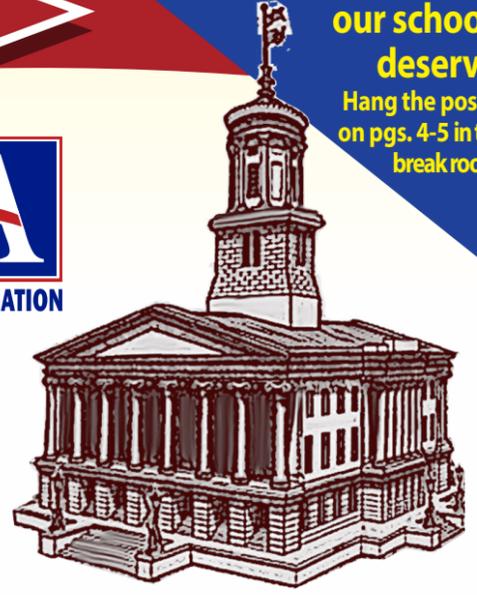


# TENNESSEE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCATE

LEGISLATIVE REPORT | Feb. 13, 2020 | VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2



**Tax cuts and excessive reserves eat up funding our schools deserve!**  
Hang the poster on pgs. 4-5 in the break room!



## Proposed tax cuts would eat up funds better spent on students, educators and classrooms

The Lee administration is proposing a \$40 million tax cut for lawyers, lobbyists, doctors and stock brokers. These professions pay a professional privilege tax of \$400 a year, which will be cut to \$200 under a plan from the Lee

administration.

Teachers across Tennessee also pay a professional fee: using their own money to purchase needed classroom supplies.

“Our surveys show that the average teacher spends \$500 per year on classroom supplies, because the state only provides \$200 per year,” said TEA President Beth Brown.

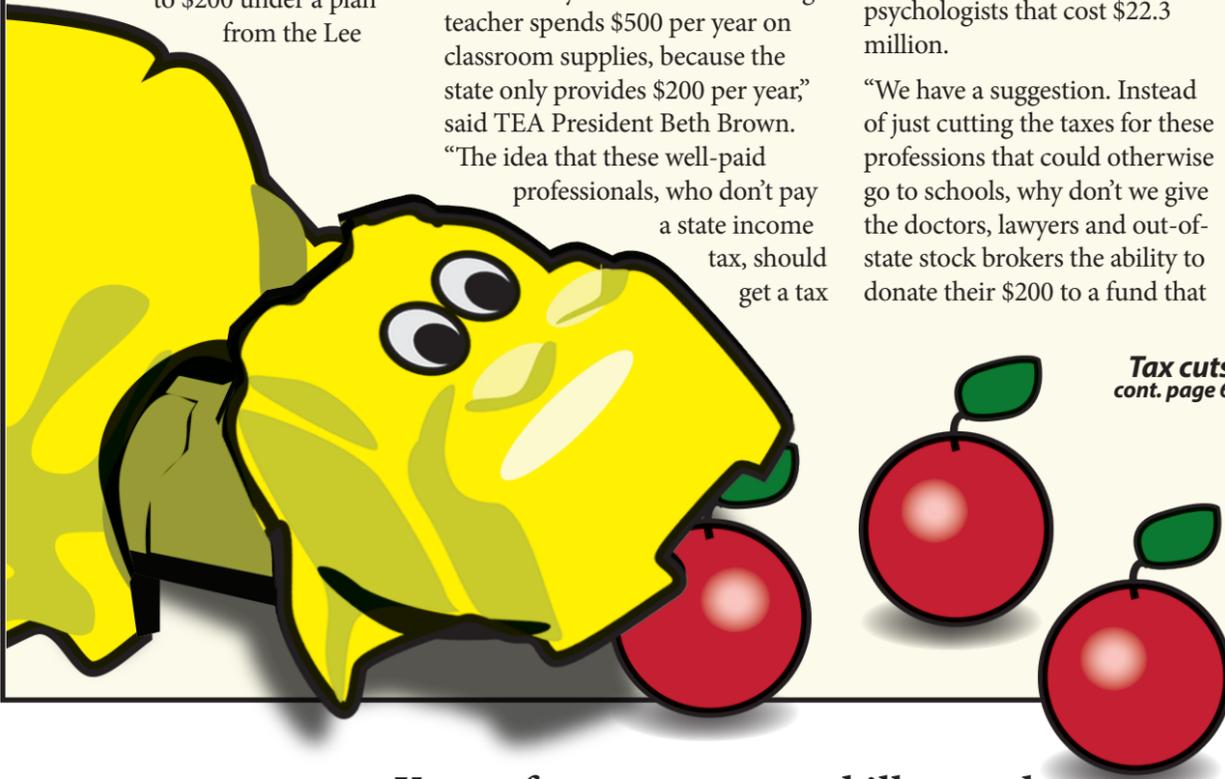
“The idea that these well-paid professionals, who don’t pay a state income tax, should get a tax

break while teachers struggle every day is just plain wrong.”

These tax cuts come on the heels of eliminating the privilege tax for professions such as accountants, athlete agents, pharmacists, and psychologists that cost \$22.3 million.

