Hensley, Lowe, Stevens, White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1; Title 3; Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7 and Title 8, relative to biological sex.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each local governmental entity shall revise any existing ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a local governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person residing in the jurisdiction of a local governmental entity who believes the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1) may file a complaint in chancery court in that person's county of residence. The person filing the complaint shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1).

(3) If the court finds the local governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (a)(1), the court shall issue a writ of mandamus ordering the entity to comply with subdivision (a)(1), and may take any other action within the scope of the jurisdiction of the court to ensure such compliance.

(4) Upon a finding by the court that a local governmental entity has not complied with the court's order within ninety (90) days of the issuance of the order under subdivision (b)(3), the local governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department of economic and community development until such time as the local governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (a)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the court.

(5) As used in this subsection (a), "local governmental entity" means a county, incorporated city or town, metropolitan government, school district, utility district, or other political subdivision of this state.

(6) A local governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (a)(1) based solely on the local governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(b)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each state governmental entity shall revise any existing rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a state governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person may file a complaint with the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (b)(1). Upon receipt of a credible complaint, the comptroller may investigate whether the state governmental entity is in compliance with subdivision (b)(1).

(3) Upon a finding by the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is not in compliance with subdivision (b)(1), the comptroller shall provide written notice of such findings to the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable. If the comptroller finds that the state governmental entity has not come into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) within ninety (90) days of receipt of such notice of noncompliance, the comptroller:

(A) For a state governmental entity that is not an institution of higher education and that is eligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice to the department of the entity's noncompliance. Upon receiving such notice, the state governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; or

(B) For a state governmental entity that is an institution of higher education or otherwise ineligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice of the entity's noncompliance to the department of finance and administration and to the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives. Upon receiving such notice, the department:

(i) For a first notice of noncompliance, shall notify the entity that a second or third notice of noncompliance will result in a loss of general fund revenue from this state in accordance with this subdivision (b)(3)(B);

(ii) For a second notice of noncompliance, shall withhold ten percent (10%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a

certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; and

(iii) For a third notice of noncompliance, shall withhold twenty percent (20%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury. Upon receipt of a third notice of noncompliance, the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives shall require the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable, to appear before the committee for lack of compliance with subdivision (b)(1). After the meeting, the committee shall make recommendations to the speakers of the senate and house of representatives regarding the noncompliance of the entity.

(4) As used in this subsection (b), "state governmental entity" means a state agency, authority, board, commission, department, or office within the executive branch of state government or any autonomous state agency, authority, board, commission, department, office, or institution of higher education.

(5) A state governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (b)(1) based solely on the state governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(c) This section does not require a state governmental entity to adopt or enact a rule, policy, or procedure that violates federal law.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

PASSED: April 22, 2026

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 7th day of May 2026

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in April	**Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-bullying and Intimidation**	**6.304**	**07/08/25**
		Rescinds: **6.304**	Issued: **08/09/22**

The Kingsport City Board of Education has determined that a safe, civil, and supportive environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. In order to maintain that environment, acts of bullying, cyber-bullying, discrimination (including the definition of antisemitism found in Policy 4.101), harassment, hazing or any other victimization of students, based on any actual or perceived traits or characteristics, are prohibited.[1]

This policy shall be disseminated annually to all school staff, students, and parents.[2] This policy shall cover employees, employees' behaviors, students and students' behaviors while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided equipment or transportation, or at any official school bus stop. If the act takes place off school property or outside of a school-sponsored activity, this policy is in effect if the conduct is directed specifically at a student or students and has the effect of creating a hostile educational environment or otherwise creating a substantial disruption to the education environment or learning process.

Building administrators are responsible for educating and training their respective staff and students as to the definition and recognition of discrimination/harassment.[3]

DEFINITIONS[4]

Bullying/Intimidation/Harassment - An act that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, and the act has the effect of:

- Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property;
- Knowingly placing a student or students in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student's property;
- Causing emotional distress to a student or students; or
- Creating a hostile educational environment.

Bullying, intimidation, or harassment may also be unwelcome conduct based on a protected class (race, nationality, origin, color, ~~gender~~ sex (Sex shall be defined as the "immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth."[15]), age, disability, religion) that is severe, pervasive, or persistent and creates a hostile environment.

Cyber-bullying – A form of bullying undertaken through the use of electronic devices. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, telephones, cellular phones or other wireless telecommunication devices, text messaging, emails, social networking sites, instant messaging, videos, web sites, or fake profiles.

