Lakeland School System 2019 Legislative Agenda

Local Control of Schools
We believe that local BOEs are best equipped and informed to make decisions that address the needs and challenges of their individual schools. In keeping with that principle, we take the following positions:

Support: The right of BOEs to have interest earned on fund balances deposited back into the account.

Support: The right to use the ACT Suite of Tests in lieu of TCAP end-of-year assessments.

Support: Limiting state-mandated testing to no greater than three hours for third grade, four hours for fourth grade, five hours for fifth grade, six hours for sixth grade, seven hours for seventh grade, and not to exceed eight hours for grades eight through twelve per academic year.

Oppose: Director of Schools as an elected, rather than appointed, position.

Funding
We strongly urge the General Assembly to fully fund the Basic Education Program (BEP) as it currently stands and not add any unfunded mandates. We take the following positions on funding:

Publicly Funded Vouchers
We oppose any voucher program or any similar legislation that would divert money intended for public schools.

School Security Officers
We support additional specific funding to pay the annual salary of at least one POST-trained officer for every school in the state of Tennessee.

RTI² Positions
We support funding for additional Response to Instruction and Intervention positions.

School Nurses
We support amending the BEP formula to one nurse for every 700 students.

Maintenance of Effort
We strongly urge the Tennessee General Assembly to require that if, after performing the maintenance of effort (MOE) test on its draft budget, a local school system fails the MOE test, the LEA may request notification of its funding body by the Tennessee Department of Education, Office of Local Finance. Such request may include but is not limited to: an explanation of Maintenance of Effort per T.C.A., calculation of amount required to allow the LEA to meet MOE, an explanation of the aforementioned calculations, and dates by which MOE must be met to ensure receipt of all BEP funds due the LEA.