“We have a suggestion. Instead of just cutting the taxes for these professions that could otherwise go to schools, why don’t we give the doctors, lawyers and out-of-state stock brokers the ability to donate their \$200 to a fund that

**Tax cuts**  
cont. page 6



## Years after transparency bill passed, state is set to create TN-owned test question bank, allowing for full test transparency

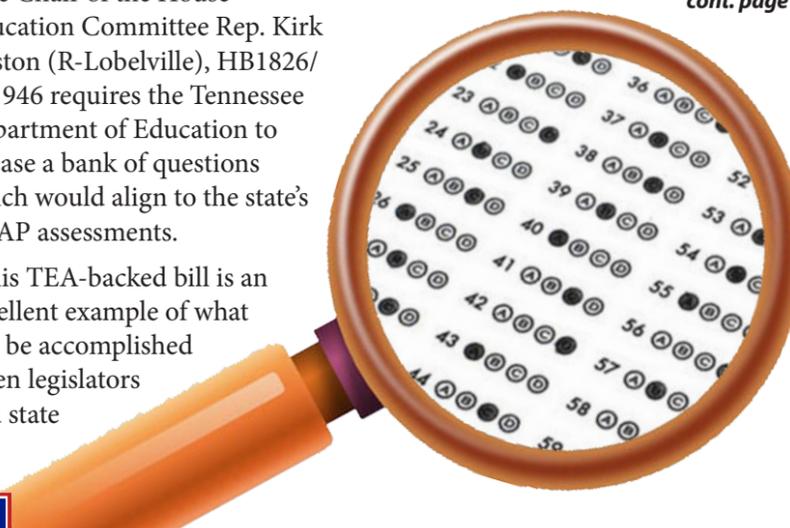
After years of hard work by TEA to achieve testing transparency in Tennessee — and passing a testing transparency law — school systems across Tennessee will be able to use state-owned test questions in benchmark testing, and save money in the process.

Sponsored in the House by Vice Chair of the House Education Committee Rep. Kirk Haston (R-Lobelville), HB1826/SB1946 requires the Tennessee Department of Education to release a bank of questions which would align to the state’s TCAP assessments.

“This TEA-backed bill is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when legislators and state

officials listen to the concerns of educators,” said TEA President Beth Brown. “Educators have lobbied for testing transparency for years, and we appreciate Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn for taking the lead in making testing transparency a reality in Tennessee.”

**Test transparency**  
cont. page 6



## Amid contract controversy, lawmakers express regret, concerns about voucher law

The early rollout of the state voucher program continues to stumble in the legislative session.

In an explosive hearing of the House Finance Appropriations Subcommittee, administration and education officials were grilled on a two-year, \$2.5 million no-bid contract given to ClassWallet, a privately held Florida company that provides online payment systems for voucher programs in other states.

While the legislature appropriated \$771,300 for voucher program planning, the ClassWallet contract is for \$2.5 million for two years, with an option to renew for three more years up to \$6.3 million.

In order to pay the remainder, the Department of Education raided \$1.5 million from Career Ladder, money

**Voucher fight**  
cont. page 3

## Commissioner reveals plan to expand charter schools to rural districts

Legislators outside of the metro areas often dismiss educators’ and parents’ concerns about privatization threats to local public schools by saying, “This won’t affect our schools.”

Now, state leaders have revealed plans to expand privately-run charter schools to rural districts across the state.

In a presentation before the House Education Committee earlier this month concerning the department’s proposed budget, Tennessee Commissioner of Education Penny Schwinn stated, “One of the things that we’re proposing with the one-time funds is \$10 million that would go to help build public charter schools with districts — in partnership with districts — to create more opportunities for students in rural communities.”

The program is part of the department’s “Innovative High School” initiative to expand STEM opportunities.

“This is the opposite of what our rural

**Charter schools**  
cont. page 6



**THE STRONGEST VOICE FOR SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS**

# The price of teaching in Tennessee

By TEA President Beth Brown



In August 2001, I was a new college graduate, eager to begin my journey as a professional. I looked forward to inspiring my students, and, frankly, I was excited to finally start getting paid to work rather than having to pay to do it. At that time, I didn't fully understand the price of teaching in Tennessee.

Yes, there is a price to teach in Tennessee. As the daughter of two educators, I knew about the extra hours spent planning lessons and grading papers. I knew about the time spent working extracurricular events and attending faculty meetings. But in my naivete, I didn't

know that I would have to pay out of my own pocket for the privilege of doing my job.

Educators in the state of Tennessee spend, on average, \$500 per year of their own salary to resource their classrooms, and many educators pay significantly more than \$1,000 annually. One of my former students, who is in her second year of teaching, shared that she has spent over \$2,000 since she began teaching and said she is "fortunate to be in a two-income household with a supportive spouse." Teaching shouldn't be a profession that requires educators to subsidize Tennessee's public schools.

*Teaching shouldn't be a profession that requires educators to subsidize Tennessee's public schools.*

Educators pay for pencils, pens, paper, folders, chart paper, dry-erase markers, paper clips, staples, tape, printer ink, and copy paper because these are daily necessities in our classrooms.

Educators pay for classroom décor, flexible seating, and rugs because classroom environment impacts students' learning.

Educators pay for novels, art supplies, math manipulatives, and science lab materials because these materials aren't in schools' budgets.

Educators pay for cleaning supplies, first aid supplies, feminine hygiene products, Kleenex, and hand sanitizer because students need clean and safe learning environments.

Educators pay for food and clothing for our students because children cannot learn when they are cold and hungry.

