



TEA PRESIDENT BETH BROWN: GOV. LEE, TENNESSEE CAN DO MUCH BETTER ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

“Thank God for Mississippi.” That is what Gov. Lee should say next week in his State of the State Address—if he doesn’t propose record increases in education funding.

TEA President Beth Brown's [message to the governor and state legislature is clear](#): Tennessee can do much better on public school funding. As Beth's opinion piece calling the governor and state lawmakers to task is being published by news media outlets statewide, [you can read and share it here](#). Please help us share as widely as possible just how underfunded Tennessee public schools are ahead of Gov. Lee's State of the State address next Monday. Follow and share TEA's posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

[TELL GOV. LEE TO MAKE EDUCATORS A PRIORITY!](#)

Many thanks to all who sent messages to Gov. Lee and the education and health commissioners, asking them to keep educators, students and schools safe. Media reports show our messages are working as [Tennessee Health Commissioner Dr. Lisa Piercey acknowledged](#) that "vaccine tourism is real" and Tennessee could handle five times the amount of vaccines it's getting now, which was roughly 93,000 doses this week. It is time Tennessee developed a comprehensive plan for educator vaccination! [Please review TEA's vaccine FAQ and position statement](#), and share this message on [social media with the help of these resources](#). Tell the governor we can greatly reduce the constant disruption for students, educators and families by [prioritizing educator access to the COVID-19 vaccine](#).

[Gov. Lee, we ask you to do the right thing - prioritize vaccine access for educators.](#)

EARLY-CAREER EDUCATORS INVITED TO JOIN A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH TEA PRESIDENT BROWN

TEA's Instruction and Professional Development team invites all Tennessee early-career educators to a [Virtual Fireside Chat with President Beth Brown](#), other early-career educators and aspiring educators. This event will take place Feb. 16 at 6:00 p.m. CST. During this informal and inspiring event, you will be able to ask essential questions, share personal stories and ideas, and engage in candid conversations about your work. As an attendee, you will walk away from the fireside chat feeling inspired to push forward on your educational journey.

EARN 1.5 PDP CREDITS BY JOINING NATIONAL BOARD CANDIDATE FACILITATOR TRAINING

Are you a current National Board Certified teacher? You can earn 1.5 PDP credits by registering for a National Board Candidate Facilitator training, which will take place on Saturday, Feb. 20, between 10 am and 11:30 am. CST. Register by Friday, Feb. 12. Contact [Deborah Bonner](#) to register. You will learn the

fundamentals of candidate support, the roles and responsibilities of facilitators, and much more. Upon completing the training, the NBCTs will be designated state-certified Candidate Facilitators and will be paid \$25 per hour for up to 30 hours of candidate facilitation work each academic year.

100% ONLINE PDP FROM [RENEW A TEACHING LICENSE](#)

Renew a Teaching License by Professional Learning Board provides 100% online professional learning for teachers in Tennessee. All courses are related to improving educator effectiveness to help Tennessee teachers complete continuing education requirements.

All Renew a Teaching License courses come with a [FREE PD tracker!](#) You can start at your convenience. [Sign up today!](#) Please contact Deborah Bonner at dbonner@tnea.org for a 20% discount code.

REGISTER FOR FINANCIAL TIPS WEBINAR

Mark your calendars and register for [TEA's financial tips training on Thursday, March 4](#). This webinar is exclusive to TEA members. If you have any questions, please contact [Deborah Bonner](#).

TEAteachers.org/instructional-connection

SIGN UP FOR HORACE MANN LECTURE SERIES

Our friends at [Horace Mann](#) invite all TEA members to hear retired USAF Col. Nicole Malachowski, [who will talk about defying stereotypes](#) and overcoming overwhelming odds, on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 CST.

[TEA DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARDS](#) OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Distinguished Educator Award Program (DEAP), a TEA tradition since 1982, honors public education professionals who inspire students, parents, colleagues, and the community through their talents, leadership, and community service.

All nominees must be TEA members who have not previously received a DEAP award in the category for which they are nominated. Applications will be scored using a rubric that can be found with the [online application](#). [Applications must be completed and submitted](#) no later than April 30, 2021.

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