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To: School Board Members
From: Misty Shelton
Date: July 2026

Policy 1.400 - School Board Meetings
Public Chapter 852 creates flexibility for Boards during a natural disaster or inclement weather event. It allows board members to join a meeting electronically when fewer than a quorum is physically present. This exception may be used three times per year.

Policy 2.100 - Fiscal Management Goals
Recent guidance from the Comptroller's office recommends that Boards require annual internal control reviews.

Policy 2.200 - Annual Operating Budget
The new guidance from the Comptroller's office also recommends that Boards include a provision on the fund balance and encourages Boards to select this amount in consultation with their local funding body. Additionally, new state laws require districts to annually provide: (1) a certified copy of the budget signed by both the Director and the funding body to the Commissioner; and (2) planning and budgetary reports to the Office of Research and Accountability in the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury.

Policy 4.213 - Family Life Education
A recent change to state law updates the terminology for child trafficking instruction and requires that it be included as a component of health education. It also requires each district to develop a plan to implement this instruction by August 1, 2026.

NEW Policy 4.215 - Instructional Use of Digital Devices
TSBA created this new policy in response to a requirement in Public Chapter 808. This new state law requires Boards to adopt a policy prioritizing teacher-led instruction and the use of non-electronic instructional materials in grades K-5. There are several exceptions to the law, including, but not limited to, assessments, remediation, students with IEPs/504 plans, and virtual schools.

Policy 4.301 - Interscholastic Athletics
Students attending small private schools will now be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics in accordance with TSSAA or TMSAA guidelines. If a school is a member with these organizations, private school students zoned for the particular school shall be able to participate in interscholastic athletics to the same extent as other students, but only in athletic programs that are not offered by the private school. If a school is not a member with these organizations, private school students zoned for the particular school shall be able to participate in interscholastic athletics to the same extent as other students.

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The Hickman County School System does not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, creed, age, marital status, or disability as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All necessary accommodations are made for equitable participation by constituents without regard to race, gender, disability, economic status, or special needs as required by Section 427 of the General Education Provision Act & P. L. 107-110-NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND.

Policy 4.600 - Grading System

This new law clarifies that the high school grading system will apply to coursework completed by students in middle school. TSBA has added clarifying information to this policy. Please note that Public Chapter 901 also includes a requirement that will go into effect for the **2027-2028** school year. Beginning in that school year, districts are required to automatically enroll students who achieve a performance level of "exceeds expectations" on the math portion of the 7th-grade TCAP exam in Algebra I instead of an 8th-grade math course, unless a parent/guardian opts them out.

Policy 4.603 - Promotion & Retention

TSBA has updated policy 4.603 to include another pathway for students to be promoted to fourth grade. This is based on Public Chapter 1030, which permits this promotion if the student was administered a state-mandated assessment in third grade and demonstrated proficiency in ELA based on scoring in the **fiftieth percentile** on the most recently administered universal reading screener. This will apply to the schools selected for a pilot with the TDOE.

Policy 4.605 - Graduation Requirements

Recent changes to state law alter the Move on When Ready early graduation requirements. Public Chapter 912 adds the Classic Learning Test as an option for students seeking to graduate early through this pathway. Additionally, Public Chapter 1040 requires the Director of Schools to annually report the total number of Move on When Ready requests to the Department of Education. TSBA has also updated this policy to clarify that students who successfully complete high school credit before grade nine shall receive graduation credit for that coursework.

Policy 5.106 - Application and Employment

State law now requires all school districts to use the E-Verify program to ensure that an employee is eligible to work in the U.S. Previously, this was an optional program. This is already a practice within our system.

Policy 5.200 - Separation Practices for Tenured Teachers &
Policy 5.201- Separation Practices for Non-Tenured Teachers

Previously, a teacher who resigned and breached their contract mid-year could have their license suspended by the State Board of Education if the local Board submitted a complaint. Public Chapter 898 removes the option for Boards to file these types of complaints.

Policy 5.302 - Sick Leave &
Policy 5.303 Personal and Professional Leave

Public Chapter 1022 is intended to shift flexibility from sick leave to the personal and professional leave category. Professional employees will now earn: 8 sick days a year for 10-month contracts; 9 sick days a year for 11-month contracts; and 10 sick days a year for 12-month contracts. Additionally, professional employees will now earn four days of personal and professional leave per year instead of two.

Policy 5.600 - Staff Rights & Responsibilities

An update to the Teacher Code of Conduct requires teachers to refrain from any sexually related behaviors with students, including students who have graduated or withdrawn in the immediately preceding twelve months.

