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SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



District Profile

ABOUT THE DISTRICT, MISSION & VISION, and GUIDING PRINCIPLES



ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Shelby County Schools (SCS) is Tennessee's largest public school district and is among the 25 largest public school districts in the United States and serves over 110,500 students in more than 214 schools. SCS is the second largest employer in Shelby County with over 13,900 employees, including 6,000 teachers. SCS partners with almost 3,900 volunteers and 1,100 total school adopters and community partners.



MISSION & VISION

To prepare all students for success in learning, leadership, and life.

To be the premier school district attracting a diverse student population and effective teachers, leaders, and staff all committed to excellence.



REIMAGINING 901 - GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The District's Reimagining 901 plan will create equitable access to programs and services, providing the best conditions for learning in every building, eliminating barriers, and aligning community resources to create more pathways to success for students than ever before.

- Community Input/Buy-In
- Grounded in Student Achievement
- Embracing Values and Beliefs
- Continuous Improvement
- System-Wide Equity
- Commitment
- Respect
- Effective Communication and Transparency
- Collective Action with Stakeholder Input



Academics

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MEDICAL EXEMPTION FROM CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

(T.C.A. § 49-1-602; 49-6-3001 et seq.)

The Shelby County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to enact legislation establishing criteria by which the absences of students with significant or chronic medical (physical or mental) conditions who do not qualify for homebound instruction may be excluded from the State’s calculation of the “Chronically Out of School” accountability indicator.

SUPPLEMENTARY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(T.C.A. § 49-6-6001, SBE Policy 2.103, TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.06)

The Shelby County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to amend T.C.A. § 49-6-6001 to provide local education agencies (LEAs) discretion to establish supplementary graduation requirements that exceed the state minimums for the purpose of enhancing curriculum through service-learning and community impact.



Personnel

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FLEXIBILITY FOR CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

(T.C.A. § 49-5-101 and 49-5-108; SBE Educator Licensure Policy 5.502; SBE Rule 0520-02-03-.04)

The Shelby County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to strengthen its commitment to ensuring that students have access to high-quality career and technical education (CTE) programs by enacting legislation to address barriers that create a shortage of CTE teachers. Such legislation must provide greater licensure and endorsement flexibility options that allow individuals experienced in industry to become CTE teachers, while ensuring high standards and teacher quality.

- *Work Experience: Reduce requirements for the number of relevant years of work experience in an occupational area from five (5) completed within the last ten (10) years, to three (3) completed in the last five (5) years*
- *Certification/Licensure: Accept industry-recognized license (including out-of-state), certification and/or experience for Health Administration and Health Science Cluster Programs of Study*
- *Teacher Training: Allow prospective educators to participate in district-provided professional development, training, mentorship and/or other pedagogical training opportunities in lieu of educator preparation programs (EPPs)*
- *Occupational Endorsement: Expand the list of related career clusters (occupations) under each endorsement area*

LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATORS TO TEACH COURSES IN WHICH AN END OF COURSE EXAMINATION IS REQUIRED

(T.C.A. § 4-5-208, 49-5-106, 49-6-6006 and 49-6-1511)

The Shelby County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to enact legislation to address the immediate issue of teacher shortages by granting the Commissioner of Education authority to (1) issue an endorsement exemption or a temporary permit to an educator to teach any course or subject area, except for special education courses, for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years; and (2) promulgate a permanent rule for licensing flexibilities in the event another pandemic is declared or the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic exceeds the length of the emergency rule.



Funding

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM ("BEP") HOLD HARMLESS PROVISION

The Shelby County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to hold school districts harmless when funding the 2022-2023 BEP for revenue losses as a result of decreased enrollment by using student enrollment data from 2020-2021 unless using data from 2021-2022 would result in greater funding.

FUNDING FOR CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION

The Shelby County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to allocate additional funding to ensure that local education agencies (LEAs) are able to recruit and retain high-quality career and technical education (CTE) instructors.

PRIORITIZING LEAD-FREE DRINKING WATER IN SCHOOLS

(T.C.A. § 49-2-133)

The Shelby County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to prioritize funding to assist LEAs in the remediation of elevated lead levels of potable water sources in Tennessee public schools.



Recommended for Strategic Assessment

POSSIBLE FUTURE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- ADA CALCULATION PER GRADE LEVEL
- RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR ALL HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS
- UTILIZING EXCESS LOTTERY FUNDS FOR EXPANSION OF DUAL ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- ADULT VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOLS





School Board Members

- Michelle R. McKissack, Chair - District 1
- Althea Greene, Vice-Chair - District 2
- Stephanie Love - District 3
- Kevin Woods - District 4
- Sheleah Harris - District 5
- Shante K. Avant - District 6
- Miska Clay Bibbs - District 7
- William "Billy" Orgel - District 8
- Joyce Dorse Coleman - District 9



Dr. Joris M. Ray
Superintendent

Shelby County Schools offers educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, creed, age, disability, national origin, or genetic information.