



2023 Censorship Bills Advocacy Toolkit

The TN Coalition for Truth in Our Classrooms is a group of students, education advocates, and community organization leaders who believe in promoting the teaching of truthful history in our schools, and honoring and valuing the diversity of our students, staff, and institutions. Our Coalition has been tracking the dangerous censorship bills evolving since the passage of Public Chapter 493, the first “prohibited concepts” bill. This advocacy toolkit includes bills on our Coalition’s radar that are moving through the 113th TN General Assembly. Email contacts and actions will be updated weekly as bills move through different committees.

How to Take Action

1. Review the bill that you want to take action on & go to corresponding page number
2. Copy/paste the email addresses to listed committee members in a new email
3. Add the email subject line: “[**Opposition OR Support**] to [Bill Number]”
4. Copy/paste the email template and edit all **red text**
5. Add any personal reasons for why you support and/or oppose this bill

Have questions, comments, or want to get more involved in our Coalition?

Email Meili Powell, Ed Trust TN Advocacy & Partnerships Manager: mpowell@edtrust.org

Learn more about the TN Coalition for Truth in Our Classrooms and view more resources, news, guidance, and toolkits to navigate the censorship movement [here](#). View Ed Trust TN’s full 2023 Education Bill Tracker [here](#) and sign up for weekly legislative updates [here](#).

Overview [Last Updated 4.24.2023]

Bill & Sponsor	Status	Page
Opposition		
HB0158 (Zachary) / SB0102 (Gardenhire): Restrictions on Implicit Bias Training <i>Prohibits LEAs, public charter schools & public higher education institutions and TN Department of Education from requiring implicit bias training and taking adverse actions against individual for refusing to participate</i>	House: Passed H., Ayes 71, Nays 22, PNV 0; Signed by House Speaker Senate: Passed Senate, Ayes 23, Nays 4; Signed by Senate Speaker Comp. Became Public Chapter 438	4
HB1376 (Ragan) / SB0817 (Hensley): The Higher Education Freedom & Transparency Act <i>Enacts several provisions related to divisive concepts in higher education such as allowing students/employees to report</i>	House: Passed the House 73-25 Senate: Transmitted to Governor for action. Comp. Became Public Chapter 268	5

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violations, limits role of DEI staff members, and increases requirements of publishing syllabi/courses		
HB0571 (Carringer) / SB0603 (Hensley): Restrictions on Higher Education DEI Training for Health Degrees <i>Prohibits public institutions of higher education offering certain medical and health related degree from requiring DEI trainings; include civil financial penalties up to 1M</i>	<u>House:</u> Taken off notice for cal in Higher Education Subcommittee <u>Senate:</u> Assigned to the General Subcommittee of the Senate Education Committee	6
HB1414 (Todd) / SB0620 (Pody): The Families' Rights & Responsibilities Act <i>Declares that the ability of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of that parent's child is a fundamental right</i>	<u>House:</u> Assigned to s/c Children & Family Affairs Subcommittee <u>Senate:</u> Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Judiciary Committee	7
HB1269 (Cochran) / SB0466 (Rose): Student Pronouns Restriction <i>Specifies that a teacher or employee of public school/LEA is not required to refer to a student using the students' preferred pronoun if not consistent with biological sex; insulates from adverse employment action for referring to pronouns consistent with sex</i>	<u>House:</u> Passed H., Ayes 72, Nays 22, PNV 1; Signed by the House Speaker <u>Senate:</u> Passed Senate, Ayes 25, Nays 7, PNV 1; Signed by the Senate speaker Comp. Became Public Chapter 448	8
HB1377 (Ragan) / SB1141 (Hensley): Expansion of Prohibited Concepts Complaints Process <i>Creates process to file complaints with LEAs or public charter school on prohibited concepts</i>	<u>House:</u> Action def. In Education Administration to First Calendar of 2024 <u>Senate:</u> Failed in Senate Education	9
HB0306 (Bulso) / SB1237 (Hensley) Private School Regulations on Sports Participation <i>Authorizes a private school to create a policy to regulate a student's participation in school's athletic activities or events based upon student's biological sex</i>	<u>House:</u> Signed by the House Speaker. <u>Senate:</u> Signed by the Senate Speaker; Transmitted to the Governor for action. Comp. became Public Chapter 285	10
HB1411 (Fritts) / SB1117 (Bowling): Expanding Parent Consent in LEA Activities <i>Requires an LEA to obtain a students' parents or legal guardians consent to participate in instruction, activity, evaluation, assessment, survey, or analysis offered by students' LEA</i>	<u>House:</u> Taken off notice for cal. in Education Administration <u>Senate:</u> Placed on Senate Reset calendar for 2024	11
HB0727 (Hulse) / SB1443 (Roberts): Expanding Parent Consent in LEA Activities <i>[same description as above for HB1411/SB1117]</i>	<u>House:</u> Passed H., Ayes 74, Nays 24, PNV 0 <u>Senate:</u> Passed Senate as amended, Ayes 25, Nays 5 Comp. became Public Chapter 353	12