Hazing - An intentional or reckless act by a student or group of students that is directed against any other student(s) that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of the student(s) or that induces or coerces a student to endanger his/her mental or physical health or safety. Coaches and other employees of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone or tolerate hazing activities.[2]

"Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or similar contest or competitions and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization.[5]

COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

Alleged victims of the above-referenced offenses shall report these incidents immediately to a teacher, counselor or building administrator. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal/designee. All other members of the school community, including students, parents, volunteers, and visitors, are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy.[6]

While reports may be made anonymously, an individual's need for confidentiality must be balanced with obligations to cooperate with police investigations or legal proceedings, to provide due process to the accused, to conduct a thorough investigation or to take necessary actions to resolve a complaint, and the identity of parties and witnesses may be disclosed in appropriate circumstances to individuals with a need to know.

The principal/designee at each school shall be responsible for investigating and resolving complaints. Once a complaint is received, the principal/designee shall initiate an investigation within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the report.[4] If a report is not initiated within forty-eight (48) hours, the principal/designee shall provide the director of schools with appropriate documentation detailing the reasons why the investigation was not initiated within the required timeframe.[7]

The principal/designee shall notify the parent/legal guardian when a student is involved in an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying. The principal/designee shall provide information on district counseling and support services. Students involved in an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying shall be referred to the appropriate school counselor by the principal/designee when deemed necessary.[8]

The principal/designee is responsible for determining whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy, and such act shall be held to violate this policy when it meets one of the following conditions:

- It places the student in reasonable fear or harm for the student's person or property;
- It has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health;
- It has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance; or

- It has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Upon the determination of a violation, the principal/designee shall conduct a prompt, thorough, and complete investigation of each alleged incident. All investigations shall be completed and appropriate intervention taken within twenty (20) calendar days from the receipt of the initial report.[4] If the investigation is not complete or intervention has not taken place within twenty (20) calendar days, the principal/designee shall provide the director of schools with appropriate documentation detailing the reasons why the investigation has not been completed or the appropriate intervention has not taken place.[4] Within the parameters of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act[9] (FERPA) at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, a written report on the investigation will be delivered to the parents of the complainant, parents of the accused students and to the Director of Schools.

RESPONSE AND PREVENTION[10]

School administrators shall consider the nature and circumstances of the incident, the age of the violator, the degree of harm, previous incidences or patterns of behavior, or any other factors, as appropriate to properly respond to each situation.

A substantiated charge against an employee shall result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. A substantiated charge against a student may result in corrective or disciplinary action up to and including suspension.

An employee disciplined for violation of this policy may appeal the decision by contacting the Federal Rights Coordinator. Any student disciplined for violation of this policy may appeal the decision in accordance with disciplinary policies and procedures.

REPORTS

When a complaint is filed alleging a violation of this policy where there is physical harm or the threat of physical harm to a student or a student's property, the principal/designee of each middle school, junior high school, or high school shall report the findings and any disciplinary actions taken to the director of schools and the President of the board of education.[11]

By August 1 of each year, the director of schools/designee shall prepare a report of all of the bullying cases brought to the attention of school officials during the prior academic year. The report shall also indicate how the cases were resolved and/or the reasons they are still pending. This report shall be presented to the board of education at its regular August work session, and it shall be submitted to the state department of education by August 1.[12]

The director of schools shall develop forms and procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements of this policy and TCA 49-6-4503.

RETALIATION AND FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Retaliation against any person who reports or assists in any investigation of an act alleged in this policy is prohibited. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in retaliation

shall be determined by the administrator after consideration of the nature, severity, and circumstances of the act.[13]

False accusations accusing another person of having committed an act prohibited under this policy are prohibited. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person found to have falsely accused another may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and expulsion.[14]

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-4503(a), (b)(3); 20 USCA §§ 1681 to 1686; Public Acts of 2025, Chapter No. 293
2. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(11)
3. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(12)
4. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(2), (13)
5. TCA 49-2-120
6. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(5)
7. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(6)
8. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(14)
9. 20 USCA § 1232g
10. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(4), (7)-(8)
11. TCA 49-6-4503(d)(3)
12. TCA 49-6-4503(c)(2)(B)
13. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(9)
14. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(10)
15. Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 938

Cross References

Section 504 and ADA Grievance Procedures 1.802
Staff-Student Relations 5.610
Student Goals 6.100
Title IX & Sexual Harassment 6.3041
Code of Conduct 6.300
Student Concerns 6.305
Reporting Child Abuse 6.409
Emergency Contact Information 6.410
Student Suicide Prevention 6.415

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 938

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

By Representatives Cochran, Moody, Maberry, Greg Martin, Capley, Lynn, Hawk, Powers, Bulso, Reneau

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 936

By Senators Rose, Bailey, Bowling, Haile, Hensley, Lowe, Stevens, White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1; Title 3; Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7 and Title 8, relative to biological sex.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each local governmental entity shall revise any existing ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a local governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person residing in the jurisdiction of a local governmental entity who believes the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1) may file a complaint in chancery court in that person's county of residence. The person filing the complaint shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1).

