



## Knox County Schools FY14 Preliminary Budget Proposal

On Monday, March 18, Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, shared his preliminary budget proposal for FY14 with the Knox County Board of Education.

It included an overall request of \$419.75 million, which represents a total increase of \$13.27 million (3.3%) over the current FY2013 Budget. This recommendation is more modest than last year's proposal for \$35 million over natural revenue growth (for a total proposed increase of approximately \$48 million).

In order to build on the strong foundation of student academic progress that the Knox County Schools has experienced this budget recommendation provides for additional, targeted investment in four key priorities:

- **Enhancing Educator Compensation ("teachers")**

Total increase of 2.5% for teachers, increase of 1% for classified employees, \$1.27 million to support strategic compensation (APEX), middle and high school principals moved to year-round contracts, step increases for certified and classified personnel

- **Sustaining Instructional Improvement Initiatives ("teaching")**

Continuing support for critical educational initiatives: early literacy efforts, teacher supports and professional development, teacher leadership roles such as instructional coaches and lead teachers, magnet and community schools, interventions and tutorial services, and academic enrichment for students.

- **Facilitating Personalized Learning Supported by Technology ("technology")**

Instructional technology can allow teachers to better personalize and differentiate their instruction, and enables educators to continuously and seamlessly adapt their teaching to meet the unique needs of their students. The Knox County Schools seek the resources to begin a 1:1 technology effort (one technology device for each one student, and each one teacher) at nine or ten schools across the school system through the School Technology Challenge competition. An announcement will be made soon on the finalists and eventual winners of this competition.

- **Bolstering Student Safety Efforts ("safety")**

Implementation a foundational level of school security resources at every school, including a current-generation video camera system, a school access control strategy, and an armed, uniformed School Resource Officer or School Security Officer at each school.

## Knox County Schools receives TAP Award of Distinction

Knox County Schools leaders were recently surprised with the TAP Award of Distinction, which honors an organization for its dedication and commitment to TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement. The Award comes with a financial prize of \$10,000. It was presented earlier in March before more than 1,200 educators and policy leaders during the 13th National TAP Conference in Washington, D.C. Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, accepted the award on the district's behalf.

TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement is America's leading comprehensive education reform offering teachers career advancement, professional development, educator evaluation and performance-based compensation. For more than ten years, TAP has worked to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement in high-need urban, rural and suburban schools and districts across the country. It is managed and supported by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching.

"Knox County Schools has demonstrated strong dedication to TAP and has served as a model in the region and statewide," said Dr. Gary Stark, president and chief executive officer of NIET. "I congratulate Superintendent McIntyre and the entire district on this recognition."

Knox County Schools initially began TAP implementation in 2006 with three schools. It added a fourth the following year, all supported by local funds and the Great Schools Partnership. Motivated by the schools' success, the district partnered with NIET on a federal Teacher Incentive Fund grant in 2010 to expand TAP to 14 additional schools.

The components of TAP are now being utilized in other schools throughout the district, and the pilot schools served as a model for Tennessee's statewide teacher evaluation system, the Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model (TEAM).

"TAP takes what we know from research and common sense and puts it together in a singular structure focused on high-quality instruction and student learning," said McIntyre. "It provides the support for our teachers to be able to get there. That's incredibly powerful."

As part of TAP, each school has master and mentor teachers in place who, along with the principal and other administrators, form the TAP Leadership Team. This team drives instruction through daily professional development, follow-up, classroom observations, and pre- and post-conferences with every teacher.

According to 2011-12 data, 14 of the district's schools exceeded growth targets. Eleven of the new schools achieved the highest value-added score of 5 after their first year of implementation, showing that they significantly outperformed projected student growth compared to similar schools in the state.

"The most powerful thing from the students' perspective is that they see their teachers actively learning new strategies every day," said Angie Messer, mentor teacher at Carter High School. "What better way to teach and inspire our students to become lifelong learners than to have them see us learning, too?"

As Holston Middle School Career Teacher Whitney Barnett added, "As a new teacher, being able to walk into a school that has done TAP for six years was probably the biggest gift for my professional career that I could have had."