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Support		
HB 1040 (Jernigan) / SB1078 (Yarbro): Age Appropriate Materials Act Revision; Removing Classroom Libraries <i>Excludes materials in the teacher's classroom library from having to be identified and posted on schools' website or subject to review by local boards of education or public charter school governing board</i>	House: Failed in s/c K-12 Subcommittee of Education Administration Senate: Passed Senate as Amended, Ayes 30, Nays 3	13
HB0736 (Love) / SB0871 (Akbari): Requiring Civil Rights Movement in Social Studies Standards <i>Changes from urges to requires for social studies standards to teach civil rights movement in grades 9-12</i>	House: Comp. became Pub. Ch. 127 Senate: Effective date(s) 04/04/2023	14
Under Review / Watch		
HB0582 (Whitson) / SB1240 (Hensley): ELA Textbook & Instructional Materials Review Change <i>Requires annual review of English Language Arts textbooks and instructional materials by Office of the Comptroller for each LEA and public charter school</i>	House: Failed in s/c K-12 Subcommittee of Education Administration Senate: Assigned to General Subcommittee of Senate Education Committee	15
HB1406 (Johnson) / SB1139 (Oliver) Private School Transparency <i>Requires private schools that participate in ESA program or individualized education account program to publish the school's lesson plans, syllabus, current list of materials in school library collection, and academic standards</i>	House: Taken off notice for cal in s/c K-12 Subcommittee of Education Administration Senate: Failed in Senate Education Committee	16
HB0841 (Lynn) / SB1059 (Hensley) Education Obscenity Bill <i>Removes the educational justification of a person possessing obscene material if the person is at a school building, bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by a LEA.</i>	House: Signed by House Speaker. Senate: Transmitted to Governor for action. Comp. became Public Chapter 278	17
HB1090 (Lynn) / SB1061 (Hensley) Education Obscenity Bill [2] <i>[same description as above for HB0841/SB1059]</i>	House: Taken off Notice Senate: Assigned to the General Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee	18
HB0663(Hicks) / SB0966(Powers): Caption Bill on Library Complaints Process	House: Rec. for pass. if am., ref. to Calendar & Rules Committee; signed by the House SPEaker Senate: Concurred, Ayes 33, Nays 0 (Amendment 1 - HA0317); Signed by the Senate Speaker Comp. Became Public Chapter 472	19



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HB0158 (Zachary) / SB0102 (Gardenhire)

Restrictions in Implicit Bias Training

Summary: Education - As introduced, prohibits a local education agency, public charter school, public institution of higher education, the state board of education, and the department of education from requiring an educator, employee of an LEA or charter school, faculty member, or employee of a public institution of higher education to complete or participate in implicit bias training; defines "implicit bias training"; prohibits adverse licensure and employment actions from being taken against such an individual for the individual's failure or refusal to participate in implicit bias training. - Amends TCA Title 49.

House: Passed H., Ayes 71, Nays 22, PNV 0

Senate: Passed Senate, Ayes 23, Nays 4

Implications:

- LEA/Public Charter Schools, and Public Colleges/Universities cannot require an educator, faculty member, or employee to participate in implicit bias training or take "adverse employment action" for refusing to participate
- TN State Board of Education (SB) and TN Department of Education (TDOE) cannot require implicit bias training for any purpose, including licensure and professional development purposes
- Implicit bias training: *"designed to expose an individual to biases that the training or educational program's developer or designer presumes the individual to unconsciously, subconsciously, or unintentionally possess that predispose the individual to be unfairly prejudiced in favor of or against a thing, person, or group to adjust the individual's patterns of thinking in order to eliminate the individual's unconscious bias or prejudice."*
- No evidence implicit bias training is required; unclear how broadly the definition of implicit bias will be applied such as potentially being used to restrict training about discrimination, harassment, or diversity/equity/inclusion efforts
- [Fiscal Note](#)

Contact List

Call Governor Lee and urge him to veto discriminatory censorship bills. Call 615-741-2001.

Email Template

Dear K-12 Subcommittee,

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a current [STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]. I [WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS] at _____. I am emailing you because I am deeply concerned about the potential harmful impacts of the HB0158/SB0102 regarding restricting implicit bias training in public LEAs and public colleges/universities.