(3) If the court finds the local governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (a)(1), the court shall issue a writ of mandamus ordering the entity to comply with subdivision (a)(1), and may take any other action within the scope of the jurisdiction of the court to ensure such compliance.

(4) Upon a finding by the court that a local governmental entity has not complied with the court's order within ninety (90) days of the issuance of the order under subdivision (b)(3), the local governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department of economic and community development until such time as the local governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (a)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the court.

(5) As used in this subsection (a), "local governmental entity" means a county, incorporated city or town, metropolitan government, school district, utility district, or other political subdivision of this state.

(6) A local governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (a)(1) based solely on the local governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(b)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each state governmental entity shall revise any existing rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a state governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person may file a complaint with the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (b)(1). Upon receipt of a credible complaint, the comptroller may investigate whether the state governmental entity is in compliance with subdivision (b)(1).

(3) Upon a finding by the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is not in compliance with subdivision (b)(1), the comptroller shall provide written notice of such findings to the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable. If the comptroller finds that the state governmental entity has not come into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) within ninety (90) days of receipt of such notice of noncompliance, the comptroller:

(A) For a state governmental entity that is not an institution of higher education and that is eligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice to the department of the entity's noncompliance. Upon receiving such notice, the state governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; or

(B) For a state governmental entity that is an institution of higher education or otherwise ineligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice of the entity's noncompliance to the department of finance and administration and to the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives. Upon receiving such notice, the department:

(i) For a first notice of noncompliance, shall notify the entity that a second or third notice of noncompliance will result in a loss of general fund revenue from this state in accordance with this subdivision (b)(3)(B);

(ii) For a second notice of noncompliance, shall withhold ten percent (10%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a

certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; and

(iii) For a third notice of noncompliance, shall withhold twenty percent (20%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury. Upon receipt of a third notice of noncompliance, the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives shall require the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable, to appear before the committee for lack of compliance with subdivision (b)(1). After the meeting, the committee shall make recommendations to the speakers of the senate and house of representatives regarding the noncompliance of the entity.

(4) As used in this subsection (b), "state governmental entity" means a state agency, authority, board, commission, department, or office within the executive branch of state government or any autonomous state agency, authority, board, commission, department, office, or institution of higher education.

(5) A state governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (b)(1) based solely on the state governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(c) This section does not require a state governmental entity to adopt or enact a rule, policy, or procedure that violates federal law.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

PASSED: April 22, 2026

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 7th day of May 2026

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in March	**Title IX & Sexual Harassment**	**6.3041**	**01/09/24**
		Rescinds:	Issued:

General

In order to maintain a safe, civil, and supportive learning environment, all forms of sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of sex are prohibited.[1] Sex shall be defined as the "immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth."[24] This policy shall cover employees, employees' behaviors, students, and students' behaviors while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided equipment or transportation, or at any official school bus stop in accordance with federal law. This policy shall be disseminated annually to all school staff, students, and parent(s)/guardian(s).[2] The Title IX Coordinator, as well as any personnel chosen to facilitate the grievance process, shall not have a conflict of interest against any party of the complaint.[3] These individuals shall receive training as to how to promptly and equitably resolve student and employee complaints.[3]

All employees shall receive training on complying with this policy and federal law.[4]

TITLE IX COORDINATOR[5]

The Title IX Coordinator shall respond promptly to all general reports as well as formal complaints of sexual harassment. He/she shall be kept informed by school-level personnel of all investigations and shall provide input on an ongoing basis as appropriate.

