

HOUSE BILL 1502

By DeBerry J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1 and Title 49, Chapter 2, relative to community schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-210, is amended by deleting the language of the section in its entirety and by substituting instead:

(a) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(1) All children are capable of success;

(2) Schools are the centers of vibrant communities;

(3) Strong families build strong educational communities;

(4) Children succeed when adults work together to foster positive educational outcomes;

(5) Schools work best when families take active roles in the education of children;

(6) Schools today are limited in their ability to dedicate time and resources to provide a wide range of educational opportunities to students because of the focus on standardized test outcomes; and

(7) By providing learning opportunities outside of normal school hours, including programs on life skills and health, students are more successful academically, more engaged in their communities, safer, and better prepared to make a successful transition from school to adulthood.

(b) As used in this section, "community schools" means a traditional school that actively partners with the community to leverage existing resources and identify new

resources to support the transformation of the school to provide enrichment and additional life skill opportunities for students, parents, and community members at-large.

(c) Any local board of education establishing a program of community schools shall define the procedures for implementation of its policies, including management, curriculum, classroom management, professional development and budget to be decided at the school by school personnel, including classroom teachers. Each community school shall be designed by and for the school staff, in partnership with parents, community stakeholders, and students.

(d) Subject to an appropriation or the availability of funding for such purposes, the state board of education, in consultation with the department of education, shall make grants available to fund community schools and to enhance programs at community schools. A request for proposal process must be used in awarding grants under this subsection (d). Proposals shall be submitted to the state board of education on behalf of an LEA. Proposals shall be evaluated and scored on the basis of criteria consistent with this section and other factors developed and adopted by the state board of education.

(e) In order to qualify for a community school grant, a school must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Before and after-school programs each school day that provide:
  - (A) Academic enrichment and general school curriculum pursuant to title 49, chapter 6, part 10;
  - (B) An opportunity for physical fitness activities for students;
  - (C) Fine arts programs;
  - (D) Structured learning time, and other recreational opportunities;
  - (E) A safe haven for students; and
  - (F) Work support for working families;
- (2) At least four (4) weeks of summer programming;

(3) A local advisory group comprised of school leadership, parents and community stakeholders that establishes school-specific goals, assesses program needs and oversees the process of implementing expanded programming.

(4) A program director or resource coordinator who is responsible for:

(A) Establishing a local advisory group;

(B) Assessing the needs of students and community members and identifying programs to meet those needs; and

(C) Developing and implementing the before and after-school and summer programming;

(5) Programming that includes:

(A) Academic excellence aligned with life skills, healthy minds and bodies; and

(B) Parental support and community engagement that promotes staying in school, non-violent behavior and non-violent conflict resolution;

(6) Maintenance of measurable data showing annual participation and the impact of programming on the participating children and adults;

(7) Documentation of collaboration between the school and community stakeholders, including local governmental units, civic organizations, families, businesses, and social service providers; and

(8) A non-discrimination policy ensuring that the community school does not condition participation upon race, ethnic origin, religion, sex or disability.

(f) The state board may permit such decisions as are made locally to be at variance with board policies. If the local decisions impact rules and policies of the state

board of education or the commissioner of education, they shall be implemented pursuant to § 49-1-207, except that there shall be no limit to the number of systems participating. No such local decisions shall have the effect of nullifying requirements of law.

(g) On or before January 15 of each year, the state board and the department shall evaluate the success of the community schools and shall report findings and recommendations to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives.

SECTION 2. The executive director of the state board and the commissioner of the department of education are authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.