Research shows that schools need to address racial bias in the classroom considering that implicit bias has negative effects on students of color, which make up 40% of Tennessee's public school population. Implicit bias training is designed to increase self-awareness by supporting individuals in understanding how they view others with different backgrounds and identities. From kindergarten to postsecondary, all of our students deserve safe learning environments. Those experiences are shaped by the rigorous training their educators receive and policies that promote understanding, respect, and reconciliation. Taking all of the above into consideration, this bill is unnecessary, has vague implications, and a step in the wrong direction. **[I/WE] stand in strong opposition against HB0158/SB0102.**

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]



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HB1376 (Ragan) / SB0817 (Hensley)

The TN Higher Education Freedom & Expression Act

Summary: Education, Higher - As introduced, enacts the "Tennessee Higher Education Freedom of Expression and Transparency Act." - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 7 and Title 49, Chapter 8. [New amendment](#)

House: Passed the House 73-25

Senate: Transmitted to Governor for action.

Implications: The action items this bill would implement are below, items most likely to impact institution practices **bolded**:

- Students and/or employees may submit a complaint of an alleged violation of 49-7-1903 (Divisive Concepts law). **Institutions shall investigate, correct the violation, and annually report to the Comptroller's office.**
- Bars institutions from denying/charging money for/show favoritism for peaceful student groups who wish to use campus spaces that are routinely used by students
- **Bars institutions from requiring an applicant for employment or admission from submitting a personal diversity statement**
- Bars institutions from approving the use of state funds for fees associated with an organization that requires an individual to endorse or promote a divisive concept
- Requires institutions to ensure that employee's with DEI in their title must include efforts to support student achievement and readiness
- **Requires institutions to notify students and employees of these restrictions on their website and introductory materials to new students/employees**
- **Requires institutions to provide training to current employees to ensure compliance**

Contact List

Call Governor Lee and urge him to veto discriminatory censorship bills. Call 615-741-2001.

Email Template

Dear _____,

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a current [STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]. I [WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS] at _____. I am emailing you because I am deeply concerned about the potential harmful impacts of HB1376/SB0817, TN Higher Education Freedom & Expression Act, which sets a dangerous precedent for higher education censorship and places unnecessary burdens on our state's colleges and universities.

This bill is repetitive considering the TN Campus Free Speech Protection Act and already seeks to promote supportive campus climates that do not promote specific ideologies. Additionally this bill is repetitive with Public Chapter 818 that was passed by the TN General Assembly last year, which already addresses prohibiting adverse actions from public institutions of higher education around divisive concepts and restricts DEI training. Moreover, this amended bill creates extensive legislative overreach by controlling how institutions manage their personnel and create their own admission application questions. Further, this bill adds onerous administrative burdens to require institutions to - on top of their normal responsibilities- create new website materials, manage student and employee notification processes, build violation procedures, and implement new training to meet the requirements of this law. **[I/WE] stand in strong opposition against HB1376/SB0817.**

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Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]

HB0571 (Carringer) / SB0603 (Hensley)

Higher Education Restrictions on DEI Trainings for Health Degrees

Summary: Education, Higher - As introduced, prohibits public institutions of higher education offering certain medical and health-related degree or certificate programs, and state contractors, from requiring diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training and education for purposes of the issuance of a degree, or the approval of a state contract or grant, as applicable. - Amends TCA Title 9; Title 12; Title 49 and Title 63.

House: Taken off notice for cal in s/c Higher Education Subcommittee of Education Administration

Senate: Assigned to the General Subcommittee of the Senate Education Committee

Implications:

- Requires that medical institutions of HE (MIHE) cannot require or discriminate against those who do not ascribe to DEI ideology
- Requires MIHEs to require a standardized admissions test as a requirement
- Requires MIHE to publish all mandatory courses and training sessions
- Requires MIHE's to submit all changes to admissions standards to the speaker of the house, senate and THEC
- Prevents any healthcare related boards, MIHEs, or providers from conducting DEI audits or engaging DEI consultants
- Permits an aggrieved individual of the above conditions to submit a complaint, with punitive awards of no less than \$100,000; permits the attorney general & reporter to seek civil penalties of up to \$1M for the above violations, in addition to the amount given the an aggrieved individual

Contact List

[This bill did not move during the 2023 legislative session. Watch in 2024]

Email Template

Dear Senate Education Committee,

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a current [STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]. I [WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS] at _____. I am emailing you because I am deeply concerned about the potential harmful impacts of HB0571/SB060 regarding Higher Education Restrictions on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Trainings for Health Degrees.