Any individual may contact the Title IX Coordinator at any time using the information below:

- Title IX Coordinator for complaints regarding Employees: KCS Chief Human Resources Officer
- Title IX Coordinator for complaints regarding Students: KCS Chief Student Services Officer

Mailing address: 400 Clinchfield Street, Suite 200, Kingsport, TN 37660

Phone number: (423) 378-2100

Email: info @k12k.com

DEFINITONS[4]

"Complainant" is an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

"Respondent" is an individual who is reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

"Sexual harassment" is conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:[3]

1. A school district employee conditioning an aid, benefit, or service of an education program or activity on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the education program or activity; or

3. Sexual assault,[6] dating violence,[7]domestic violence,[8] or stalking[9] as defined in state and federal law.

Behaviors that constitute sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to:

1. Sexually suggestive remarks;

2. Verbal harassment or abuse;

3. Sexually suggestive pictures;

4. Sexually suggestive gesturing;

5. Harassing or sexually suggestive or offensive messages that are written or electronic;

6. Subtle or direct propositions for sexual favors; and

7. Touching of a sexual nature.

Sexual harassment may be directed against a particular person or persons, or a group, whether of the opposite sex or the same sex.

"Supportive measures" are non-disciplinary, non-punitive, individualized services and shall be offered to the complainant and the respondent, as appropriate. These measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Counseling;

2. Course modifications;

3. Schedule changes; and

4. Increased monitoring or supervision.

The measures offered to the complainant and the respondent shall remain confidential to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the school district to provide the supportive measures.

GRIEVANCE PROCESS

Upon learning of an instance of alleged sexual harassment, even if no formal complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator shall:

1. Promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures;

2. Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures;

3. Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures; and

4. Explain the process for filing a formal complaint.[10]

While the school district will respect the confidentiality of the complainant and the respondent as much as possible, some information may need to be disclosed to appropriate individuals. All disclosures shall be consistent with the school district's legal obligations and the necessity to investigate allegations of harassment and take disciplinary action.

Disciplinary consequences or sanctions shall not be initiated against the respondent until the grievance process has been completed. Unless there is an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student arising from the allegation of sexual harassment that justifies removal, the respondent's placement shall not be changed.[11] If the respondent is an employee, he/she may be placed on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process.[12] The Title IX Coordinator shall keep the Superintendent of Schools informed of any employee respondents so that he/she can make any necessary reports to the State Board of Education in compliance with state law.[13]

Complaints

Any individual who has knowledge of behaviors that may constitute a violation of this policy shall immediately report such information to the Title IX Coordinator, however, nothing in this policy requires a complainant to either report or file a formal complaint within a certain timeframe. If the complaint involves the Title IX Coordinator, the complaint shall be filed with the Superintendent of Schools.

If a complaint involves allegations of child abuse, including child abuse on school grounds, appropriate notification shall be made per the board policy on reporting child abuse.

Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly:[14]

1. Provide written notice of the allegations, and the grievance process to all known parties to give the respondent time to prepare a response before an initial interview;

2. Inform the parties of the prohibition against making false statement or knowingly submitting false information;

3. Inform the parties that they may have an advisor present during any subsequent meetings; and

4. Offer supportive measures in an equitable manner to both parties.

If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses a complaint, written notice, including the reasons for dismissal, shall be provided to both parties simultaneously.[15]

Investigations[16]

The applicable Title IX Coordinator shall serve as the investigator and be responsible for investigating complaints in an equitable manner that involves an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence. The burden for obtaining evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rests on the school district and not the complainant or respondent.

Once a complaint is received, the investigator shall initiate an investigation within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the complaint. If an investigation is not initiated within forty-eight (48) hours, the investigator shall provide the Title IX Coordinator with appropriate documentation detailing the reasons why the investigation was not initiated within the required timeframe.

All investigations shall be completed within twenty (20) calendar days from the receipt of the initial complaint. If the investigation is not complete within twenty (20) calendar days, the investigator shall provide the Title IX Coordinator with appropriate documentation detailing the reasons why the investigation has not been completed.

All investigations shall:

1. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses and evidence;

2. Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or gather and present relevant evidence;

3. Refrain from requiring, allowing, relying upon, or otherwise using questions or evidence that seek disclosure of information protected under a legally recognized privilege unless such privilege has been waived;[17]

4. Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding;

5. Provide to parties whose participation is requested written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate;

6. Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence directly related to the allegations in the formal complaint; and

7. Result in the creation of an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.

    a. Prior to the completion of the investigative report, the investigator shall send to each party the evidence subject to inspection and review. All parties shall have at least ten (10) days to submit a written response which shall be taken into consideration in creating the final report.

Within the parameters of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,[18] the Title IX Coordinator shall keep the complainant and the respondent informed of the status of the investigation process. At the close of the investigation, a written final report on the investigation will be delivered to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the complainant, parent(s)/guardian(s) of the respondent, and to the Superintendent of Schools.

