



OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

RESEARCH RECAP: A GUIDE TO OREA PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury

Higher Education

Tennessee Promise

(Full Evaluation - July 2020, Update - March 2021)

OREA completed an extensive evaluation of the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program, which was created by the General Assembly in 2014 to give more high school graduates an opportunity to earn an associate degree or technical diploma. Since OREA's initial evaluation was completed in July 2020, OREA has published a short brief with updated key metrics. tncot.cc/promise



Outcomes-Based Funding Formula *(November 2020)*

In November 2020, OREA released several tools to examine the outcomes-based funding formula, which allocates state funds to Tennessee's public colleges and universities. tncot.cc/OBF



Financial Aid Simplification for Tennesseans (FAST) Act *(December 2020)*

OREA explains in this legislative brief how the FAST Act affects over a dozen financial aid programs, adds to the powers of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and clarifies the purpose and structure of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, among other changes. tncot.cc/FAST



Changes Made to Tennessee Students' Access to Financial Aid in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic *(December 2020)*

This brief describes changes to both state and federal financial aid in response to COVID-19 and examines the potential impact of the adjustments. tncot.cc/financialaid



Quick Reads

Visit the OREA website for other publications, one-page infographics, and more resources. tncot.cc/quickreads

PreK-12 Education

How Much Tennessee Public Schools Spend Per Student

(March 2021)

OREA's 2021 report examines the first year of school level per-pupil expenditure data published for the 2018-19 school year as required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). An interactive dashboard and accompanying map on OREA's website allow users to view the 2018-19 school year per-pupil figures for all Tennessee school districts and K-12 public schools. tncot.cc/perpupil



Student Attendance in Tennessee *(March 2021)*

OREA's 2021 report analyzes data on chronic absenteeism and truancy, evaluates efforts to address student absenteeism, and identifies successful strategies used by districts. tncot.cc/attendance



School Resource Officer in Tennessee *(April 2021)*

This legislative recap summarizes the changes made in Public Chapter 154 (2019), which created school safety grants. The grant program supported the placement of 213 new full-time school resource officers in schools during the 2019-20 school year; 57 districts received grant funding that year. tncot.cc/SRO



Gifted Education in Tennessee *(April 2021)*

This OREA study examines how intellectually gifted students are identified, the special education services they receive, the certification process for teachers of gifted students, and funding available for gifted education. tncot.cc/gifted



Tennessee Education Glossary

As part of our Office's mission to make government work better, OREA maintains an online glossary of commonly used education terms and their relevance to Tennessee. See OREA's website for all terms, which are updated periodically. tncot.cc/educationglossary

All reports are featured on the OREA website and can be found at: www.comptroller.tn.gov/OREA.

PreK-12 Education

Mapping Tennessee Education

The Mapping Tennessee Education portal is updated annually and contains K-12 education data for the 2019-20 school year, the latest year of data available. The website includes several interactive maps:

- all schools and school districts by both House and Senate legislative district;
- percent increase in average classroom salary from 2019 to 2020 by district;
- average classroom teacher salary by district;
- type of school district; and
- private schools. tncot.cc/mappingeducation



Basic Education Program (BEP) Calculator

OREA has addressed the need for independent verification, increased transparency, and greater public understanding of the Basic Education Program, the state's K-12 education funding formula. The BEP Calculator, available on the Comptroller's website, reconstructs the entire BEP calculation from scratch. The calculator provides a step-by-step look at the entire BEP calculation for any combination of districts and counties, and gives users the ability to run various "what if?" scenarios. Users can adjust unit costs and funding ratios, such as teacher salaries and insurance premiums, to see the impact of different inputs on state and local BEP money. tncot.cc/BEP

Other Topics

Financial Exploitation of the Elderly in Tennessee

(October 2020)

OREA's report provides background information about the issue of elder financial exploitation, summarizes relevant research, and describes the legislation that the General Assembly has passed over the last five years in an effort to address elder financial exploitation in Tennessee. The report also includes an evaluation of the state's patchwork of state and local entities that protect elderly Tennesseans, including Adult Protective Services – the agency most closely associated with issues concerning elder abuse. The report addresses stakeholder views about potential gaps that remain in the system, as well as noting areas of progress. It concludes with policy options for consideration by the General Assembly and relevant stakeholders.

tncot.cc/exploitation



State Benefits for Veterans in Tennessee *(March 2021)*

In this report, OREA details more than 40 benefits, services, and protections for veterans and their families that are provided by state agencies. Data is included on the number of veterans receiving the benefit, the state expenditures to provide the benefit or the revenue forgone when state fees are waived or discounted for veterans, and the number of other states providing similar benefits. In fiscal year 2019-20, recurring state-funded benefits and services totaled at least \$30.3 million for Tennessee's 461,000 veterans. tncot.cc/VA

Higher Education Resource Officer

The Higher Education Resource Officer (HERO) responds to questions and provides support and information to faculty, staff, and employees of Tennessee's higher education institutions and systems. The HERO also evaluates administrative policies and procedures in higher education to ensure they are meeting the goals of the Tennessee General Assembly.

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The HERO can help by:

- informally mediating to resolve issues raised by public higher education faculty, staff, and employees about Tennessee's public higher education institutions and systems;
- responding to questions about Tennessee's public colleges and universities, as well as the University of Tennessee System and Tennessee Board of Regents; and
- evaluating administrative policies and procedures in public higher education for the Tennessee General Assembly.



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