This bill is repetitive considering the TN Campus Free Speech Protection Act already seeks to promote supportive campus climates that do not promote specific ideologies. This bill's language is vague, conflicts with public higher education institutions' right to academic freedom, and is legislative overreach for the state to dictate how a medical board/institution of higher education should train its students and evaluate its program. Further, this bill requires an extensive number of onerous administrative responsibilities, without clear indications of additional support for implementation, yet threatens our essential health care providers and medical institutions of higher education with extreme financial penalties. Overall, this bill will jeopardize how our vital institutions function, and consequently, lead to less individuals seeking out medical degrees/programs or working in our higher education institutions. Taking all of the above into consideration, [I/WE] stand in



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strong opposition against HB0571/SB0603.

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]

HB1414 (Todd) / SB0620 (Pody)

The Families Rights & Responsibilities Act

Summary: Children - As introduced, enacts the "Families' Rights and Responsibilities Act," which declares that the ability of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of that parent's child is a fundamental right. - Amends TCA Title 36 and Title 49.

House: Assigned to s/c Children & Family Affairs Subcommittee

Senate: Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Judiciary Committee

Implications:

- Expands parents' rights to object to or withdraw their child from any instruction/presentation
- Requires parental consent for any sex ed or sexual orientation/gender identity instruction, and pronoun usage (but even if parents content, school staff cannot be forced to use different pronouns)
- Changes many of parents' current rights related to medical and mental health evaluation and care from being opt-out to opt-in, which would result in added burdens for families, schools, and teachers and might lead to harmful effects on students' health
- Gives parents rights to sue anyone for any violation of the provisions in the bill for multiple types of relief/damages, which could have serious legal and financial implications for districts, schools, employees of Tennessee
- Less problematic provisions in this bill are mostly things parents already are granted under the law (i.e. withdrawing their child from a club/extracurricular they object to, or reviewing instructional/supplemental materials)

Contact List

[This bill did not move during the 2023 legislative session. Watch in 2024]

Email Template

Dear _____,

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a current [STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]. I [WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS] at _____. I am emailing you because I am deeply concerned about the potential harmful impacts of HB1414 / SB0620, The Families Rights & Responsibilities Act.

Parent engagement with their child's education is essential to their success. The intent of this bill is laudable, and aims to provide parents with information on programs, services and instruction. However many of these processes already exist according to local and state policy. The additional requirements here will create additional, and unclear demands on staff, creating a challenging environment for staff as they try to comply with burdensome processes. The bill's provisions would place unnecessary requirements on overworked teachers, schools leaders, and medical professionals. Additionally, there is an unclear structure for implementation, and certain new policy opt-in requirements could negatively impact families with limited English proficiency or low-income communities who may not be aware of the new requirements. These burdensome tasks and the creation of immense reporting duties have the potential to increase our state's growing teacher shortage. Further, this bill is unnecessary and the expansion of various requirements could result in lawsuits that will continue to have

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serious legal and financial implications for districts, employees, and the state. Taking all of the above into consideration, **[I/WE] stand in strong opposition against HB1414 / SB0620.**

Sincerely, **[YOUR NAME]**

HB1269 (Cochran) / SB0466 (Rose)

Student Pronoun Restrictions

Summary: Teachers, Principals and School Personnel - As introduced, specifies that a teacher or other employee of a public school or LEA is not required to refer to a student using the student's preferred pronoun if the pronoun is not consistent with the student's biological sex; insulates a teacher or other employee of a public school or LEA from civil liability and adverse employment action for referring to a student using the pronoun that is consistent with the student's biological sex. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6.

House: **Passed H., Ayes 72, Nays 22, PNV 1**

Senate: **Passed Senate Ayes 25, Nays 7, PNV 1**

Implications:

- A teacher or employee of public school is not required to use a students' preferred pronoun when referring to a student if it is not consistent with the students biological sex
- A teacher or employee of a public school is not civilly liable or subject to adverse employment action for not using a students' preferred pronoun
- This bill encourages a hostile learning environment by invalidating students' identities and consequently, could create a negative impact on students' social emotional well-being, safe learning environment, and ability to learn
- According to the bills [fiscal note](#), if found in violation of federal law (i.e. Title IX), this legislation could jeopardize funding in FY23-24 and subsequent years

Contact List

Call Governor Lee and urge him to veto discriminatory censorship bills. Call 615-741-2001.

Email Template

Dear _____,

My name is **[YOUR NAME]**, and I am a current **[STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]**. I **[WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS]** at _____. I am emailing you because I am deeply concerned about the potential harmful impacts of HB1269 / SB0466 regarding restrictions on calling students by their preferred pronouns.

