

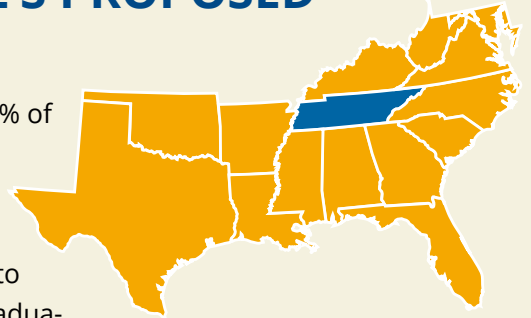


Tennessee

STATE BUDGET ANALYSIS

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

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

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.



AREAS OF PROMISE

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.



\$71M ↑
MILLION INCREASE
TO TEACHER PAY

\$5M
MILLION
PROGRAM TO
SUPPORT LOW-
PERFORMING
SCHOOLS



2% ↑

**INCREASE TO
THE STATE'S K-12
FUNDING FORMULA**

7% ↑

**INCREASE TO HIGHER
EDUCATION SYSTEM**

21% ↑

**INCREASE TO
TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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
EDUCATION SAVINGS
ACCOUNT PROGRAM
(SCHOOL VOUCHERS)



\$6M ↑

**DOUBLING CHARTER SCHOOLS
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.