

Sunset Public Hearing Questions for
Compact for Education
Created by Section 49-12-201, *Tennessee Code Annotated*
(Sunset Termination June 2018)

1. Provide a brief introduction to the Compact for Education, including information about its mission, purpose, and duties. Who, in Tennessee, has primary responsibility for execution of the provisions of the compact?

The Compact for Education was enacted by Tennessee in 1967 as an interstate compact on education policy to serve as a mechanism for improving and strengthening education policy and policymaking at the state level. The Compact for Education is designed to:

- Give voice to the diverse interests, needs and traditions of states;
- Enable states to cooperate and communicate with one another; and
- Promote states working together to focus national attention on the pressing education issues of the day.

The Compact for Education was created by the Education Commission of the States, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization involving key leaders from all levels of the education system. Education Commission of the States supports state policymakers through:

- Research – Education Commission of the States compiles information on education policies from early childhood through postsecondary and workforce so state policymakers can make informed decisions.
- Report – Education Commission of the States regularly issues relevant and timely reports providing education leaders with concise, factual overviews on the full spectrum of state education policies.
- Counsel – Education Commission of the States is available to provide unbiased advice on policy plans, consult on proposed legislation and testify at legislative hearings and interim committees as third-party experts.
- Convene – Education Commission of the States brings education leaders together within their states and across states to interact, collaborate and learn from each other.

Member states are represented on the Commission by seven Commissioners. Usually, as is the case in Tennessee, the Governor, two legislators appointed by their respective houses, and four public members appointed by the Governor, one of whom is the head of a state agency or institution with responsibility for education, serve as representatives.

As stated in (T.C.A. § 49-12-201, the specific purpose of the compact is fourfold:

- Establish and maintain close cooperation and understanding among executive, legislative, professional, educational and lay leadership on a nationwide basis at the state and local levels.
- Provide a forum for the discussion, development, crystallization and recommendation of public policy alternatives in the field of education.
- Provide a clearinghouse of information on matters relating to educational problems and how they are being met in different places throughout the nation, so that the executive and legislative branches of state government and local communities may have ready access to the experience and record the entire country, and so that both lay and professional groups on the field of education may have additional avenues for the sharing of experience and the interchange of ideas in the formation of public policy in education.
- Facilitate the improvement of state and local educational systems so that all of them will be able to meet adequate and desirable goals in a society that requires continuous qualitative and quantitative advancements in educational opportunities, methods and facilities.

2. Who are Tennessee’s representatives on the Education Commission of the States created in Article III, Section A, of the compact?

- Governor Bill Haslam, Statutory appointment
- Commissioner Candice McQueen, Department of Education
- Senator Dolores Gresham, Chair, Senate Education Committee
- Representative Harry Brooks, Chair, House Education Administration and Planning Committee
- Representative John DeBerry Tennessee House of Representatives
- Tammy Grissom, Executive Director, Tennessee School Boards Association
- Claude Pressnell, Jr., President Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association
- Lana Seivers, Dean, College of Education, Middle Tennessee State University

*According to Article III, Section A of the compact “six members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. “There is no specific term for his appointments.

3. What other states have entered into the compact with Tennessee?

Currently, 49 states, except for Washington, are in the compact with Tennessee. American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are also members of the Compact for Education.

4. Have any party states withdrawn from the compact or filed notice of their intentions to withdraw under the provisions of Article VIII(D)? If so, which states and what were their stated reasons for withdrawing?

The state of Washington withdrew from the compact in 1994 for unknown reasons. Three other states filed notice of intention to withdraw in the past, but changes that action later.

Those states include:

- Utah – 2007 for fiscal reasons but did not complete the withdrawal process and is now fully reengages with Education Commission of the states.
- Maine – 2007 for fiscal reasons but did not complete the withdrawal process and is still engaged with Education Commission of the States.
- Virginia – 2012 for fiscal reasons but decided not to withdraw and remains fully engaged with Education Commission of the States.

5. How is the compact funded? What were the compact's revenues and expenditures for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 and to date in fiscal year 2017? What is the cost to Tennessee for the state to participate in the compact and what types of expenses are involved? Have the commission's revenues been audited annually by a qualified public accountant as required in Article VII, Section D of the compact?

The compact is funded through:

- Annual fees paid by the member states per a schedule determined by Education Commission of the States. Tennessee paid a fee of \$77,300 for fiscal years 2015.2016 and 2017. Dues for Education Commission of the States have not been increased in more than a decade and there are no plans to increase dues in the coming years;
- Grants; and
- Contracts from national foundations.