Educators have a responsibility to foster a safe learning environment that supports and protects the well being of their students. If an educator actively refers to a students' name inaccurately, this action could significantly impact their relationship with the student by creating a hostile space and negatively influencing the students' social emotional well being and ability to learn. [According to GLSEN](#), 51% of transgender and nonbinary TN students in 2021 were already prevented from using their chosen name or pronouns in school, which implies this legislation is not necessary, as students are already being misgendered in schools. If students feel unsupported in school, they will be less engaged and willing to go to school at all. By dictating how educators interact with their students, this bill is an example of legislative overreach. Further, as the fiscal note states, if found in violation of federal law related to Title IX, this legislation could jeopardize funding in FY 23-24 and subsequent years. Taking all of the above into consideration, **[I/WE] stand in strong opposition against HB1269 / SB0466.**

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Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]

HB1377 (Ragan) / SB1141 (Hensley)

Expansion of Prohibited Concepts Complaints Process

Summary: Local Education Agencies - As introduced, creates a process by which certain individuals may file a complaint with an LEA or public charter school for the LEA's or public charter school's including or promoting certain prohibited concepts as part of a course of instruction, in a curriculum or instructional program, or by allowing teachers or other employees to use supplemental materials that include or promote certain prohibited concepts. - Amends TCA Section 49-6-1019.

House: Action def. In Education Administration to First Calendar of 2024

Senate: Failed in Senate Education

Implications:

- Adds new section to [TCA 49-6-1019](#) (Public Chapter 493) to create local complaint process if someone thinks prohibited concepts law was violated and appeal process where the local decision can be taken to TDOE to uphold/overturn
- **Local Education Agency (LEA)/Public Charter School (PCS) Complaint Process:** complaint filed → LEA/PCS reviews and determines whether violation happened → LEA/PCS puts their decision and rationale on their website
 - Complaint can be lodged by a student, parent/guardian, LEA/PCS employee, or any resident of the school zone or district with "actual or constructive knowledge of the violation"
- **TDOE Appeal Process:** Appeal filed → TDOE reviews and determines whether to uphold or overturn LEA/PCS decision → TDOE puts their decision and rationale on their website
 - Appeal can be filed by the original complainant or the person who was accused of the violation

Contact List

[Failed in Senate Education, so will not move. Watch in House in 2023]

Email Template

Dear Senate Education Committee members,

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a current [STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]. I [WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS] at _____. I am emailing you because I am deeply concerned about the potential harmful impacts of HB1377 / SB1141 regarding the expansion of the prohibited concepts complaints process.

Expanding the complaints process to include any resident of the school district served by an LEA would create additional burdens on overworked educators and school leaders, and increases the likelihood for wrongful accusations to be submitted. Additionally, this wide-open complaint/appeals process will likely lead to more money being held from LEAs, since it is currently in the commissioner's discretion to determine violations. Further, this complaint process would be an overreach into school/district authority, especially since the bill would allow residents who are not directly involved with the school system to file complaints. Zooming out, Tennessee is continuing to see a growing teacher shortage. With that in mind, increasing methods for the public to threaten individual educators and putting valuable LEA funding at further risk is not a step in the right direction. Taking all of the above into consideration, [I/WE] stand in strong opposition against HB1377 / SB1141.

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]



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[HB0306 \(Bulso\) / SB1237 \(Hensley\)](#)

Private School Regulations on Sports Participation

Summary: Schools, Private - As introduced, authorizes a private school to create a policy to regulate a student's participation in the school's athletic activities or events based upon a student's biological sex. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 1 and Title 49, Chapter 50.

House: Signed by the House Speaker.

Senate: Signed by the Senate Speaker

Implications:

- [NEW Amendment 2: related to allowing for gun policies in pre-K - 12.](#)
- Adds a new part to "Private Schools" in Title 49 that allows a private school to create a policy that regulates a students' participation in the school's athletic activities or events based upon a students' biological sex
- Amendment 1 adds "in connection with an interscholastic athletic activity or event where membership in TN secondary School Athletic Association is required" student enrolled in a private school is eligible to participate only in accordance with student's sex
- Bill connects to laws passed previous sessions including 1) [Public Chapter 40](#) that requires a students' gender for purposes of public middle (5-8) or high school (9-12) in athletic activity be determined by students' sex at time of birth and 2) [Public Chapter 909](#) that added enforcement mechanisms to Public Chapter 40 allowing the Commission of Education to withhold funds from LEAs who did not comply with the law
- Private school regulations have legal implications for the State of Tennessee; for example, the past banning transgender students in middle and high school was sued in [L.E. v. Lee](#) filed by the ACLU of Tennessee

Contact List:

Call Governor Lee and urge him to veto discriminatory censorship bills. Call 615-741-2001.