Determination of Responsibility[19]

The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.[20] The preponderance of the evidence standard shall be used in making this determination.[21]

The KCS Assistant Superintendent – Administration shall act as the decision-maker for Title IX complaints regarding Employees and Title IX complaints regarding Students.

He/she shall receive the final report of the investigation and allow each party the opportunity to submit written questions that he/she wants asked of any party or witness prior to the determining responsibility.

The decision-maker shall make a determination regarding responsibility and provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously along with information about how to file an appeal.

A substantiated charge against a student may result in corrective or disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. A substantiated charge against an employee shall result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

After a determination of responsibility is made, the Title IX Coordinator shall work with the complainant to determine if further supportive measures are necessary. The Title IX Coordinator shall also determine whether any other actions are necessary to prevent reoccurrence of the harassment.

APPEALS[22]

Either party may appeal from a determination of responsibility based on a procedural irregularity that affected the outcome, new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the determination that could affect the outcome, or an alleged conflict of interest on the part of the Title IX Coordinator or any personnel chosen to facilitate the grievance process. Appeals shall be submitted to the appropriate Title IX Coordinator within ten (10) days of a determination of responsibility.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the Title IX Coordinator shall:

1. Assign an impartial hearing officer within five (5) days of receipt of the appeal; and

2. Notify the parties in writing.

During the appeal process, the parties shall have a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit written statements. Within ten (10) calendar days, the hearing officer shall issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result. The written decision shall be provided simultaneously to both parties.

RETALIATION[23]

Retaliation against any person who makes a report or complaint or assists, participates, or refuses to participate in any investigation of an act alleged in this policy is prohibited.

Legal References

1. 34 CFR § 106.1
2. 34 CFR § 106.8(b),(c)
3. 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(1)(iii); 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(10)(D)
4. 34 CFR § 106.30(a)
5. 34 CFR § 106.8(a)
6. 20 USCA 1092(f)(6)(A)(v); TCA 36-3-601(10); TCA 71-6-302
7. 34 USCA 12291(a)(10)
8. 34 USCA 12291(a)(8); TCA 40-14-109
9. 34 USCA 12291(a)(30); TCA 39-17-315; TCA 36-3-601(11)
10. 34 CFR § 106.44(a)
11. 34 CFR § 106.44(c)
12. 34 CFR § 106.44(d)
13. TRR/MS 0520-02-03-.09(2); TCA 49-5-417(c)
14. 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(2)
15. 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(3)
16. 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(5); 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(1)(v)
17. 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(1)(x)
18. 20 USCA § 1232g
19. 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(7)
20. 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(1)(iv)
21. 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(1)(vii)
22. 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(8)
23. 34 CFR § 106.71
24. Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 938

Cross References

Section 504 and ADA Grievance Procedures 1.802
Discrimination/Harassment of Employees (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious) 5.500
Complaints and Grievances 5.501
Staff-Student Relations 5.610
Code of Conduct 6.300
Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-bullying, and Intimidation 6.304
Student Concerns 6.305
Reporting Child Abuse 6.409

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 938

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

By Representatives Cochran, Moody, Maberry, Greg Martin, Capley, Lynn, Hawk, Powers, Bulso, Reneau

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 936

By Senators Rose, Bailey, Bowling, Haile, Hensley, Lowe, Stevens, White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1; Title 3; Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7 and Title 8, relative to biological sex.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each local governmental entity shall revise any existing ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a local governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person residing in the jurisdiction of a local governmental entity who believes the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1) may file a complaint in chancery court in that person's county of residence. The person filing the complaint shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the local governmental entity has not complied with subdivision (a)(1).

(3) If the court finds the local governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (a)(1), the court shall issue a writ of mandamus ordering the entity to comply with subdivision (a)(1), and may take any other action within the scope of the jurisdiction of the court to ensure such compliance.

(4) Upon a finding by the court that a local governmental entity has not complied with the court's order within ninety (90) days of the issuance of the order under subdivision (b)(3), the local governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department of economic and community development until such time as the local governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (a)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the court.

(5) As used in this subsection (a), "local governmental entity" means a county, incorporated city or town, metropolitan government, school district, utility district, or other political subdivision of this state.