Education Commission of the States also receives miscellaneous revenue from corporate sponsorship and conference registration fees.

The revenues and expenditures of the commission are audited annually by Kunding, Corder & Engle, P.C. The audit report is submitted to the Commission.

6. How many times has the Education Commission of the States, created by Article III of the compact, met during fiscal years 2015 and 2016 and to date in fiscal year 2017? Which representatives from Tennessee attended these meetings? Are minutes of these meetings kept? Who keeps the official minutes? How much per diem or travel reimbursement was associated with this activity?

The Education Commission of the States met six times during the time specified. Minutes are taken for each meeting and kept by the Education Commission of the States' State Relations team. Minutes are distributed and approved at the subsequent Education Commission of the States meeting.

It is Education Commission of the States' policy to reimburse Steering Committee members for their travel to Education Commission of the States meeting and offer travel assistance to all other Commissioners.

Tennessee Updates: Attendance at Education Commission of the States' events last three years.

2015 National Forum on Education Policy (Denver, Colorado)

ECS Commissioners:

- Sen. Dolores Gresham, ECS Steering Committee Member
- Claude Pressnell, President, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association

Other participants from Tennessee:

- Michelle Gaskin, Legislative Attorney, Tennessee General Assembly
- Helen James, Senior Attorney, Tennessee General Assembly
- Amanda Klafehn, Research Analyst, Tennessee General Assembly
- Michael Maren, Staff Attorney, Tennessee Senate
- Candice McQueen, Commissioner of Education, Tennessee Department Of Education
- Rachel Militana, Legislative Attorney, Tennessee General Assembly
- Lori Paisley, Executive Director, Coordinated School Health, Tennessee Department of Education J June Rivers, (SAS Institute)
- Sarah Teague, Senior Vice President, Pinnacle Financial
- Jennie Verner, Research Analyst, Tennessee General Assembly
- Karen Vogelsang, 2015 Tennessee Teacher of the Year

2015 Winter Commissioners Meeting (Austin, Texas)

ECS Commissioners:

- Sen. Dolores Gresham, ECS Steering Committee member
- Claude Pressnell, President, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association

2016 National Forum on Education Policy (District of Columbia)

ECS Commissioners:

- Rep. John DeBerry, Tennessee House of Representatives
- Sen. Dolores Gresham, ECS Steering Committee Member
- Tammy Grissom, Executive Director, Tennessee School Boards Association
- Candice McQueen, Commissioner of Education, Tennessee Department of Education
- Claude Pressnell, President, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association

Other participants from Tennessee:

- Rita Fentress, Director of School Improvement, Tennessee Department of Education
- Joshua Houston, Attorney, State of Tennessee
- Nathan James, Deputy Executive Director, Tennessee State Board of Education
- Amanda Klafehn, Research Analyst, Tennessee General Assembly
- Michael Maren, Staff Attorney, Tennessee Senate
- Carolyn Polancheck, Legislative Research Analyst, Comptroller of The Treasury, Tennessee State Government
- Kyle Southern, Director, Policy & Research, Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education
- Mike Tinsley, Perkins Grant Coordinator, Tennessee Board of Regents
- Jennie Verner, Research Analyst, Tennessee General Assembly
- Cathy Whitehead, Tennessee Teacher of the Year

2016 Winter Commissioners Meeting (Denver)

ECS Commissioners:

- Sen. Dolores Gresham, ECS Steering Committee Member
- Tammy Grissom, Executive Director, Tennessee School Boards Association
- Claude Pressnell, President, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association

2017 National Forum on Education Policy (San Diego)

ECS Commissioners:

- Sen. Dolores Gresham, ECS Steering Committee Member
- Tammy Grissom, E.D., Tennessee School Boards Association
- Claude Pressnell, President, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association

Other participants from Tennessee:

- Elizabeth Fiveash, Assistant Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Education
- Michael Maren, Tennessee Senate
- Derek Voiles, Tennessee Teacher of the Year
- Tara Bergfeld, Tennessee State Government, Office of Research and Accountability
- Michelle Gaskin, Tennessee General Assembly
- Nathan James, Tennessee State Board of Education
- Rashaun Pool, Tennessee General Assembly
- Kim Potts, Tennessee State Government, Office of Research and Accountability
- Courtney Swim, Tennessee State Government, Office of Research and Accountability
- Sara Morrison, Tennessee State Board of Education
- Bonnie Wood, Tennessee General Assembly
- Jessica Gibson, Tennessee Higher Education Commission
- Charlie Bufalino, TennesseeCAN

7. Do the Tennessee representatives meet to confer other than at commission meetings? If so, what records are kept of these meetings and by whom?

