

HOUSE BILL 1241

By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, Part 70, relative to parental
involvement.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 70, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) An LEA shall conduct individual conferences for parents with their children's teachers and guidance counselors for all students in the eighth grade.

(b) During a conference, the teacher or guidance counselor shall advise the parent of academic and career and technical class offerings and options available for students at the high school level. The teacher or guidance counselor shall discuss with the parent ambitions or fields of study, interests, and special talents that the parent's student has exhibited or in which the student has expressed interest. These ambitions, fields of study, interests, and special talents shall be considered in identifying classes for the student to take and formulating the student's course of study in high school. The teacher or guidance counselor shall also explain high school graduation requirements.

(c) The parent shall approve the classes that the parent's student is to take during the student's four (4) years in high school. After a parent has approved the high school classes that the parent's student shall take, no change in the classes shall be made without the written permission of the parent.

(d)

(1) The guidance counselor or teacher shall also inform parents of the availability of and the requirements for receiving lottery-funded financial

assistance for higher education, including the Tennessee HOPE scholarship, the Tennessee Promise scholarship, the Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant, and dual enrollment grants. The parents shall be given written information on lottery-funded financial assistance for higher education that specifies both the academic and nonacademic requirements for the assistance. The parents shall be provided with the grade appropriate information on lottery-funded financial assistance produced by the Tennessee student assistance corporation (TSAC) under § 49-4-932(d) and encouraged to attend future TSAC lottery scholarship days conducted under § 49-4-932.

(2) The guidance counselor or teacher is encouraged to provide parents with information concerning the availability of and the requirements for other forms of student financial assistance for college, including income-based federal and state programs, such as the Pell grant and the Tennessee student assistance awards.

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