

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 132

By DeBerry

A RESOLUTION to express support for a teacher's bill of rights.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we express our support for a teacher's bill of rights, which should include the following:

- (1) TEM vs. TEAM for teacher evaluations: Eliminate Tripod and Professionalism.
- (2) Reduce testing for students by eliminating standardized testing for grades K-12 and SPED students; make district-mandated benchmark testing age appropriate; and reduce excessive testing time to allow for more instructional time.
- (3) Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten portfolios: A rubric should be designed that aligns with age-appropriate standards and expectations. Final rubrics should be provided to educators no later than July to ensure that all educational professionals have ample time to review the rubric and create a plan of implementation that would best suit the needs of individual students.
- (4) Response to Intervention (RTI) concerns: Educators should be provided with the appropriate tools and resources in order to successfully implement RTI based on state guidelines and expectations. RTI programs should be designed based on district- and school-level needs; it should not be a statewide, one-size-fits-all model. RTI tracking, paperwork, and implementation should not impede daily classroom instruction.

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- (6) Amend selection date for teacher achievement scores: Teachers should be given the option to select an achievement measure once test scores have been received.
- (7) Reduce teacher penalties for poor standardized test scores: Until the state can produce a fair (unbiased), reliable, and consistent testing measure with clear expectations, teacher evaluation scores should not be negatively impacted by standardized testing data. Educators in non-tested grades should not be forced to use school scores in their individual evaluations.
- (8) Stockpile days: Days should be utilized in a manner to benefit students and educators.
- (9) Overtime for teachers and education support professionals: Address the legality of requiring teachers and education support professionals to participate in professional development sessions and other meetings after school hours, on weekends, and during breaks without compensation.
- (10) Education Support Professionals: Create guidelines for appropriate use of education support professionals in schools. Mandate that all educators in grades K-2 have at a minimum one (1) dedicated assistant per grade level. Create a Memorandum of Understanding for Education Support Professionals.
- (11) Special Education: Reduce the amount of paperwork that special education teachers are required to submit per student or provide special education with a dedicated secretary to complete this paperwork. Adjust the guidelines for special education services to account for things beyond the educator's control, such as attendance.
- (12) Teacher Pay: Amend current mandates to ensure that state funding allocated to districts for teacher pay increases is used solely for that purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the commissioner of the Department of Education and the executive director of the State Board of Education.