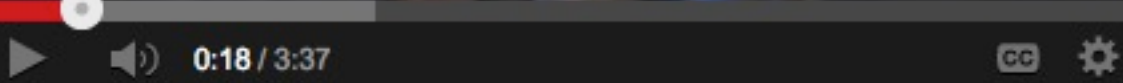


**2013 TAP Award of Distinction Washington, D.C., March 9, 2013**

Ascension Parish Schools Superintendent Dr. Patrice Pujol and Knox County Schools Superintendent Dr. James P. McIntyre, Jr., accept TAP Awards of Distinction from NIET Chairman and Founder Lowell Milken (far left) and NIET President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Gary Stark (far right). The award comes with a financial prize of \$10,000.

[Watch TAP Award of Distinction Profile Video](#)

## TAP Award of Distinction 2013: Knox County Schools, TN



### Increasing Educator Effectiveness: Lessons Learned from Teacher Incentive Fund Sites

Author, Jonathan Eckert

February 2013

**NIET** NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

A new report by researcher and author Jonathan Eckert finds that approaches spurred by the federal Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) to change the ways that educators are trained, supported, evaluated and compensated are “good investments” to strengthen teaching and learning.

[Read More](#)

## **Knox County Schools Round-ups for 2013-2014 School Year**

The Knox County Schools will have several Round-ups in preparation for the 2013-2014 school year. Details are below for voluntary pre-K and kindergarten round-ups.

### **Knox County elementary schools hold kindergarten round-up, April 9**

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The Knox County Schools will hold a district-wide kindergarten round-up at its elementary schools on Tuesday, April 9 for the 2013-2014 school year.

A child entering kindergarten shall be no less than five (5) years of age on or before August 31, 2013. To register into kindergarten, enrolling students must supply:

- Birth certificate (or acceptable proof of birth date)
- Tennessee School Immunization Certificate (including immunizations and health/physical examination completed and signed by a physician or licensed medical provider)
- Proof of residency within the elementary school's zone

Please note that students registering for kindergarten for the 2013-2014 school year must turn five years old by August 31, 2013. Per state law, the age cutoff date will move to August 15 for the 2014-2015 school year and each year thereafter. As a reminder, kindergarten is now a full day program for Knox County students.

At the kindergarten round-up, parents will receive important enrollment information in preparation of the upcoming school year. Individual elementary school kindergarten round-up hours for Tuesday, April 9 are available at [knoxschools.org](http://knoxschools.org).

If you are not able to attend kindergarten round-up on April 9, you can enroll at your zoned school. To find the elementary school that you are zoned for, or to receive additional information, visit [knoxschools.org](http://knoxschools.org).

### **KCS Voluntary pre-K round-up starts April 29, ends May 2**

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The Knox County Schools will be conducting its annual pre-K round-up at participating elementary locations for the 2013-2014 school year beginning April 29 through May 2.

Eligibility guidelines are established by the Tennessee Department of Education. Children must be four years of age on or before September 30 of the current year. Eligible students must meet family income guidelines for free or reduced meals. If space is available, students who are considered 'at risk' by other factors may be accepted.

The pre-K curriculum is geared toward the interest levels and needs of each child. Students are provided with developmentally appropriate tasks and a stimulating environment. Reading and math readiness are built into all aspects of the pre-K experience. Each pre-K class is staffed by a certified early childhood teacher and a paraprofessional.

Enrollment is limited and contingent upon approval. Additional information and applications may be obtained at [knoxschools.org](http://knoxschools.org) or by calling 865-594-1529. Please note that proof of residency and income are required as part of the application.

Participating locations have scheduled pre-K round-ups that are available online at [knoxschools.org](http://knoxschools.org).

## **Barney Thompson Scholarship Applications due by April 10**

The deadline for seniors to apply for the Barney Thompson Scholarship is Wednesday, April 10, 2013. One student from each of the fourteen Knox County high schools will be awarded with the \$500 scholarship in memory of Thompson.

Thompson was a teacher and coach at the former South High School in the 1970s before becoming the executive director of the Knoxville Area Association of Realtors. He was a long-time supporter of

the Knox County Schools through his role as treasurer of the Partners in Education Advisory Board.

The Barney Thompson Scholarship is funded through the Knoxville Area Association of Realtors, donations from individual realtors, contributions from private donors and a portion of the proceeds from Dine Out For Education.

