



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges with respect to educating Tennessee's K-12 students, including requiring the suspension of in-person education for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year beginning in March of 2020 and resulting in various individual or district-wide disruptions or suspensions of in-person education during the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, these significant educational disruptions will have long-term effects on student learning, progress, and development unless addressed by additional measures and programming to improve student learning; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Tennessee students did not read at grade level, and the pandemic has and will continue to exacerbate that deficiency and the lifelong educational and career challenges that result, unless we immediately improve our State's literacy instruction; and

WHEREAS, to reaffirm our commitment to school funding, teacher and other educational staff pay, and equitable accountability measures, it is important to provide additional certainty to teachers, schools, and districts and to enact funding and accountability measures in response to the economic, educational, and other disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Tennessee that the General Assembly convene to expeditiously address these matters so that the necessary educational interventions and supports can be established in advance of the 2021-2022 school year.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III, Section 9 of the Tennessee Constitution, do hereby call the One Hundred Twelfth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee to meet and convene in extraordinary session at the Capitol in Nashville on January 19, 2021, at noon, Central Standard Time, to consider and act upon legislation relative to the education of students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade and that:

- (1) relates to improvements in student literacy;
- (2) addresses student learning loss and course access, including the opportunity for additional coursework;
- (3) makes and allows for temporary adjustment of student assessment-based and student growth model-based accountability measures for students, schools, principals, teachers, and local education agencies relating to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (4) addresses temporary education and school funding deficiencies or shortfalls resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (5) relates to salary increases for teachers and other educational staff; or
- (6) makes sufficient and lawful appropriation of funding as is necessary for any act which receives final passage during the extraordinary session.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 12th day of January, 2021.

Handwritten signature of Bill Lee in black ink.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Joe Hargett in blue ink.

SECRETARY OF STATE