(6) A local governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (a)(1) based solely on the local governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(b)

(1)

(A) No later than January 1, 2027, each state governmental entity shall revise any existing rule, policy, and procedure that includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(B) On or after July 1, 2026, a state governmental entity shall not adopt or enact any rule, policy, or procedure that reflects a sex or gender that is not based upon or defined as the immutable characteristics of a natural person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

(2) On or after January 1, 2027, a person may file a complaint with the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is in violation of and has not complied with subdivision (b)(1). Upon receipt of a credible complaint, the comptroller may investigate whether the state governmental entity is in compliance with subdivision (b)(1).

(3) Upon a finding by the comptroller of the treasury that a state governmental entity is not in compliance with subdivision (b)(1), the comptroller shall provide written notice of such findings to the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable. If the comptroller finds that the state governmental entity has not come into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) within ninety (90) days of receipt of such notice of noncompliance, the comptroller:

(A) For a state governmental entity that is not an institution of higher education and that is eligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice to the department of the entity's noncompliance. Upon receiving such notice, the state governmental entity becomes ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; or

(B) For a state governmental entity that is an institution of higher education or otherwise ineligible to enter into a grant contract with the department of economic and community development, shall provide notice of the entity's noncompliance to the department of finance and administration and to the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives. Upon receiving such notice, the department:

(i) For a first notice of noncompliance, shall notify the entity that a second or third notice of noncompliance will result in a loss of general fund revenue from this state in accordance with this subdivision (b)(3)(B);

(ii) For a second notice of noncompliance, shall withhold ten percent (10%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a

certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury; and

(iii) For a third notice of noncompliance, shall withhold twenty percent (20%) of the total general fund revenue the entity is otherwise entitled to receive for the next subsequent fiscal year, to be held in escrow until such time as the state governmental entity comes into compliance with subdivision (b)(1) as evidenced by a certification of compliance issued by the comptroller of the treasury. Upon receipt of a third notice of noncompliance, the chairs of the joint government operations committee of the senate and house of representatives shall require the executive head or governing body of the entity, as applicable, to appear before the committee for lack of compliance with subdivision (b)(1). After the meeting, the committee shall make recommendations to the speakers of the senate and house of representatives regarding the noncompliance of the entity.

(4) As used in this subsection (b), "state governmental entity" means a state agency, authority, board, commission, department, or office within the executive branch of state government or any autonomous state agency, authority, board, commission, department, office, or institution of higher education.

(5) A state governmental entity is not noncompliant with subdivision (b)(1) based solely on the state governmental entity's acceptance of a valid birth certificate or other lawfully issued form of identification.

(c) This section does not require a state governmental entity to adopt or enact a rule, policy, or procedure that violates federal law.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

PASSED: April 22, 2026

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 7th day of May 2026

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in March	**Admission of Suspended or Expelled Students**	**6.318**	**10/15/24**
		Rescinds: **6.318**	Issued: **09/13/22**

The Board may deny admission of any student (except those in state custody) who has been expelled or suspended from another school district in Tennessee or another state even though the student has established residency in the district in which he/she seeks enrollment.

After a request for enrollment is made, the Superintendent of Schools shall investigate the facts surrounding the suspension/expulsion from the former school district. The principal may ask the parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing if their student has been adjudicated delinquent for an offense listed in TCA 49-6-3051 and submit any records to the Superintendent of Schools.[2] Based on the results of the investigation, the Superintendent of Schools shall make a recommendation to the Board to approve or deny the request.

The Board shall not deny enrollment beyond the length of the imposed suspension/expulsion.

A student may be dismissed if it is determined subsequent to the enrollment that the student has been suspended or expelled from the former school district.[1]

STUDENT READMISSION TO DISTRICT

The district may continue a disciplinary investigation of a student who withdraws from the district during the investigation. If the student later reenrolls in the district, then the disciplinary investigation and/or consequences shall resume.[3]

Legal References

1. Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 721
2. TCA 49-6-3401(f); 20 USCA § 1232g(b)(4), (h)
3. Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 760

Cross References

School Admissions 6.203
Student Records 6.600

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 760

HOUSE BILL NO. 2149

By Representatives Renea Jones, Alexander, Maberry, Chism

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2433

By Senator Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 41, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) An LEA or public charter school may continue a disciplinary investigation of a student who, during the investigation, withdraws from the LEA or public charter school.

