

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD
OF EDUCATION OF KNOX COUNTY,
TENNESSEE, SUPPORTING AN INCREASE
IN TEACHER SALARIES UNDER THE
BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**REQUESTED BY: PATTI LOU BOUNDS
BOARD MEMBER**

**PREPARED BY: KNOX COUNTY LAW
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS:**



DIRECTOR OF LAW

APPROVED:

Sept. 11, 2019

Date

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education is charged with governing the Knox County school system so that all students receive the best educational opportunities in order to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce; and T.C.A. § 49-2-203(a)(2) provides that the Tennessee Legislature bestows the power to the Board of Education to manage and control public schools under its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education recognizes that funding for teacher salaries under the Basic Education Program (BEP) under current law is insufficient;

WHEREAS, districts are funded based on a district-wide student-teacher ratio, rather than the actual number a district is required to employ to meet school-level ratio requirements;

WHEREAS, the teacher salary used for BEP funding does not represent the actual average teacher salary state-wide;

WHEREAS, in 2019 the General Assembly passed Education Savings Account legislation which will divert money that could be allocated toward public education, specifically teacher salaries, to private education institutions (Public Chapter 506, T.C.A. § 49-6-2601 et seq., the Tennessee Education Savings Account Pilot Program);

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education resolves and requests that the State's investment in adequately funding teacher salaries should, at a minimum, match the amount invested in Education Savings Accounts; and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education recognizes that adequately funding teacher salaries is necessary to the efficient and effective operation of public schools in Tennessee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

That the Knox County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to provide for an increase in the instructional salary component of the Basic Education Program (BEP) equal to the amount of public dollars spent on the Education Savings Account Pilot Program each year, including all funds associated with administration of the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be delivered to each Member of the Tennessee General Assembly, the public welfare requiring it.



9/11/2019

SUSAN P. HORN

Chair, Knox County Board of Education

Date