Applications are available online at [pie.knoxschools.org](http://pie.knoxschools.org) as well as at each high school guidance office. Winners will be awarded in May at a special reception at the Knoxville Area Association of Realtors office.

## **Seven Teams from Knox County Schools to Compete**

FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), along with an executive advisory board representing Bechtel, ORNL, Y-12, Kendall Electric, TVA, Eastman Chemical, SAIC, ALCOA, The University of Tennessee, ETEC, Tech 2020, Energy Systems Group, and the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce are hosting the third annual Smoky Mountains Regional Challenge on March 29 and 30, 2013 at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Seven teams from Knox County High Schools will be competing this year: Farragut, Gibbs, Halls, Hardin Valley Academy, L&N STEM Academy, South-Doyle, and West High Schools. Last year, the Knox County Schools entered four teams.

The FIRST Robotics Smoky Mountain Regional is similar to the Super Bowl in its showmanship with its many referees, booming audio and streaming video, dedicated fans, energetic game announcers, and tearful award ceremonies. But the ultimate goal of the competition is to teach K-12 students the importance of teamwork and collaboration and the value science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to their education.

The FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) joins mentors (teams, sponsors, colleges, and technical professionals) with high school students to develop a solution to the given engineering challenge in a competitive game environment. FRC competitions combine the practical application of science and technology with the fun, intense energy and excitement of a sporting event. This year, nearly 60,000 students will compete worldwide, representing approximately 2,600 teams. Teams come from every state, as well as from Australia, Bosnia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

The Smoky Mountain Regional will host over 50 teams from east, middle, and west Tennessee; Alabama; Georgia; Indiana; Kentucky; Mississippi; North and South Carolina; and West Virginia. Each team will compete for a chance to be among the 400 teams that will qualify to go to the FIRST Championship at the end of April at The Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, MO.

The Smoky Mountains Regional is free and open to the public. If you'd like to volunteer for the event or know more about FIRST or the Smoky Mountain Regional, visit [www.tnfirst.org](http://www.tnfirst.org) or [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org). You can also contact L J Robinson, FIRST Regional Director, ([ljrobinson@aol.com](mailto:ljrobinson@aol.com) – 865 388 5708) or Mike Wehrenberg, Chair FIRST Executive Advisory Board, ([mike.wehrenberg@kendallelectric.com](mailto:mike.wehrenberg@kendallelectric.com) – 865 389 9914).

## **KCS Textbook Availability**

Knox County Schools issues textbooks to students at the beginning of each school year. Every six years textbooks go through an adoption cycle and purchases are made based on the number of students in the grade band at that time; however there may be occasions over the years where more books are needed than are available.

Although, homework assignments often utilize worksheets or other references materials, students are also able to take textbooks home for additional study time. Those who may not have an issued textbook may either access their textbook online or checkout a hardbound textbook.

If you need access to a particular textbook, inquire with your teacher or principal to learn how your school coordinates textbook availability. Making textbooks available is in accordance with Knox County [Board of Education Policy IFAA](#) (Textbook Selection, Distribution and Care).

Because books vary by grade levels and by subject areas, you may also contact Knox County Schools Director of Library and Media Services John Whaley at (865)594-3828 or [jwhaley@knoxschools.org](mailto:jwhaley@knoxschools.org) for additional assistance.

**Save the Dates:**

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**Knox County Schools Spring Break – Monday, March 25 to Monday, April 1**

Knox County Schools will be closed Monday, March 25 through Monday, April 1 while students and teachers enjoy a Spring Break and observe the Easter Holiday. The Central Office and Maintenance will be closed Thursday, March 28 through Monday, April 1 as well. Students and staff will return on Tuesday, April 2.

**Kindergarten Round-Up – Tuesday, April 9**

Knox County Schools will host its annual Kindergarten Round-Up for rising Kindergarten students on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at Knox County elementary schools.

**Dine Out for Education – Tuesday, April 16**

Several Knoxville restaurants throughout Knox County will participate in the tenth annual Knox County Schools "Dine Out For Education" event on Tuesday, April 16, 2013. Participating restaurants will donate 10 percent of the pre-tax total to the Knox County Schools Partners in Education program.