Email Template

Dear _____,

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a current [STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]. I [WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS] at _____. I am emailing you because I am deeply concerned about the potential harmful impacts of HB0306/SB1237, regarding private school regulations on students' sports participation.

This bill harshly targets transgender athletes and does not solve any real problems by threatening a group of vulnerable young people. Creating unwelcoming environments for our students threatens their social emotional well being, ability to learn and desire to stay in school. Public Chapter 40, the law related to sports' participation in middle and high schools, has already been tried in court in L.E. vs. Lee. Passing this law is legislative overreach into our school communities and consequently, would lead to further litigation efforts against Tennessee, continuing to waste our taxpayer dollars. Overall, this bill is a distraction from focusing on what we can do to help all students thrive. Taking the above into consideration, this proposed bill would create unnecessary restrictions and **[I/WE] stand in strong opposition against HB0306/SB1237.**

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]



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HB1411 (Fritts) / SB1117 (Bowling)

Expanding Parent/Guardian Consent in LEA Activities

Summary: As introduced, requires an LEA to obtain a student's parent's or legal guardian's consent to allow the student to participate in instruction, an activity, evaluation, assessment, survey, or analysis offered by the student's LEA. - Amends TCA Title 49.

House: Taken off notice for cal. in Education Administration

Senate: Placed on Senate Reset calendar for 2024

Implications:

- Requires LEA to create policy that:
 - Allows parent or legal guardian to access and review all surveys, analysis, or evaluations, prior to being administered to the parents or legal guardians student
 - Requires written consent before the student participates in a survey, analysis or evaluation
- Requires LEAs to receive written construct from parent/guardian:
 - Before receiving family life instruction
 - Before receiving any health services
- Schools shall not permit students to be a member or participate in activities or clubs unless they receive parent/guardian consent

Contact List:

[This bill did not move during the 2023 legislative session. Watch in 2024]

Email Template

Dear Education Administration Committee members,

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a current [STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]. I [WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS] at _____. I am emailing you because I am deeply concerned about the potential harmful impacts and increased burdens on our schools connected to HB1411/SB117, regarding expanding parent/guardian consent in instruction, activities, evaluation, assessments, surveys or analysis offered by a students' LEA.

Parent engagement with their child's education is essential to their success. The intent of this bill is laudable, and aims to provide parents with information on programs, services and instruction. However many of these processes to allow for parent consent already exist in our schools. For example, there are already policies for students to opt out of TCAP. The additional requirements here will create additional demands on staff, creating a challenging environment for staff as they try to comply with burdensome processes. There would be unclear, unrealistically extensive administrative responsibilities for districts including attempting to identify every piece of instruction, activity, and survey that would be required for parents/guardians to give consent to. Overall, this bill is legislative overreach and [I/WE] **stand in strong opposition against HB1411/SB1117.**

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]



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HB0727 (Hulsey) / SB1443 (Roberts)

Expanding Parent/Guardian Consent in LEA Activities

Summary: As introduced, requires an LEA to obtain a student's parent's or legal guardian's consent to allow the student to participate in instruction, an activity, evaluation, assessment, survey, or analysis offered by the student's LEA. - Amends TCA Title 49 and Title 68.

House: Passed H., Ayes 74, Nays 24, PNV 0

Senate: Passed Senate as amended, Ayes 25 Nays 5

Implications:

- Requires LEA to create policy that:
 - Allows parent or legal guardian to access and review all surveys, analysis, or evaluations, prior to being administered to the parents or legal guardians student
 - Requires written consent before the student participates in a survey, analysis or evaluation
- Requires LEAs to receive written construct from parent/guardian:
 - Before receiving family life instruction
 - Before receiving any health services
- Schools shall not permit students to be a member or participate in activities or clubs unless they receive parent/guardian consent

Contact List:

Call Governor Lee and urge him to veto discriminatory censorship bills. Call 615-741-2001.

Email Template

Dear Education Administration and Senate Education Committee members,

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a current [STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]. I [WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS] at _____. I am emailing you because I am deeply concerned about the potential harmful impacts and increased burdens on our schools connected to HB0727/SB1443, regarding expanding parent/guardian consent in instruction, activities, evaluation, assessments, surveys or analysis offered by a students' LEA.