(b) If a student withdraws from an LEA or public charter school during a disciplinary investigation of the student and the student later reenrolls in the LEA or public charter school, then the LEA or public charter school may discipline the student in accordance with the LEA's or public charter school's policy based on the results of the disciplinary investigation of the student.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2149

PASSED: April 2, 2026

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 16th day of April 2026

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in April	**Medicines**	**6.405**	**09/28/21**
		Rescinds: **6.405**	Issued: **11/12/19**

Kingsport City Schools (KCS) shall reasonably cooperate with health-care providers and/or parents/guardians to administer medications to students or assist with the self-administration of medications for students who require these services during school hours or while a student is participating in school-related activities.[1] Medication administration may be required to address students having medical needs including, but not limited to, asthma, adrenal insufficiency, diabetes, pancreatic insufficiency, and cystic fibrosis. When the health care provider or parent/guardian cannot, in person, conveniently administer the student's medication at school and there is a determination that the student is capable of self-administration (i.e., possesses the necessary cognitive ability), trained school personnel may assist the student in the self-administration of medications, prescription and non-prescription, under the conditions/guidelines outlined in the KCS administrative Medication Procedures.[1]

General permission for trained school personnel to administer specified non-prescription (over-the-counter) medications is granted annually by parents/guardians via consent on the initialed and signed clinic card, which is completed for each child at the beginning of the school year. Consent may not be required for adult students or emancipated minors. This list of specified OTC medications is reviewed and approved annually by a partnership physician. A doctor's order is required for all prescription medications and for all non-prescription (OTC) medications which are not on the clinic card list.

Parent/guardian consent is also required before any medications shall be administered.

Administration of medications must be by medically licensed personnel or a school system employee trained by a Registered Nurse who is employed by or contracted by KCS. Requests for medication administration shall be handled on a case-by-case basis with duties and responsibilities clearly defined in a plan agreed upon by all parties involved.

Written instructions signed by the parent/guardian will be required and will include:

1. Child's name;
2. Name of medication;
3. Name of physician;
4. Time to be self-administered;
5. Dosage and directions for self-administration (non-prescription medicines must have label direction);
6. Possible side effects, if known; and
7. Termination date for self-administration of the medication.

The medication for elementary school students must be delivered to the nurse's office in person by the parent/guardian unless the medication must be retained by the student for immediate self-administration.

Parents of middle and high school students may deliver medications to the nurse's office or may allow their student to deliver medications based on consideration of the maturity of the student, nature of the medication, and method of transportation. Medications shall be delivered to the clinic immediately upon arrival at the school.

Students with asthma shall be permitted to self-administer prescribed, metered dosage asthma-reliever inhalers if the additional information is provided by a parent/guardian:

1. Written statement from the prescribing health care practitioner that the student suffers from asthma and has been instructed in self-administration; and
2. Purpose of the medication.

Permission to self-administer the prescribed, metered dosage asthma-reliever inhaler may be suspended or revoked if the student misuses the inhaler or makes the inhaler available for usage by any other person. The student must report use of the inhaler to appropriate school personnel for documentation purposes.

The school nurse shall:

1. Inform appropriate school personnel of the medication to be self-administered;
2. Keep written instructions from parent/guardian in student's record;
3. Keep an accurate record of the self-administration of the medication;
4. Keep all medication in a locked cabinet except medication retained by a student per physician's order;
5. Return unused prescription to the parent/guardian only; and
6. Ensure that all guidelines developed by the Department of Health and the Department of Education are followed.

The parent/guardian is responsible for informing the designated official of any change in the student's health or change in medication.

A copy of this policy shall be provided to a parent/guardian upon receipt of a request for long-term administration of medication.

STUDENTS WITH ADRENAL INSUFFICIENCY[2]

The parent/guardian of a student diagnosed with adrenal insufficiency shall notify the school district of the student's diagnosis. Once notified, the district shall observe the following procedure:

1. The district shall train school personnel who will be responsible for administering the medication for the treatment of adrenal insufficiency and any who volunteer to administer the medication.
2. The district shall maintain a record of all school personnel who have completed this training.
3. If a student is suffering from an adrenal crisis, a school nurse or other licensed health care professional may administer the prescribed medication to the student. If a school nurse or other licensed health care professional is not immediately available, trained school personnel may administer the prescribed medication.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop procedures on the administration of medications that treat adrenal insufficiency and recordkeeping per rules set forth by the State Board of Education.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-50-1602 *et seq.*; TRR/MS 0520-01-13-.03
2. TRR/MS 0520-01-13; State Board of Education Policy 4.205

Cross References

Emergency Allergy Response Plan 6.412

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in April	**Students from Military Families**	**6.506**	**11/12/19**
		Rescinds: **6.506**	Issued: **10/08/19**

General

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop the necessary administrative procedures to ensure that students with parent(s)/guardian(s) in the armed services are identified and that appropriate and available services are provided for these students.[1]

RELOCATION OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER[2]

A student who does not currently reside within the school district shall be allowed to enroll if he/she is a dependent child of a service member who is being relocated to Tennessee on military orders. To be eligible for enrollment, the student will need to provide documentation that he/she will be a resident of the school district on relocation. This documentation must be provided to the school district within one (1) calendar year from the date of enrollment.

