HIGHLIGHTS FROM GOVERNOR BILL LEE’S PROPOSED EDUCATION BUDGET

Governor Bill Lee decisively won his gubernatorial election by more than 30% of the vote in this past November election. He used his first budget proposal to push school privatization efforts, raise teacher pay, and fund charter school infrastructure initiatives. Additionally, only 39% of the roughly 1 million students attending public schools in Tennessee are on grade-level according to the state’s annual assessment exam. While the state’s 2018 high school graduation rate reached an all-time high of 89%, a lack of college-readiness plagues Tennessee. The state's average ACT score is a 20.2, while the average ACT score for students admitted to the Univ. of Tennessee is a 27 out of a total 36 points. The state’s low ACT scores elevate concerns of the discrepancy between Tennessee’s K-12 outcomes and the demands of the state’s flagship university.

TENNESSEE’S EDUCATION BUDGET PRIORITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Tennessee Education Programs</th>
<th>FY 2020 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood or Pre-K Funding</td>
<td>$91,440,700</td>
<td>$91,424,900</td>
<td>$91,353,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Funding Formula</td>
<td>$4,901,861,600</td>
<td>$4,798,378,600</td>
<td>$4,619,439,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Savings Account</td>
<td>$25,450,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Schools Facilities Fund</td>
<td>$12,000,000</td>
<td>$6,000,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Pay Raise</td>
<td>$71,250,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Safety</td>
<td>$30,000,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Support for Low-Performing Schools</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>$2,136,794,100</td>
<td>$1,998,668,500</td>
<td>$1,837,686,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>TN State University (State HBCU Support)</td>
<td>$46,672,700</td>
<td>$38,433,100</td>
<td>$36,757,500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. The budget breakdown is a snapshot of the education budget rather than an exhaustive listing of every line item.
2. The budget line items listed in the chart above are selected based on the priorities of SEF. We believe these programs are most closely associated with student success or the most significant impediments in the education system.
3. The state education program charts may differ from state to state due to different budget development processes and a respective governor’s education priorities.
Governor Lee Recommends:

- A 2% increase to the state's K-12 funding formula.
- A $71 million increase to teacher pay.
- A $5 million program to support low-performing schools.
- A 7% increase to the state's higher education system.
- A 21% increase to Tennessee State University.

**AREAS OF PROMISE**

**$71M $5M $25M $6M**

- MILLION INCREASE TO TEACHER PAY
- MILLION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS
- MILLION INCREASE TO HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM
- MILLION EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM (SCHOOL VOUCHERS)
- MILLION CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES FUND TO $12 MILLION

**AREAS OF CONCERNS**

Governor Lee Recommends:

- A $25 million Education Savings Account program, which are also known as school vouchers.
- Doubling the charter school facilities fund from $6 million to $12 million

**$25M $6M**

- EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM (SCHOOL VOUCHERS)
- CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES FUND TO $12 MILLION

**EQUITY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Governor Lee and the state legislature should: (1) increase overall funding for low-income and historically marginalized populations to what it costs to ensure every student is college-and-career-ready, (2) maintain the teacher pay proposal submitted by the Governor Lee, (3) defund the Education Savings Account and any other measure that would fund private schools with public dollars (4) defund all ineffective charter schools, and (5) ensure school safety grants include mental health and other wraparound services.