

PARENT PRIORITIES FOR RAISING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

Parent voices are essential to a quality and effective public school system. Families know their children better than anyone, and their insights are critical to advancing our shared goal of improving Tennessee's public education system and raising outcomes for ALL students.

WHAT PARENTS WANT: QUALITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Tennessee policymakers have an opportunity to advance thoughtful legislation and programs that can help raise outcomes for all students. Based on insight from recent surveys and engagement with advocacy groups, here are parents' top priorities for strengthening public K-12 education in our state:

- I. TAKE MEANINGFUL ACTION TO ADDRESS COVID LEARNING LOSS.** *COVID learning loss will have a detrimental effect on our students. [According to a poll conducted by SCORE](#), more than 80 percent of Tennessee parents are worried that other children in Tennessee might encounter academic, social, or developmental issues as a result of COVID. We must invest in strategies, such as individualized learning plans, tutoring, or extended classroom time, to regain learning losses and help all students quickly get back on track in the virtual or in-person classroom.*
- II. IMPROVE LITERACY FOR ALL.** *Reading is essential to success in school and in life. Students who do not learn how to read cannot read to learn. Phonics instruction must be a key component of any literacy initiative, recognizing we must help students build a stronger foundation beyond context and picture cues to build meaningful reading and comprehension skills. Every single child in Tennessee must be able to read on or above grade level.*
- III. HELP ALL STUDENTS ACCESS UP-TO-DATE TECHNOLOGY AND BROADBAND.** *All students deserve access to the tools and broadband services that will help them succeed academically – both at school and at home. A recent [survey](#) from Better Student Outcomes Now shows 84% of Tennessee parents agree public school funding should be used to ensure that all students attend schools that are modern and equipped with up-to-date technology.*
- IV. EXPAND EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR ALL FAMILIES.** *Every parent deserves the chance to select the school or program that best meets their child's unique needs. The Better Student Outcomes Now survey also shows [eight in ten](#) Tennessee parents want more education options so they can determine the best fit for their child's education, and [77% of parents](#) believe they should have the ability to send their children to any public school (at their grade level) – and not be restricted to the school to which they are zoned.*
- V. ENSURE CONTINUED ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RAISING OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS.** *Our children need results! [82% of Tennessee parents](#) agree public school funding should be allocated in a way that focuses on ensuring positive academic outcomes for all. Every school district should be accountable for helping students improve, and schools and districts that are investing in and making progress to help disadvantaged students succeed deserve additional support.*

TENNESSEE PARENTS DEMAND BETTER STUDENT OUTCOMES NOW.