Educators pay for lesson plans and supplemental resources from sites like Teachers Pay Teachers because the curriculum provided is often inadequate and out of date.

I don't know anyone who would assert that these expenses are frivolous. Why, then, are individual educators bearing the brunt of these costs rather than school districts? The answer is simple: the state does not adequately fund Tennessee's public schools. Teachers receive \$200 per year for classroom supplies, and I know from personal experience that the funds are quickly spent in the first few months of the school year.

It is appalling that Tennessee's teachers, who are paid significantly less than similarly educated peers in other professions, pay such a steep price for the privilege of doing their jobs. Some members of the Tennessee General Assembly would like to offer tax cuts to corporations and out-of-state stock brokers. As long as Tennessee ranks 45th in the nation for education funding and teachers are bankrolling their own classrooms, there should be zero discussion of cutting taxes.

Tennessee currently collects enough revenue to adequately fund our schools without raising taxes. It's affordable, it's right, and it's time.

# The urgency of now!

By TEA Executive Director Carolyn Crowder

When we say, "Public education needs a \$1.2 billion increase in state funding," it sounds like an unrealistic ask, right? It is a huge amount, but it is also a reasonable ask when you look at the full financial picture of our state.

A report released earlier this year stated that Tennessee added \$1.2 billion to its unrestricted cash reserves, bringing the total state reserves up to \$6.7 billion.

When you think about that \$6.7 billion in cash sitting in an account somewhere, I want you to also think about the textbooks falling apart in your classroom, and the school roof that leaks when it rains, and the students struggling through trauma without a school counselor to turn to. The state is prioritizing its bragging rights over bond ratings and excessive cash reserves, when the state needs to prioritize our students, educators and public schools.

History proves decision-makers in Nashville will not realize the errors of their ways without pressure from the people back home. It is up to us to show up for the fight. It is up to us to flood the capitol with red. It is up to us to demand the funding our students deserve.

The time is right. There is money available, but if we don't pressure lawmakers to re-prioritize the state's spending right now, we may miss our chance. Included in Gov. Bill Lee's proposed budget is a round of tax cuts, primarily for the benefit of out-of-state brokers. He has also promised recently that more proposed tax cuts will be forthcoming.

Before we start carving money out of the budget for out-of-state interests, we must ensure our students and public schools have the resources needed for student success. We cannot allow teachers to continue spending hundreds of dollars to buy the classroom resources our schools cannot afford to provide. We cannot allow students and educators to continue to suffer while the administration proposes tax cuts.

Now more than ever, we need every educator, parent, local elected official and public school supporter to show up for the fight. On Monday, March 16, I want legislators and their staff to be able to hear us through the walls of their offices. I want them to look out and

see red shirts in every direction. I want them to know that we are here to fight for our kids, our schools and our profession – and we aren't going to rest until public education receives the funding we deserve.

If you have not already registered for the Rally for Our Schools, go online right now to [TEAteachers.org/Rally](https://TEAteachers.org/Rally) or text RALLY to 84693. Those who do not sign up prior to Sunday, March 1, will not be able to get their free rally t-shirt mailed to their home. Those who do not let their local president or TEA UniServ director know they need transportation prior to Thursday, February 27, may not be able to get a seat on the buses we are providing for those who live a distance away.

Most importantly, if at all possible, please show up!

Your profession needs you to fight for a professional wage and professional supports. Your students need you to fight for the resources they need.

We can't do this without you.



*It is up to us to show up for the fight. It is up to us to flood the capitol with red. It is up to us to demand the funding our students deserve.*

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UniServ Staff contact information can be found on page 6.

# Legislators investigate no-bid, over-budget voucher contract

**Voucher fight**  
from page 1

dedicated to teacher compensation.

This steamed legislators.

“That Career Ladder is for teacher pay and we robbed teacher pay,” said Rep. Jeremy Faison (R-Cosby). “We just decided to rob a pot of money that had nothing to do with the legislation that we passed.”

“How does \$750,000 which was approved by the legislature turn into \$6,328,750, and where in the world did you get this money?” Rep. Matthew Hill (R-Jonesboro), committee chairman, asked education officials.

State Department of Education Chief Financial Officer Drew Harpool said the department took the \$1.5 million because they were unused.

“What legislative authority did you have to do that?” Hill asked.

TEA notes thousands of Tennessee teachers still receive Career Ladder funds, a salary supplement started in the 1980s with enrollment stopped in 1997. Any remaining appropriations in that fund should be used only for teacher pay.

“The idea to raid teacher compensation funds to pay for a no-bid voucher contract is an insult,” said TEA President Beth Brown.

State contracts are reviewed by the legislative Fiscal Review Committee before being signed. While Fiscal Review staff asked for information about the voucher contract process last summer and fall, they found out about the contract in

media reports early in November, adding to the suspicions about the controversial program.

These and other problems have been caused by the early rollout. Legislators and the press were told the program would not start until July of 2021. And while administration officials talk about helping recipients, the possibility that lawsuits invalidating the program are going to be successful is seen as the motivating factor.

Earlier this month, Metro-Nashville and Shelby County filed a lawsuit stating that the voucher program violates the state constitution by limiting the law to just those two counties. The General Assembly may pass only general application laws, or laws that affect counties either by request of local government or by referendum. The legislature admitted the voucher law was not general application by a late amendment nullifying the law if a court overturned how the legislation limits it to Tennessee’s two largest counties.