If the child of a military member enrolls per this policy and has an active 504 plan, IEP, or an individualized family service plan, then the district shall take the necessary steps to ensure that services are in place when the student enrolls.

~~Within 14 days of enrollment, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student shall provide proof of residency within the school district.~~

ABSENCES

Principals shall provide students with a one (1) day excused absence prior to the deployment of and a one (1) day excused absence upon the return of a parent/guardian serving active military service.

Principals shall also allow up to ten (10) excused cumulative absences per year for students to visit a parent/guardian during a deployment cycle. The student shall provide documentation to the school as proof of his/her parent's/guardian's deployment. Students shall be permitted to make up school work missed during these absences.[3]

REMAINING IN THE DISTRICT[4]

If a student is enrolled in grades eleven (11) through twelve (12) and is a dependent child of a service member who relocates on military orders resulting in the student no longer residing in the school district due to relocation, the student shall have the option to remain enrolled in the same high school until the student graduates or withdraws.

Legal References

1. State Board of Education Policy 2.103
2. Public Acts of 2019, Chapter No. 138; Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 834
3. TCA 49-6-3019

Cross References

Attendance 6.200
School Admissions 6.203

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 834

SENATE BILL NO. 1817

By Powers, Bowling

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1725

By Maberry, White, McCalmon, Todd, Reneau, Powers, Camper, Love

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to dependent children of service members.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3101, is amended by adding the following as new subsections:

(d) If a student enrolls in a public school pursuant to subsection (b) and the student has an active Section 504 plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794), an individualized family service plan under 20 U.S.C. § 1436, or an individualized education plan under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.), then the LEA shall take the necessary steps to ensure that necessary services are in place when the student enrolls.

(e) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, if a student is enrolled in a high school that is managed and controlled by a local board of education for the LEA in which the student is enrolled in grade eleven (11) or twelve (12) and is the dependent child of a service member who relocates on military orders resulting in the student no longer residing in the school district due to the relocation, then the LEA shall allow the student to remain enrolled in the same high school until the student graduates or withdraws.

(f)(1) An LEA shall allow a student to enroll in a school in the LEA if:

(A) The student is a dependent child of a service member who is relocated on military orders;

(B) Due to the relocation on military orders, the student resides within the school district at the time of enrollment in the LEA; and

(C) The student's parent intends to reside in the zone for the school for which the student is seeking to enroll no later than one (1) calendar year after the date on which the student enrolled.

(2) The student's parent shall provide proof that the student is a resident of the zoned school in which the student is enrolled pursuant to this subsection (f) no later than one (1) calendar year from the date on which the student enrolled in the LEA.

(3) If a parent does not provide proof within one (1) calendar year from the student's enrollment, then the LEA may require the student to transfer to the school for which the student is zoned to attend.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 1817

PASSED: April 14, 2026

RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

CAMERON SEXTON, *SPEAKER*
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 27th **day of** April **2026**

BILL LEE, *GOVERNOR*

KCS Board of Education
Committee Assignments
2026-2027

Committee Name	Required	Frequency	2026-27 Representative
Activities	KCS Policy	Quarterly	Brandon Fletcher
Budget	Yes	Budget Season, 3-4	All BOE Members
Community Partners		Monthly	Melissa Woods
Emergency Response Plan	Yes	1-2/Year	Jamie Jackson, Brandon Fletcher
Employee Benefits	City Policy	Twice Annually	Jamie Jackson
Executive Committee	Yes	As Needed	Melissa Woods
Healthy Kingsport		Quarterly	Todd Golden
Insurance Task Force		As Needed	Phillip Marshall
Visit Kingsport		Monthly	Melissa Woods
Leadership Team		Monthly	Melissa Woods
Policy	KCS Policy	As Needed	Todd Golden
School Health Advisory	Law	2-3/Year	Phillip Marshall
Superintendent Evaluation	KCS Policy	Yearly	Melissa Woods, Brandon Fletcher
Teacher/Classified Sick Leave	Law	As Needed	Jamie Jackson
TN Legislative Network	TSBA	Weekly, January-April Legislative & Legal Institute, February Monthly, TSBA Legislative Liaison	Melissa Woods