



### **TEA PRESIDENT BETH BROWN: GOV. LEE'S SALARY PROPOSAL FAR LOWER THAN WHAT STATE CAN AFFORD**

In response to Gov. Lee's educator salary proposal, [TEA President Beth Brown issued the following statement](#): "Tennessee's educators have worked hundreds of additional hours during the fall semester to maintain instruction and keep our students engaged during this pandemic. The proposed \$43 million in one-time teacher salary funds is far lower than what the state can afford, and far less than what educators have earned and deserve." Read the [full statement here](#).

### **TEA INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TERRANCE J. GIBSON: EDUCATE LEGISLATORS**

"As we gear up for 2021 General Assembly, legislators and policymakers need to be reminded over and over that throughout the past nine months educators have continued to do their jobs," said TEA Interim Executive Director Terrance J. Gibson. Read Terrance's [commentary on what's at stake in the upcoming legislative fights here](#).

### **TEA PROUD OF OUR COMMITMENT TO RACIAL, SOCIAL JUSTICE**

As we honor and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, we stand proud of our commitment to racial and social justice. The future is in our hands, the hands of educators, so we invite you to check [the latest tools and resources in the national EdJustice movement](#). Thank you to all who attended this week's TEA webinar on social justice! More webinars are available at this link: [TEAteachers.org/instructional-connection](#).

### **TEA PRESIDENT BETH BROWN: IT IS TIME FOR POLICYMAKERS TO DO THEIR JOB**

There is no tired like "trying to survive a pandemic while balancing a significantly increased workload and caring for one's own family" tired. Read [Beth's commentary on what lawmakers must do make our jobs easier](#), share it on your social media and look for updates next week on the upcoming legislative fights.

### **JOIN WEBINAR ON UNDERSTANDING, EXTENDING COVID LEAVE**

[TEA will host a live webinar](#) on understanding leave and advocating for an extension of COVID leave benefits on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 4 pm Central/ 5 pm Eastern. The 30-minute webinar is part of a TEA members-only series taking place every third Thursday of every month (except December), covering professional rights, responsibilities and issues of concern to members. [The live webinar participation is limited, so register today](#).

## **JUMP START YOUR NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION**

[Get a jump start on your National Board certification today by signing up](#) for virtual Saturday sessions Jan. 23 & 30. Topics include Component 3 (understanding teaching practice and learning environment) and Component 4 (understanding effective and reflective practitioner). Please register here: [TEAteachers.org/nbpts-jump-start-seminar](https://TEAteachers.org/nbpts-jump-start-seminar). Contact [Alexandria Bonner](#) with any questions.

## **SUPPORT VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER'S DISABILITY SERVICES STUDY**

Support the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and disability organizations across Tennessee by [taking this survey](#)! Tell us how you find disability information and resources. Share what you need. Complete the survey at [www.tndisabilitysurvey.org](http://www.tndisabilitysurvey.org).

## **TEA's MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS 24/7**

Because there are times when we need special support that families and friends cannot give, [TEA offers a very special service](#), exclusive to TEA members and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [Watch a short video here](#).

MAP offers comprehensive assistance to members at no cost and the services are completely confidential. Whether you face emotional or marital difficulties, substance abuse or troubled teens, eating disorders or grief, [we are available to help you when and where you need it](#).

## **CHECK [TEATEACHERS.ORG](https://TEATEACHERS.ORG) FOR UPDATES**

As we continue to post the most up-to-date information on our website, some links in past emails may expire, so please remember to check [TEAteachers.org](https://TEAteachers.org) for the most current information and member-exclusive content.

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