At one point, Faison declared that he wished he had not voted for the controversial voucher bill. Not only did maneuvering and arm-twisting used to pass the bill in the House look “sketchy,” he said, the department’s process for ClassWallet appeared suspicious.

“You can’t do stuff like this and think there’s not consequences in the general public. I can’t stress how bad this looks for us,” Faison said.

Hill ordered the department to return before his panel and provide members with documentation for how it pursued the ClassWallet contract.

*If our schools had the funding we deserve...*

Share on social media your “Why” for attending the Rally for Our Schools!

“If the state gave us the funding we deserve, my school system would have less teacher turnover and more experienced teachers. My students, many of whom have experienced childhood trauma, would have access to the support systems they need to be successful.”

**Mike Stein, Coffee County**



“If the state gave us the funding we deserve, my school would have the resources, materials, and technology that would be equitable for all students. Also, Tennessee teachers would finally have certificates printed on quality paper and properly framed!”

**LaDawn Hudgins, Kingsport**



“If the state gave us the funding our students and schools deserve, we wouldn’t be worried about our school closing.”

**Jerilyn Crooks, Columbia**



#TN2020Vision #RedforEd  
#FundTNpublicschools

# ASK TEA

ANSWERS FROM THE EXPERTS AT THE TEA HOTLINE

**Q: I keep hearing about Civication, but I’m really not into politics, so why should I attend?**

**A:** We’re glad you asked! Teachers possess a unique passion for public education and Civication harnesses that passion by bringing them to Capitol Hill where they have an opportunity to educate lawmakers about the challenges faced on the front lines of public education. Teachers also gain greater insight into the connection between their actions in the voting booth and their realities in the classroom. A Civication day begins at the TEA building in Nashville where attendees gather for breakfast and a brief overview of the day’s events, and then continues at the Capitol where they may attend meetings with their representatives or simply watch education-related committees and subcommittees slated for that date. When Civication happens to coincide with scheduled legislative floor sessions, attendees also have the option to view those sessions from the respective chamber’s gallery. For more information about Civication, visit the TEA website or contact your UniServ or local association representative.

**Q: Unfortunately, my district’s spring break does not align with any of this year’s Civication dates, so I’ve saved a personal day to use for the event. Can my supervisor stop me from using a personal day for Civication?**

**A:** You should be free to use a personal day at your discretion provided the date you elect to attend Civication does not conflict with one of the permissible constraints on the use of personal days outlined in state law. Directors may deny a request to use a personal day on any date 1) requested by more than 10% of teachers in a school; 2) immediately preceding or following a holiday; 3) scheduled on the official school calendar for professional development, parent-teacher conferences or the like; or 4) that coincides with an established testing period. By requesting personal leave in advance with those constraints in mind, it should be possible to attend Civication on the date you prefer. If your administration wrongly denies your request, or you have any other concerns related to securing leave to attend Civication, contact your UniServ coordinator or association representative for assistance.

**Q: Can you tell me about the resources TEA offers those of us interested in receiving more frequent updates during the legislative session?**

**A:** In addition to this publication, during the heart of the session TEA offers a streamlined weekly email called the Capitol Report. The Capitol Report features a brief recap of recent happenings as well as an overview of bills to watch in the coming days. To receive the Capitol Report, contact [asmirnov@tna.org](mailto:asmirnov@tna.org). And for up-to-the minute information throughout the session, follow TEA on social media. Visit [teateachers.org](http://teateachers.org) to find links to TEA’s Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube profiles.



