



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 770

SENATE BILL NO. 2172

By Tate, Briggs

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2236

By Cooper, Towns, Akbari, Camper, Hardaway, Turner

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 24, relative to community schools.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 24, is amended by adding the following language as new sections:

49-6-24__.

(a) Although §§ 49-6-2401 - 49-6-2406 support the formation of a community school, schools in some neighborhoods may need to join together to form, with the help of community partners, a community of schools, instead of a community school. The state board of education and the department shall support and encourage LEAs in the creation of communities of schools that can provide a continuum of services for students and their parents from pre-kindergarten to grade twelve (pre-K-12) and even through postsecondary education.

(b) LEAs and schools are authorized and encouraged to form community consortiums with a variety of community partners to establish communities of schools with an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement that will lead to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities.

(c) The community of schools, formed pursuant to subsection (b), shall strive, as do community schools, to become centers of their communities providing programs and services for persons of all ages. They shall be open to everyone throughout each day, including in the evenings, on weekends, and in the summer.

(d) If a community of schools is not able to locate services for all ages in one (1) of the public schools of the neighborhood, the community of schools is encouraged to locate activities, particularly those that occur outside of regular school hours in a central facility, if one is available, that provides easy access to all of the partnering schools, their students, and parents.

(e) A community of schools shall have all the rights, privileges, and obligations accorded a community school under §§ 49-6-2401 - 49-6-2406. The department may seek funds for creation of communities of schools as it does for community schools.

49-6-24__. Community schools and communities of schools are encouraged to work with parents and community partners to adopt holistic programs of positive behavior reinforcement, such as the Ticket Program, that work with schools, parents, and the community to reinforce positive behavior at home and school and in all aspects of community life. Schools that adopt these programs are encouraged to report their successes and failures, if any, in implementing the program and the results of the program in changing student behavior and improving academic performance to the department for dissemination and possible replication in other schools throughout the state. School reports shall be accompanied by data supporting the results reported.

49-6-24 __.

(a) Community schools and communities of schools are encouraged to become the central headquarters for the neighborhoods in which they exist. They are authorized to work with community partners, when possible, to establish local Internet network architecture to extend service throughout their neighborhoods and to devise and implement software designed to help community integration of services and activities.

(b) In addition to the activities required of community grant recipients in § 49-6-2405(d), community schools and communities of schools are encouraged to provide literacy classes and tutoring for all age groups and to promote education, learning, and effective communication to contribute to the welfare of the community. GED® or HiSET® classes may be offered to those without high school diplomas.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 4, 2016



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 19th day of April 2016



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR