

advocate for SCHOOLS



SPECIAL EDITION
PART 1



ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS

Bills NOT Passed this Legislative Session

AASB tracks approximately 200 education-related bills each session, including resolutions and local legislation. While not every bill is mentioned in the *Advocate for Schools* newsletter, our governmental relations team keeps a close watch on all legislation identified as having an impact on K-12 education.

The following is a list of education-related legislation that did not pass during the 2022 Regular Session.

General Bills, not passed

- **Auxiliary Teachers** - [H.429 \(Ledbetter\)](#) - would provide K-3 teachers with additional classroom help (auxiliary teachers) in low-performing schools. **Note: There is \$5.4 million allocated in the FY23 ETF Budget to provide funding for this program and early indications are that the State Department of Education is working on a plan to allocate these auxiliary teachers.**
- **Cash as Form of Payment/School Sporting Events** - [H.442 \(Hurst\)](#) - would require K-12 schools to accept cash as a form of payment along with other forms of payment of its choosing for admission to school-sponsored sporting events open to the public.
- **Charter School Funding** - [H.459 \(Collins\)](#) / [S.302 \(Marsh\)](#) - would expand charter school funding to include county-wide tax dollars.
- **Common Core Terminated** - [H.387 \(Fincher\)](#) - would terminate the use of Common Core curriculum standards, Alabama College and Career Ready Standards (ACCRS) and any variant of Common Core standards beginning with the 2023-24 school year.
- **Divisive Concepts Ban** - [H.312 \(Oliver\)](#) - would prohibit state educators from promoting or advancing certain concepts regarding race, sex or religion in certain teaching or training.
- **Education Savings Accounts** - [H.452 \(Meadows\)](#) / [S.140 \(Marsh\)](#) - would create the Parents Choice Act and provide for the process of creating, funding, and utilizing education savings accounts for participating students.
- **First Grade Readiness** - [H.331 \(Warren\)](#) - would specify that a child who turns age six between September 1 and December 31 shall be entitled to enroll in first grade if he/she successfully completed kindergarten or deemed first-grade ready on an assessment to be developed by the State Department of Education (SDE) and approved by the State Board of Education.
- **Funding for Retiree Increases** - [H.534 \(Moore, P.\)](#) / [S.338 \(Marsh\)](#) - would establish a procedure for funding benefit increase for TRS and ERS retirees.
- **Life Skills Course** - [H.259 \(Chestnut\)](#) - would allow local boards to offer a life skills elective in grades 6-12 covering personal finance, personal rights, and good citizenship.
- **Lottery** - [H.501 \(Brown, C.\)](#) / [S. 293 \(Albritton\)](#) - would establish education lottery and gambling commission.
- **Mask Opt-out** - [H.472 \(Brown, C.\)](#) - would enable a parent/guardian of a public K-12 student to opt out of any requirement that student must wear a face covering at school, school function, on a school bus, or school bus stop.

- **Military Student Enrollment** - [H.237 \(Ball\)](#) - would enable a parent or guardian serving in active duty on a military installation located within this state to enroll his/her child in a public K-12 school located 25 miles or less from the military installation, notwithstanding local school district zoning requirements.
- **Senior Educator Certificates** - [S.236 \(Albritton\)](#) - would authorize the State Department of Education to issue temporary (provisional) senior educator certificates to those age 65 or older to perform teaching, coaching and other reasonable and necessary functions in the public schools.
- **Star-Spangled Banner [C/A]** - [S.127 \(Allen\)](#) - would propose a constitutional amendment to require local boards of education to broadcast or sanction the performance of the first stanza of the Star-Spangled Banner at the commencement of each school-sanctioned sporting event, at least once per week, at each K-12 public school.
- **Student Discipline Process** - [S.79 Smitherman](#) - would establish a uniform system of due process protections for students facing long-term suspension or expulsion.
- **Tier II Retiree Built-in COLA Increases** - [H.515 \(Garrett\)](#) - would provide an automatic cost-of-living increase to TRS and ERS Tier II members first hired after October 1, 2022.
- **Tutored instruction** - [H.497 \(Rogers\)](#) - would require public K-3 school students who receive a failing grade in a subject during the first nine weeks of school to receive accelerated instruction in that subject. It would also require public K-12 schools to form a committee to develop an educational plan for each student requiring accelerated instruction to enable the student to perform at the appropriate level by the conclusion of the semester.
- **Virtual Education (K-12) Open Enrollment** - [H.506 \(Ball\)](#) - would expand virtual education option to students in all grades K-12 beginning with the 2022-23 school year and allow students to attend any public virtual school operating in the state.
- **Workforce Development, Alabama Credential Quality and Transparency Act** - [H.241 \(Collins\)](#) - would provide a free, searchable database for the public to see all educational and occupational credentials, competencies, and workforce programs available to residents of Alabama.

Resolutions, not passed

- **Public Records Study Task Force** - [SJR 42 \(Orr\)](#) - would create the Alabama Public Records Study Task Force to study current Alabama statutory and case law and recommend proposed legislation to update Alabama's public records law.
- **Joint Interim Study Commission on Public Charter Schools** - [SJR 107 \(Marsh\)](#) - would study public charter school funding in Alabama and determine new methods of funding public charter schools in the state, including additional state or local revenue sources.

Retiree Return-to-Work Bills, not passed

- [H.36 \(Wood\)](#) - would increase the compensation limit to \$40,000 for TRS and ERS retirees who return to work for RSA-participating employers.
- [H.278 \(Sells\)](#) / [S.188 \(Elliott\)](#) - would allow retirees to return to work without restriction if the retiree has been separated from service for a year and would repeal current return to work provisions.
- [H.376 \(Reynolds\)](#) - would increase the compensation cap to \$52,000, remove the part-time or temporary requirement and require a 3-month separation from service before a retiree could return to work and continue drawing benefit. These provisions would sunset in 2026.
- [H.394 \(Kitchens\)](#) - would exempt TRS Tier I retirees from return-to-work restrictions if they return to work for a local board of education.

Coming up next week...Part 2 of our Special Edition - Enactments

A A S B L E G I S L A T I V E T E A M



Sally Smith, J.D.
Executive Director
ssmith@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org



Bart Reeves, Ed.D.
Assistant Executive Director
for Governmental Relations
breeves@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org



Tracey Meyer
Governmental Relations
Coordinator
tmeyer@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org