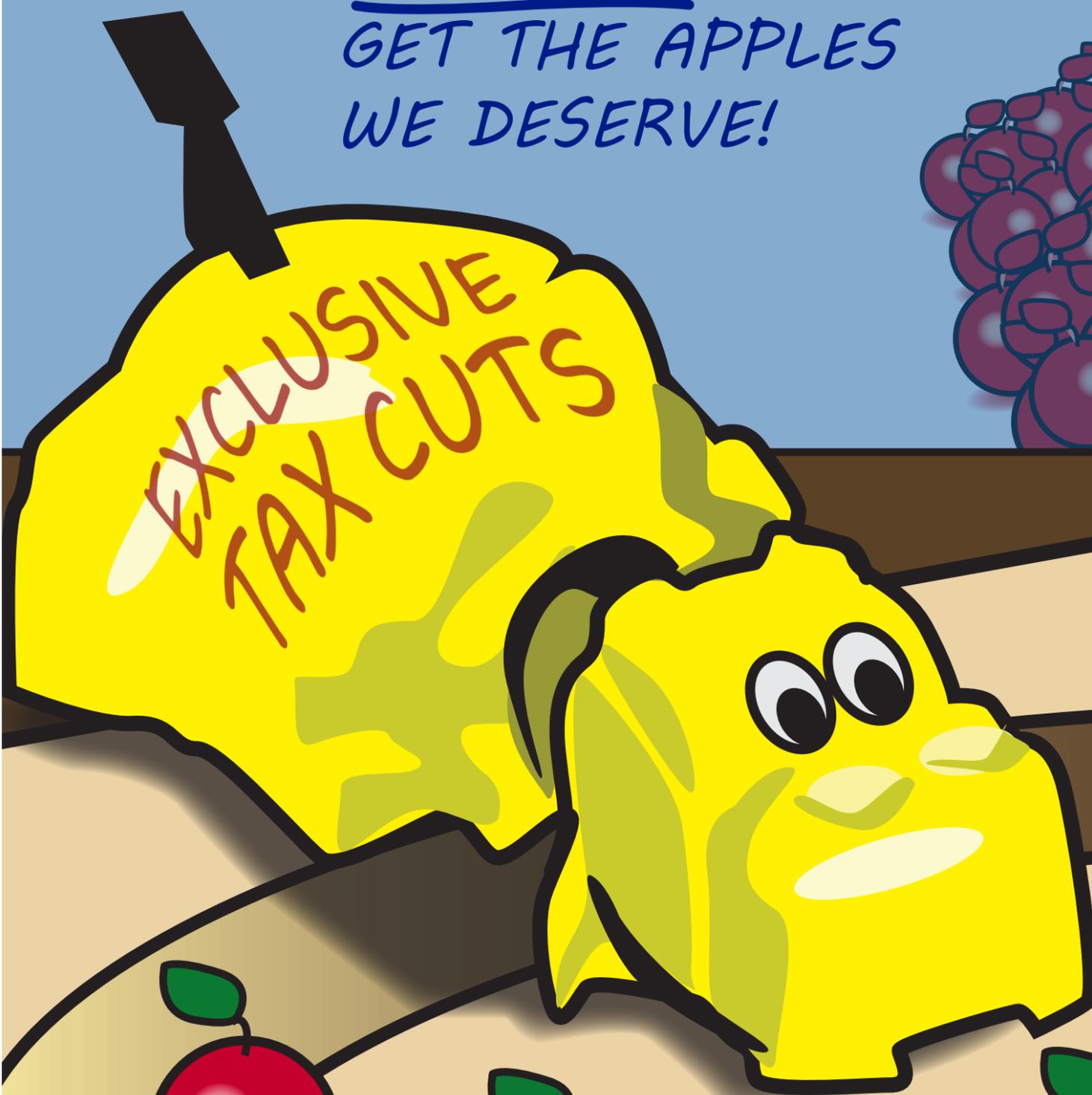
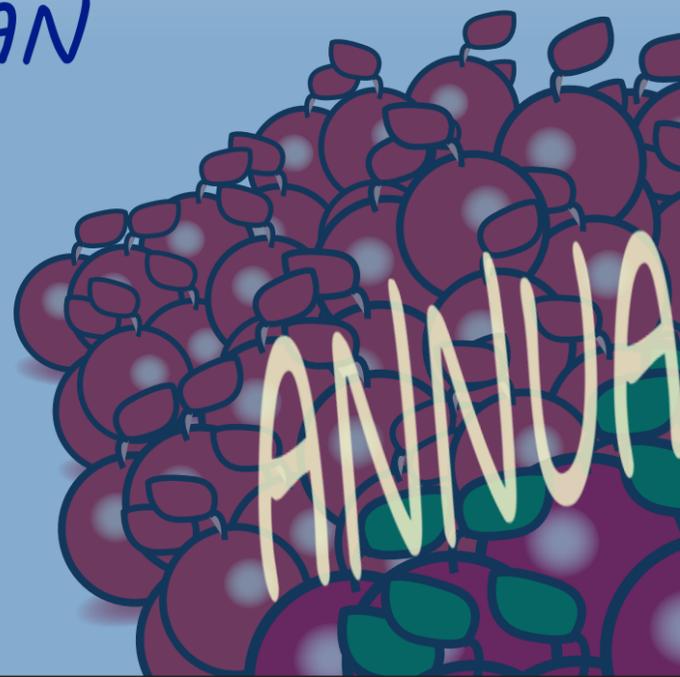
The TEA Advocacy Hotline supports local leaders and building representatives in answering member questions. If you have an employment-related question, please contact your building rep or UniServ coordinator.

# Our public schools must over tax cuts, corporations and b



EACH APPLE REPRESENTS MILLION  
IN STATE REVENUE THAT COULD  
GO TO OUR SCHOOLS.

TOGETHER WE CAN  
GET THE APPLES  
WE DESERVE!



COME  
TO THE

**RALLY FOR OUR SCHOOLS**

...t be a priority  
...udget surpluses.



TENNESSEE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

IONS

L BUDGET SURPLUSES

CORPORATE  
GIVEAWAYS

**S!** MONDAY, MARCH 16 ~ NOON  
STATE CAPITOL, NASHVILLE

SIGN UP & MORE INFORMATION:  
[TEATEACHERS.ORG](http://TEATEACHERS.ORG)



# CONFERRING CORNER

## Hamblen County leaders organize local educators for third successful PECCA vote

HCEA's collaborative conferencing team, some of whom are pictured below, successfully organized Hamblen County teachers to win a third straight PECCA vote. The overwhelming majority of those voting chose HCEA as their representative, earning the local all seats.

Pictured below from left to right: Dawn Greene, Susan O'Donoghue, Anna Wright (HCEA President), Melinda Reese (HCEA PECCA Chair), Stephanie Stiles and Ashley Burnside.

Contact your TEA UniServ for more information about collaborative conferencing. Visit the TEA website to RSVP for the rally, [TEAteachers.org/Rally](http://TEAteachers.org/Rally).



## Pro-public schools lawmakers scrutinize charter commission appointees

### Charter schools from page 1

communities need," said TEA President Beth Brown. "All Tennessee students should have access to a high-quality, well-rounded education – including STEM programs – within the walls of their local public schools. If the state would provide the resources our rural schools need, those schools could extend their own STEM capabilities."