Parent engagement with their child's education is essential to their success. The intent of this bill is laudable, and aims to provide parents with information on programs, services and instruction. However many of these processes to allow for parent consent already exist in our schools. For example, there are already policies for students to opt out of TCAP. The additional requirements here will create additional demands on staff, creating a challenging environment for staff as they try to comply with burdensome processes. There would be unclear, unrealistically extensive administrative responsibilities for districts including attempting to identify every piece of instruction, activity, and survey that would be required for parents/guardians to give consent to. Overall, this bill is legislative overreach and **[I/WE] stand in strong opposition against HB0727/SB1443.**

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]



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HB1040 (Jernigan) / SB1078 (Yarbro)

Age Appropriate Materials Act Revision; Removing Classroom Libraries

Summary: Local Education Agencies - As introduced, excludes materials obtained by an individual teacher, which are made available in the teacher's classroom to students assigned to the teacher's class or classes, from having to be identified in a list posted on the school's website, and from being subject to the development, review, and feedback process established by the school's local board of education or public charter school governing body for materials in the school's library collection. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6.

House: Failed in K-12 Subcommittee of Education Administration

Senate: Passed Senate as Amended, Ayes 30, Nays 3

Implications:

- Amends the Public Chapter 744 - the Age Appropriate Materials Act - by deleting the section in TN Code the requires individual teachers to publicly post all materials in their classroom library online
- Removes materials in a teacher's classroom library from being subject to review by local boards of education or public charter school governing body
- [New amendment](#) adds in additional requirements for implementing procedures for parents and legal guardians of students to have multiple opportunities to access and review classroom libraries, and adds provision prohibiting teachers from knowingly or intentionally circumventing LEA or public charter school library collection policy (such as including materials that were found by LEA inappropriate for age/maturity levels of students who may access)

Contact List

[Failed in K-12, so will not move this session. Watch similar bill in 2024]

Email Template

Dear _____,

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a current [STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]. I [WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS] at _____. I am emailing you to express my support for HB1040/SB1078, which would exclude materials maintained by an individual teacher from having to be identified as posted on the school's website or subject to preview by the local school board or public charter school governing board.

Our educators are already overworked with the extensive list of responsibilities they have providing comprehensive support to their students, which includes encouraging reading and fostering literacy skills through providing an accessible, quality classroom library. Some educators have hundreds of books available in their classroom libraries that help create a rigorous learning environment, and our current law requiring them to list each of these books contributes to burdensome processes that educators must complete outside of their regular class without additional resources or support. Our current law only serves to increase the workload of staff, and has the potential to increase our state's growing teacher shortage if it remains unchanged. Additionally, the current law creates additional work and hidden costs for districts as the new law has forced them to figure out a process and tools for teachers to use to create the lists required by law. Overall, the current requirement requiring educators to report each material in their classroom library is unnecessary and an onerous task, and this bill is a step in the right direction to support our educators and students thrive. Taking all of the above into consideration, **[I/WE] stand in strong support for HB1040/SB1078.**

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]



2023 Censorship Bills Advocacy Toolkit

HB0736 (Love) /SB0736 (Akbari)

Requiring Civil Rights Movement in Social Studies Standards

Summary: Education - As introduced, changes from urges to requires the standards recommendation committee to include certain academic standards regarding the civil rights movement in the committee's final recommendation of academic standards in the subject of social studies for students in grades nine through 12. - Amends TCA Title 49.

House: **Comp. became Pub. Ch. 127**
Senate: **Effective date(s) 04/04/2023**

Implications:

- TN Code is amended by deleting “is urged to” and substituting “shall” related to academic standards regarding the civil rights movement inclusion in Tennessee’s Social Studies Standards.

Contact List

N/A

Email Template

Dear [YOUR HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE],

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a current [STUDENT, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE]. I [WORK/GO TO SCHOOL/MY CHILD ATTENDS] at _____. I am emailing you to express my support for HB0736/SB0736 regarding requiring the teaching of the civil rights movement in Tennessee’s Social Studies Standards.

Schools must be inclusive, safe, nurturing environments so that children can learn to address some of the world’s most complex issues. To do so, schools must teach a diverse and challenging curriculum and students need to engage with materials that reflect the rich history of our students, state, and the world, including the importance of the Civil Rights Movement in Tennessee and the United States. From improved cultural awareness, to enhanced critical thinking skills and higher levels of community belonging research shows that a diverse curriculum leads to increased academic abilities. When students engage thoughtfully with various historical concepts, they build crucial problem solving practice and interpersonal skills that ultimately enable them to participate as effective citizens and inclusive leaders in settings beyond the classroom.