Tennessee representatives communicate informally as necessary (conference calls, e-mails), but do not have formal meetings other than commission meetings.

8. Was a steering committee formed to conduct compact business when the full commission is not meeting as authorized under Article VI, Section A? If yes, which representatives from Tennessee serve on the steering committee? If no representative from Tennessee is currently serving on the steering committee, who was the last member to serve and when?

A Steering Committee was formed. It is Education Commission of the States' policy for each member state to have one of its Education Commission of the States Commissioners serve on the Steering Committee. Sen. Dolores Gresham is the Steering Committee member for Tennessee and served as the Education Commission of the States' Vice-Chair from 2015-2017. The Steering Committee meets at the National Forum on Education Policy and Winter Commissioners Meeting in each fiscal year listed above.

Sen. Gresham participated in each of those meetings.

9. What other advisory and technical committee have been formed as authorized by Article VI, Section B? Are representatives from Tennessee serving on these committees? If no representatives from Tennessee are currently serving on these committees, who were the last members to serve on advisory or technical committees and when?

No other advisory and technical committees have been formed under the terms of Article VI, Section B. Education Commission of the States does have a few standing committees, though, other than the Steering Committee:

- Executive Committee – provides strategic direction and oversight for the management, operations and financial policies of the Commission; powers include reviewing the annual audit, annual report and president's proposed budget before forwarding each on to the Steering Committee for final approval. Sen. Dolores Gresham served on this committee from 2015-2017.
- Finance Committee – provides advice to the Executive Committee on the selection of the Commission's certified public accounting firm, reviews the results of the public accounting firm's annual audit, reviews and makes recommendations regarding the president's proposed annual budget, proposes to the Executive Committee changes in Education Commission of the States' accounting practices and recommends strategic financial policies to the Executive Committee.
- Nominating Committee – makes nominations for Education Commission of the States' Officers, Steering Committee positions, awards or recognitions or other

such nominations as the Chair or Steering Committee may request. Sen. Gresham will be the Chair of this committee from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019.

- National Forum Planning Committee – works in concert with Education Commission of the States’ staff to review and approve the overall design and desired outcomes for the annual meeting, and establish an evaluation plan to assess commissioner satisfaction, meeting effectiveness and provide direction to the president and staff for future meetings.

10. Has the commission made annual reports to the Governor and General Assembly regarding its activities as required by Article III, Section J of the compact? When was the most recent annual report published? What other reports are prepared in conjunction with the operations and activities of the compact, and who receives the reports? Describe and reports and attach copies of recent reports.

Education Commission of the States publishes annual reports and makes them readily available to Education Commission of the States’ Commissioners, along with the public via the Education Commission of the States’ website. In addition, Education Commission of the States provides an electronic version to all Education Commission of the States Commissioners.

A copy of the 2016 annual report is attached.

11. What were the commission’s major accomplishments during fiscal years 2015 and 2016? Specifically, describe the nature and extent of commission activities within each of the six powers enumerated in Article IV of the compact. What recommendations has the commission made during fiscal years 2015 and 2016 to agencies and officials of Tennessee regarding the improvement of public education? What, if any, actions have been taken based on these recommendations?

In 2015, Tennessee reached out to the Education Commission of the States and received personalized technical support in the following areas:

- ECS visited Tennessee three times and provided expert testimony to the Senate Education Committee.
- ECS answered 14 request for information on the following topics: assessments, choice of schools, civic education, health, instructional approaches, and length of school day/year, postsecondary governance and school funding.

In 2015, Education Commission of the States highlighted Tennessee in the following in-depth reports and databases:

- Aligning K-12 and Postsecondary Career Pathways with Workforce Needs
- Emerging State Turnaround Strategies
- GED, HISET, TASC Tests
- Learning Time in America
- Questions to Consider When Creating/Modifying Charter School Laws
- Reverse Transfer: Paving the Pathway

- Reverse Transfer: What is the Best Route to Take?
- Targeted Programs: Career Pathways within Workforce Development Policies
- Testing Trends: Considerations for Choosing/Using Assessments
- The Civics Education Initiative of 2015
- Trends in Teacher Certification
- Using Assessments to Inform 12th Grade Interventions/Accelerations

In 2016, Tennessee reached out to Education Commission of the States and received personalized technical support. Education Commission of the States:

- Answered seven requests for information on the following topics: assessments, choice of schools, civic education, special education and teacher compensation.