During her presentation, Schwinn indicated the department's intent that a charter school operator would partner with neighboring rural counties and

open a charter high school that would draw students from multiple school districts.

"We have school districts teetering on the brink of collapse because of how little the state invests per student. If state leaders really want to support the students in those districts, they should prioritize using that \$10 million to enrich the public schools already serving our rural communities," Brown said.

In addition to rural charter schools, legislators have also been scrutinizing the governor's appointees to the newly formed State Charter Commission.

During the 2019 session, a law was passed to create a new state bureaucracy to over-rule local boards of education

when charter school applications are denied. When it became evident the bill would pass, TEA worked diligently to put safeguards into the law, including a requirement that the General Assembly approve all appointees to the commission.

Pro-public education legislators questioned the nine appointees on their commitment to prioritizing children over charter operators, the importance of

deference to locally elected school boards and more. Rep. Mark Cochran made a point to remind the commission that it is an appointed bureaucracy and does not have the same trust as a locally elected school board.

All appointees were ultimately confirmed. TEA will be monitoring the commission's work closely.



Rep. Mark Cochran questioned Charter Commission appointees on the importance of deference to the actions of locally elected school boards.

## Following TEA push, department identifies path toward full test transparency

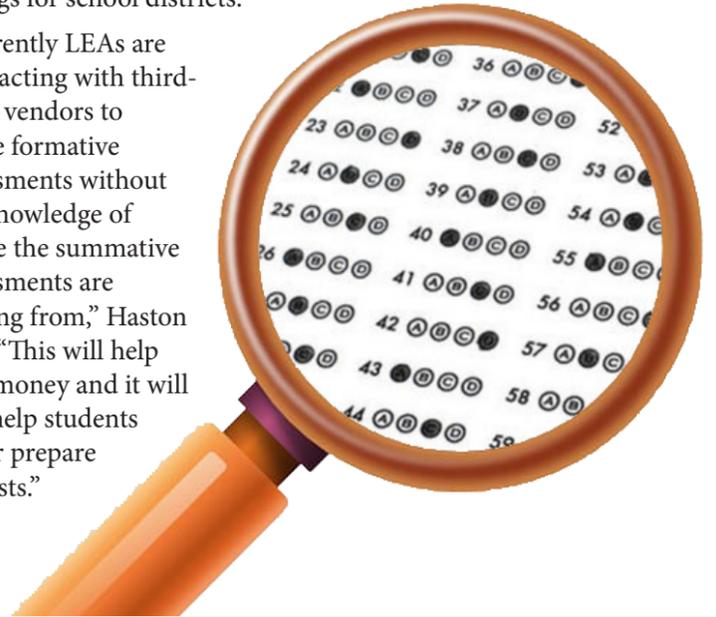
### Test transparency from page 1

Sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Joey Hensley (R-Hohenwald), the bill says "the commissioner shall develop formative assessment question banks that are aligned to state-mandated summative assessments measuring the academic progress of students." With the department on track to owning its entire TNReady question bank by 2022, that means questions can be published and cycled into benchmark testing, realizing a significant cost savings for school districts.

"Currently LEAs are contracting with third-party vendors to create formative assessments without the knowledge of where the summative assessments are coming from," Haston said. "This will help save money and it will also help students better prepare for tests."

The bill, which unanimously passed the Senate Education Committee last week, calls on the department to start developing the formative assessment question banks no later than July 1, 2020.

"This legislation codifies what we know is a priority for the Department of Education," Brown said. "It is also a victory for Tennessee educators because it will improve instruction by helping monitor student learning and provide ongoing, constructive feedback to students."



## Governor's budget prioritizes tax cuts and reserves over students and educators

### Tax cuts from page 1

goes to classroom supplies? They can take the donation off their federal income taxes, and we can start to reduce the professional burden of teachers digging into their own pockets for needed supplies," said Brown.

Drafting of a bill to shift the \$40 million to classroom supplies started this week.

The state is awash in tax revenue in the state General Fund, the portion of the state budget that funds K-12 education. Surpluses are so large that the state put \$1.2 billion into cash reserves in 2018-2019 alone, six times greater than the \$200 million increase in state K-12 funding that same year.

Revenue surpluses are used to justify tax cuts. Over the past five years,

the elimination of estate and investment income taxes, along with other tax cuts, erased \$260 million from the state's General Fund. These tax cuts benefited wealthier Tennesseans.

"Cutting taxes and growing excessive cash reserves over providing students with what they need is a choice, and it's the wrong choice," said Brown. "That's why we are going to rally our state to make a different choice."