Taking all of the above into consideration, [I/WE] **stand in strong support for HB0736/S0736.**

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]



2023 Censorship Bills Advocacy Toolkit

HB0582 (Whitson) / SB1240 (Hensley)

ELA Textbook & Instructional Materials Review Change

Summary: Education - As introduced, requires the office of the comptroller to annually conduct a review of the English language arts textbooks and instructional materials adopted for use by each LEA and public charter school to ensure they are aligned to Tennessee's academic standards and annually submit a report detailing the findings of the review to the education committees of the senate and house of representatives no later than February 1 of each year. - Amends TCA Title 49.

House: Failed in s/c K-12 Subcommittee of Education Administration

Senate: Assigned to General Subcommittee of Senate Education Committee

Implications:

[Under Analysis]

Contact List

[N.A]

Email Template

[Under Review]



2023 Censorship Bills Advocacy Toolkit

HB1406 (Johnson) / SB1139 (Oliver)

Private School Transparency

Summary: School Vouchers - As introduced, requires private schools that participate in the education savings account program or the individualized education account program to publish the school's lesson plans and syllabus for each class offered by the school, a current list of materials in the school's library collection, and the academic standards for each class offered by the school on the school's website. - Amends TCA Title 49.

House: Taken off notice for cal in s/c K-12 Subcommittee of Education Administration

Senate: Failed in Senate Education Committee

Implications:

- Private schools that participate in the education saving account program or the individualized education account program would be required to publish:
 - 1) School's lesson plans and syllabus for each class offered by the school
 - 2) Current list in the school's library collection (materials bad available to students by school as part of course curriculum)
 - 3) Academic standards for each class on the school's website

Contact List

[N/A]

Email Template

[Under Review]



2023 Censorship Bills Advocacy Toolkit

HB0841 (Lynn) / SB1059 (Hensley)

Education Obscenity Bill 1

Summary: Obscenity and Pornography - As introduced, removes the educational justification of a person possessing obscene material if the person is at a school building, bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by a local education agency. - Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 9 and Title 49.

House: Signed by House Speaker.

Senate: Transmitted to Governor for action.

Implications:

- Amends TN Code, Title 39, Chapter 17, part 9, relative to obscenity
- Adds a new subdivision to section 39-17-902(e):
 - *(3) The educational justification exception established in subdivision (e)(1) does not apply if the obscene material is possessed by a person on school property. As used in this subdivision (e)(3), "school property" means a school building or bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by a local education agency.*

Contact List

Call Governor Lee and urge him to veto discriminatory censorship bills. Call 615-741-2001.

Email Template



2023 Censorship Bills Advocacy Toolkit

HB1090 (Lynn) / SB1061 (Hensley)

Education Obscenity Bill 2

Summary: Obscenity and Pornography - As introduced, removes the educational justification of a person possessing obscene material if the person is at a school building, bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by a local education agency. - Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 9 and Title 49.

House: Taken off Notice

Senate: Assigned to the General Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Implications:

- Amends TN Code, Title 39, Chapter 17, part 9 - **and Title 49** - relative to obscenity
- Adds a new subdivision to section 39-17-902(e):
 - *(3) The educational justification exception established in subdivision (e)(1) does not apply if the obscene material is possessed by a person on school property. As used in this subdivision (e)(3), "school property" means a school building or bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by a local education agency.*

Contact List

[Watch Bill for Amendments]

Email Template

[Under Review]



2023 Censorship Bills Advocacy Toolkit

HB0663(Hicks) / SB0966(Powers): Caption Bill on Library Complaints Process

Summary: As introduced, requires the Scholars Summer Guide, which is given to each student in grades kindergarten through eight prior to the last day of the school year, to be made available on the school's website. - Amends TCA Title 49. [Caption Bill]

House: Rec. for pass. if am., ref. to Calendar & Rules Committee

Senate: Concurred, Ayes 33, Nays 0 (Amendment 1 - HA0317)

Implications:

- [House Amendment](#) & [Senate Amendment](#)
 - Makes various changes to the policies and procedures that each local board of education and public charter school governing body must develop pursuant to the feedback and review of materials located in a school's library collection.
 - The proposed legislation:
 - clarifies that local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools must have a procedure to receive and evaluate feedback from a student, a student's parent or guardian, or a school employee regarding one more of the materials in the library collection of the student's or employee's school.
 - clarifies that if an LEA or public charter school cannot reach a resolution on the material with the person who provided feedback, then the local board of education and public charter school governing body must determine whether the material is appropriate for the age and maturity levels of the students who may access the materials.

Contact List

[Under Review]

Email Template

[Under Review]



2023 Censorship Bills Advocacy Toolkit

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