In 2016, Education Commission of the States highlighted Tennessee in the following in-depth reports and databases:

- 2016 State of the State Addresses: Governors' top education issues
- Better Together? State and Federal Funding for Student Financial Aid
- Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement
- Companion Report: 50-State Comparison: Civic Education
- Computer Science in High School Graduation Requirements: 2016 Update
- Early College High Schools: Model policy components
- Education Savings Accounts: Key provisions and state variations
- Fixing Affordability: An approach for advancing federalism in the modern era
- Free Community College: An approach to increase adult student success in postsecondary education
- Inhibiting Connection: State policy impacting expansion of municipal broadband networks
- Mitigating Teacher Shortages: Teacher Leadership
- State Teacher Salary Schedules

12. Describe any items related to the compact that require legislative attention and your proposed legislative changes.

There are not currently any items that require legislative attention at this time.

13. Should Tennessee's participation in the compact be continued? To what extent and in what ways would the absence of the compact affect the public health, safety, or welfare of Tennessee citizens?

Tennessee has made great efforts in recent years to move Tennessee's education system forward through innovation and commitment to student achievement. The information and resources provided by Education Commission of the States serves as a resource to Tennessee policy makers. It is important to know what other states/countries are doing in terms of education (what is working and what is not working). Updated information, policy implications, model policies to address issues and strategies provided by Education Commission of the States allow Tennessee to look at this information and

make informed decisions about how to improve and where to go next. It is apparent the work of Education Commission of the States has been of great value to the state, and, therefore, we see no reason to recommend Tennessee’s withdrawal from the compact at this time.

14. Please list all compact programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. Include the amount of federal funding received by program/activity.

- Arts Education Partnership with the U.S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts:
 - \$700,000 annually

15. Please list all compact contracts and include information about the services provided and the amount of the contract.

Arts Education Partnership is a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts for \$700,000 annually. This is the only contract for services over \$100,000 for the Education Commission of the States in Fiscal Year 2016.

16. Please provide a list of current compact staff by name and job title.

Aguilar, Melissa	Administrative Assistant
Anderson, Alexis	Policy Analyst
Anderson, Jeremiah	President
Aragon, Stephanie	Policy Analyst
Atchison, Bruce	Director, Early Learning Institute
Auck, Alyssa	Policy Researcher
Bauman, Paul R	Director, NCLCE
Bell, Danielle	Meeting and Event Specialist
Best, Jane	Director of the Arts Education Partnership Center
Brennan, JanMarie	Project Specialist with NCLCE
Diffey, Louisa	Policy Researcher
Fulton, Mary	Senior Project Manager/Policy Analyst
Garcia, Antionette	Executive Assistant to the President
Guilfoile, Lisa	State Relations Associate
Holly, Neal	Assistant Director, Post-Secondary & Workforce Dev.
Ivey, John	Publications Distribution Coordinator
Jordan, Matt	Director of Strategic Initiatives
Lundell, Adrienne	Print & Web Designer
Mageau, Kristina	Communications Specialist
Mann, Sharmila Basu	Director of K-12 Institute
Miller, Denise	Asst. Dir. Postsecondary Workforce
Olan, Sara	Administrative Assistant
Padilla, Matthew	Chief Financial Officer
Parker, Emily	Policy Analyst

Perez, Zeke G.	Policy Researcher
Pingel, Sarah	Senior Policy Analyst
Quillen, Cassandra	Communications Specialist
Railey, William Hunter	Policy Researcher
Sarubbi, Molly	Policy Researcher/ Post-Secondary & Workforce Dev.
Scott, Deven	Policy Researcher
Shelton, Sara	Director of State Relations
Sisneros, Lauren	Policy Analyst
Skinner, Amy	Director of Communications
Sponsler, Brian	Vice President, Policy Director, Workforce Dev.
Steffes, Sarah	Policy Researcher
Thomsen, Jennifer G.	Director, Knowledge and Researcher Center
Tran, Anh	Senior Accountant
Whinnery, Erin	Policy Researcher
Wilkins, JoAnne	IT Developer
Wixon, Micah	Policy Analyst
Wolff, Kathryn	AEP External Affairs Coordinator/State Relation
Woods (Rowland), Julie	Policy Analyst
Zinth, Jennifer Dounay	Director of High School and STEM