### Contact TEA

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Co., TSD, Union Co., Walters State Community College. **District 4 — Jason White**, KCEA, 2411 Magnolia Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917; (865)522-9793, fax: (865)522-9866; Assns: Knox, Pellissippi State Comm. College, UT-Knoxville. **District 5 — Tom Hopkins**, P.O. Box 5502, Oak Ridge, TN 37831; (423)416-7330, fax: (855)301-8366; Assns: Alcoa, Anderson Co., Blount Co., Clinton, Maryville, Monroe Co., Oak Ridge, Polk Co., Sweetwater. **District 6 — Shannon Bain**, P.O. Box 3452, Lebanon, TN 37088, phone: (615)547-7769, fax: (844)274-0765; Assns: Cannon Co., Cumberland Co., Cumberland University, DeKalb Co., Lebanon, Putnam Co., Van Buren Co., Warren Co., White Co., Wilson Co., TTU. **District 7 — Theresa Turner**, HCEA 4655 Shallowford Road, Chattanooga, TN 37411; (423)485-9535, fax: (423)485-9512; Assns: Bradley Co., Chattanooga State Community College, Cleveland, Hamilton Co., UT-Chattanooga. **District 8 — Vacant**, (615) 242-8392; Assns: Athens City, Etowah, Fentress Co., Lenior City, Loudon Co., McMinn Co., Meigs Co., Morgan Co., Overton Co., Rhea-Dayton Co.,

Roane Co., York Institute. **District 9 — Jackie Pope**, 2326 Valley Grove Dr., Murfreesboro, TN 37128; phone: (615)898-1060, fax: (855) 301-8214, Assns: Bedford Co., Bledsoe Co., Coffee Co., Fayetteville City, Franklin Co., Grundy Co., Lincoln Co., Manchester, Marion Co., Moore Co., Motlow State Community College, Sequatchie Co., Tullahoma. **District 10 — Jeff Garrett**, P.O. Box 1326, Lebanon, TN 37088-1326; (615)630-2605, fax (855)320-8755; Assns: Clay Co., Jackson Co., Macon Co., Pickett Co., Robertson Co., Smith Co., Sumner Co., Trousdale Co. **District 11 — Antoinette Lee**, P.O. Box 1412, Antioch, TN 37013; (615)308-5293, fax: (888)519-7331; Assns: FSSD, Marshall Co., Williamson, TN Dept. of Ed. **District 12 — Sue Ogg**; P.O. Box 210486, Nashville, TN 37211-0486; (615)856-0503, fax: (855)427-6660 — Assns: Cheatham Co., Dickson Co., Giles Co., Hickman Co., Humphreys Co., Maury Co. **District 13 — Leigh Phillips**, Metro Nashville, 531 Fairground Court, Nashville, TN 37211; (615) 866-8689; Assns: Dept. of Higher Ed., Metropolitan Nashville, TN School For The Blind,

MTSU, Murfreesboro City, NSCC, Rutherford, TSU. **District 14 — Maria Uffelman**, P.O. Box 99, Cumberland City, TN 37050; phone: (931)827-3333, fax: (855)299-4925; Assns: Austin Peay State University, Clarksville-Montgomery Co., Henry Co., Houston Co., Paris, Stewart Co., UT-Martin. **District 15 — Tom Marchand**, PO Box 42218 Memphis, TN 38174; (901)569-8063, fax: (866)483-2514; Assns: Fayette Co., Hardeman Co., Hardin Co., Lawrence Co., Lewis Co., McNairy Co., Perry Co., Wayne Co. **District 16 — Lorrie Butler**, P.O. Box 387, Henderson, TN 38340; (731)989-4860, fax: (855)299-4591; Assns: Benton Co., Central, Chester Co., Clarksburg, Decatur Co., Henderson Co., Huntingdon, Jackson-Madison Co., Jackson State Community College, Lexington, McKenzie, Weakley Co., West Carroll, West Tennessee School for the Deaf. **District 17 — Terri Jones**, P.O. Box 2140, Cordova, TN 38088; (901)258-3902, fax: (844)270-8083; Assns: Bradford, Crockett Co., Dyer Co., Dyersburg, Dyersburg State Community College, Gibson Co., Haywood Co., Humboldt, Lake Co., Lauderdale Co., Milan, Obion

Co., Tipton Co., Trenton, Union City. **District 18 — Keith Harrison**, Memphis, TN; (901)305-2467, fax: (855)320-8737;—Assns: Bartlett, Collierville, Germantown-Arlington-Lakeland, Millington, Southwest State Community College, University of Memphis. **District 19 — Reginald Fentress**, (901)229-6102, fax: (855)320.8737; United Education Association of Shelby County.

[www.teateachers.org](http://www.teateachers.org)  
[www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

## Tell legislators why you are #PublicSchoolProud!

February 24-28 is Public Schools Week, a designated week for educators, parents, and school board members to reach out to lawmakers, businesses, and other community members to discuss the importance of public education.

There is no better time than now to speak out about the value of public education. Use #PublicSchoolProud on social media to express your support for public education.



## TEA Bill Tracker

### The ones to watch

Be sure to check back in future issues for updates on important legislation to watch in 2020.

#### The Good:

##### HB2425/SB2214 (Coley/Bowling)

Permits a teacher to use other measures rather than TVAAS in their teacher evaluations.

##### HB1833/SB185 (Cepicky/Hensley)

Limits the number of TCAP tests administered.

##### HB2300/SB2512 (Haston/Dickerson)

Eliminates the A-F school grading requirement.

##### HB2051/SB2702 (Sparks/Gilmore)

Reduces funding ratio for school social workers from 1:2000 students to 1:1500 students.

##### HB1826/SB1946 (Haston/Hensley)

Requires the department to develop and make available formative assessments using actual questions used in TNReady summative tests. This bill will place in law the plan to publish a majority of TNReady questions and answers, and use those questions in appropriate benchmark tests available for free to school systems.

#### The Bad:

##### HB1894/SB2349 (DeBerry/Gresham)

Removes the eligibility restrictions on the IEA special education voucher program, such that a student does not have to attend a public school in order to qualify for the voucher.