Policy 5.801 - Director of Schools Recruitment and Selection

State law now permits Boards to conduct an executive session to interview candidates applying to serve as Director of Schools. The new change to state law allows boards to conduct interviews behind closed doors. This was previously not an option under state law. If Boards want to use this option, TSBA recommends updating the corresponding policy. Please note that voting and deliberation must be done in an open meeting, and the new law requires minutes of the executive

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session to be published. Additionally, candidates now have the option to request that their applications remain confidential if the Board chooses to use an executive session. **If you would like to keep the current process, no change is needed.**

Policy 6.200 - Attendance

Public Chapter 844 requires districts to determine whether a mid-year transfer student was previously enrolled in a public school in the same school year and request the student's attendance records. The receiving district must then include the unexcused absences from the previous school district in the student's current total to implement the appropriate truancy intervention tier, if applicable.

Policy 6.202 - Home Schools

Previously, state law required certain actions if a homeschool student fell below grade level. Public Chapter 912 has removed this portion of the statute. Additionally, this new law changes the types of tests that may be administered to homeschool students and permits the parent to select a standardized test.

Policy 6.205 - Student Assignments

State law now requires that principals create a safety plan for a student with an order of protection against another student.

Policy 6.303 - Questioning Students and Searches

Public Chapter 1040 expands on last year's legislation regarding who may conduct searches of students. This new law adds school employees who have completed the required orientation and training to the list of individuals who may conduct searches authorized by the principal.

Policy 6.306 - Interference/Disruption of School Activities

A recent change to state law requires Boards to have a policy on alerting parents when a classroom evacuation occurs in response to another student's behavior.

Policy 6.318 - Admission of Suspended or Expelled Students

Public Chapter 760 permits school districts to continue an investigation of a student disciplinary incident even if the student withdraws. Further, it clarifies that the investigation and/or disciplinary consequences may resume if the student re-enrolls.

Policy (6.412aTSBA) HCSS 6.4051 - Emergency Allergy Response Plan

The policy contains a provision on schools storing epinephrine in case of emergency. TSBA recommends updating it with the new version. Public Chapter 947 updates state law to clarify that epinephrine may be purchased in a variety of forms, not solely as an auto-injector. We have updated the relevant model policy to align with that language.

NEW Policy 6.4053 - Outside Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy

Boards are required to adopt a policy on outside applied behavior analysis therapy per Public Chapter 1112. This new state law requires Boards to adopt a policy allowing these private pay providers access to school property if they are under contract with parents/guardians and have signed a memorandum of understanding with the district. The Department of Education will be issuing guidance on this topic. TSBA will send out an update to the model policy, if needed.

Policy 6.506 - Students from Military Families

Public Chapter 834 updates requirements for school districts regarding students from military families. Previously, state law allowed Boards to choose how much time these students had to provide documentation of relocation to the district. Per this recent change, students must now provide this information within one calendar year of the date of enrollment. The new law further clarifies that districts must take appropriate steps to assist any of these students with IEPs, 504 plans, or individualized family service plans. Additionally, Public Chapter 834 states that if a military

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family relocates outside of the district, any students enrolled in grades 11 or 12 must be allowed to remain enrolled in the same high school until they either graduate or withdraw.

Policies 4.100 4.300 4.301 5.104 5.501 6.100 6.301 6.303 6.304 6.3041 Changes Per Public Chapter 938

Public Chapter 938 requires any policy that "includes a reference to a natural person's sex or gender to state that those terms are defined as the immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth." These changes **must be in place by January 1, 2027**.

Informational Items

New legal requirements to share that do not necessarily need a policy change.

Public Chapter 533 - TSSAA Transfers

This change to state law allows transfer students to immediately participate in athletics. It specifies that this new practice does not apply to mid-year transfers and can only be used once.

Public Chapter 710 - Prayer at Board Meetings

Public Chapter 710 allows Boards the option of opening a meeting with a prayer given by a member. This is permissible if: (1) the prayer does not require participation of anyone in attendance; and (2) no person is harassed or coerced to participate in the prayer.

Public Chapter 764 - Viewing Bus Footage

A recent change to state law requires school districts to either: (1) enter into a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement regarding access to exterior bus camera footage; or (2) allow school safety personnel to review video evidence from exterior bus cameras. This is aimed at helping enforce traffic laws near school buses.

Public Chapter 868 - Drones and School Property

Public Chapter 868 makes it a criminal offense for an individual to fly a drone over the grounds of a public school with the intent to conduct surveillance without the permission of a school administrator or the Director of Schools/designee.

Public Chapter 924 - Displaying the Ten Commandments

This new law allows school districts to display a specific version of the Ten Commandments as listed in Public Chapter 924.

Up for Review:

3.218 Use of Emotional Support Dogs
3.219 Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems
3.220 Access to Private Facilities
3.300 Equipment and Supplies Management
3.3001 Use of Phones and Faxes
3.301 Equipment and Supplies: Leasing and Renting
3.400 Student Transportation Management
3.401 Scheduling and Routing
3.402 Special Use of School Vehicles
3.403 Traffic and Parking Controls

Thank you for your careful consideration of these policies.

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