

SENATE BILL 2273

By Campbell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to education.

WHEREAS, the generation of student achievement data through testing and the transparent reporting of information derived from such data is essential to determining accountability in the operation of this State's public schools; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that nonpublic schools that receive public funds to educate this State's students benefit equally to their public school counterparts in terms of accountability by being subject to the same testing and reporting requirements; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a)

(1) If the department of education administers an education scholarship program that grants scholarships to a student in any of the grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) for the primary purpose of paying for the expenses associated with the student attending a nonpublic school, as defined in § 49-6-3001(c)(3), then a nonpublic school that receives public funds by accepting the scholarship as full or partial payment of the student's tuition shall comply with the same requirements for student testing, including all reporting requirements for student test results, that apply to public schools in this state pursuant to state law and rules.

(2) Subdivision (a)(1) does not apply to a participating school, as defined in § 49-6-2602, that only receives public funds deposited into an education savings account through the education savings account pilot program created in part 26 of this chapter.

(b) If the department of education administers an education scholarship program that grants scholarships to a student in any of the grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) for the primary purpose of paying for the expenses associated with the student attending a nonpublic school, as defined in § 49-6-3001(c)(3), then a participating student, who is otherwise eligible to return to the student's LEA, may return to the student's LEA at any time after enrolling in the program. Upon a participating student's withdrawal or dismissal from a nonpublic school that accepted the student's scholarship, the nonpublic school shall return a pro-rated amount of funds, equivalent to the total amount of the scholarship for the school year multiplied by the percentage of the school year that the student did not complete at the nonpublic school, to the state treasurer to be placed in the Tennessee investment in student achievement formula (TISA) account of the education trust fund of 1992 under §§ 49-3-357 and 49-3-358.

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