##### HB1934/SB2337 (Dunn/Gresham)

Requires the commissioner to obtain approval from the state board of education for any changes to performance goals and measures for schools and districts.

#### The Tax Cuts:

Tennessee ranks 45th in the nation in education funding. Until this improves TEA will oppose any efforts to cut taxes and reduce revenue that could fund our schools. Here are a few tax cut bills being considered this year.

##### HB2301/SB2686 (Gant/Haile)

Proposes reducing the corporate tax rate under certain economic conditions. Could potentially result in more than a hundred million dollars in lost state revenue.

##### HB2268/SB2201 (Lamberth/Johnson)

Governor's proposal to cut the professional privilege tax in half from \$400 a year to \$200. Would reduce state revenue by around \$40 million annually.

#### More updates:

If you are interested in receiving more frequent updates via email about action taken in the General Assembly, please email [asmirnov@tnea.org](mailto:asmirnov@tnea.org). The frequency of the email updates varies

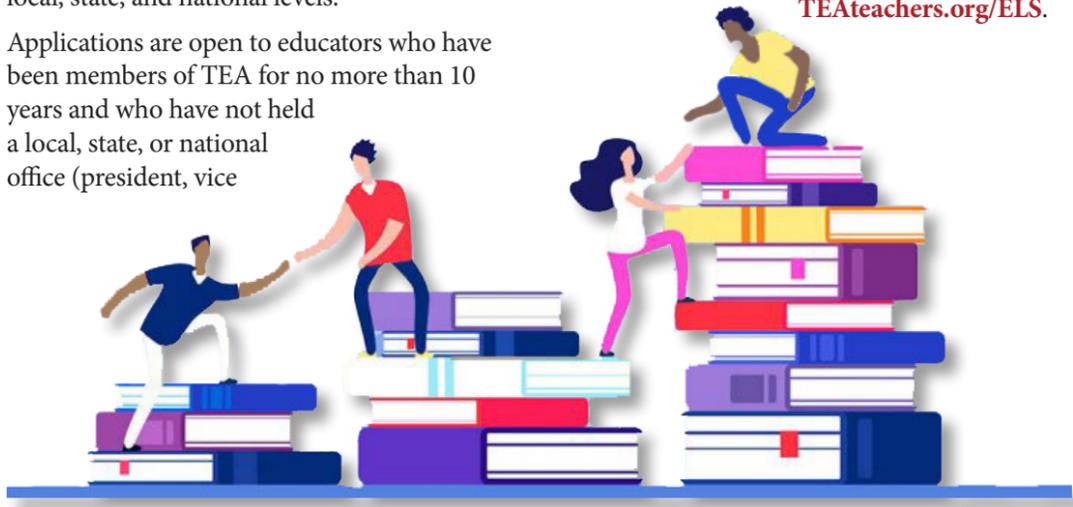
## Applications open for TEA Emerging Leaders School

For the second year, TEA's Emerging Leaders School will be held in conjunction with the 2020 TEA Summer Leadership Academy. The purpose of the Emerging Leaders school, held June 11-13 at the Embassy Suites Cool Springs, is to introduce potential leaders to the association, and provide experiences and training to prepare them for future leadership roles in TEA, NEA and their local affiliates. The program is also designed to discover leadership talent and help potential leaders become involved in the organization at the local, state, and national levels.

Applications are open to educators who have been members of TEA for no more than 10 years and who have not held a local, state, or national office (president, vice

president, secretary, treasurer, member of local executive committee, board of directors). Participants must be a newly elected or appointed association representative, or be willing to commit to serving as an association representative, or in some other leadership role for the 2020-2021 year. Application forms must be received at the TEA Headquarters by 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 10.

TEA will provide up to 30 scholarships for the school. More information and the application form are available online at [TEAteachers.org/ELS](http://TEAteachers.org/ELS).



### 2020 EMERGING LEADERS SCHOOL APPLICATION

This application form should be received by the TEA by 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 10, 2020.

Dr. ( ) Mr. ( ) Mrs. ( ) Ms. ( )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Association – do not abbreviate: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Active      ( ) ESP      ( ) Higher Ed      ( ) Administrator

Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school/work site: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Specifically, for my Association this coming school year, I plan to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have been a TEA member for no more than 10 years and have not held a local, state, or national office (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, member of local executive committees, board of directors). If selected for this training, I definitely plan to attend the Emerging Leaders School and will assume a leadership role upon returning to my local association.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:      Jamye Merritt, UniServ Manager  
Tennessee Education Association  
801 Second Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37201-1099

The application may also be completed online: [TEAteachers.org/ELS](http://TEAteachers.org/ELS).

**ALL TENNESSEANS COME TO THE**

**RALLY** FOR OUR **SCHOOLS**

**Monday  
March 16**



**State  
Capitol**

Last chance to register for transportation, shirt

**Text Rally to 84693** For TEA members only!  
Supplies are limited!

Or go online to [teateachers.org](http://teateachers.org)



**Rally for Our Schools  
Civication**



Join educators from across the state in participating in TEA's Civication on the Tuesday of your Spring Break.

Hearing directly from educators in their districts can make the difference in how legislators vote on important issues impacting our classrooms and our profession.

TEA will pay mileage, and if you live more than 50 miles from Nashville, we'll take care of your hotel room.

Register now:

[TEAteachers.org/Civication](http://TEAteachers.org/Civication)

