



Presentation to:
Tennessee's VPK Directors
July 23, 2018

Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE)



- TQEE is a nonprofit policy and advocacy organization fighting to make **high-quality early education, birth through third grade**, an urgent priority for Tennessee.
- Our bi-partisan coalition is made up of business, law enforcement, faith, education and civic organizations, and people from all walks of life in communities across Tennessee.
- We support policies that build a strong early foundation for academic achievement, workforce development and prosperity in Tennessee.

TQEE Major Activities



Together, We're Making a Difference

We're proud to champion quality early childhood education for our great state of Tennessee, and with your help we're accelerating progress.



Effective Policy

We develop sound, evidence-based policy that strengthens early learning.



A Strong Voice

We amplify the voices of early education advocates from across the state.



2018 Elections

We help elect pro-early education candidates for the state legislature.

Mike Carpenter, Executive Director



Lisa Wiltshire, Policy Director



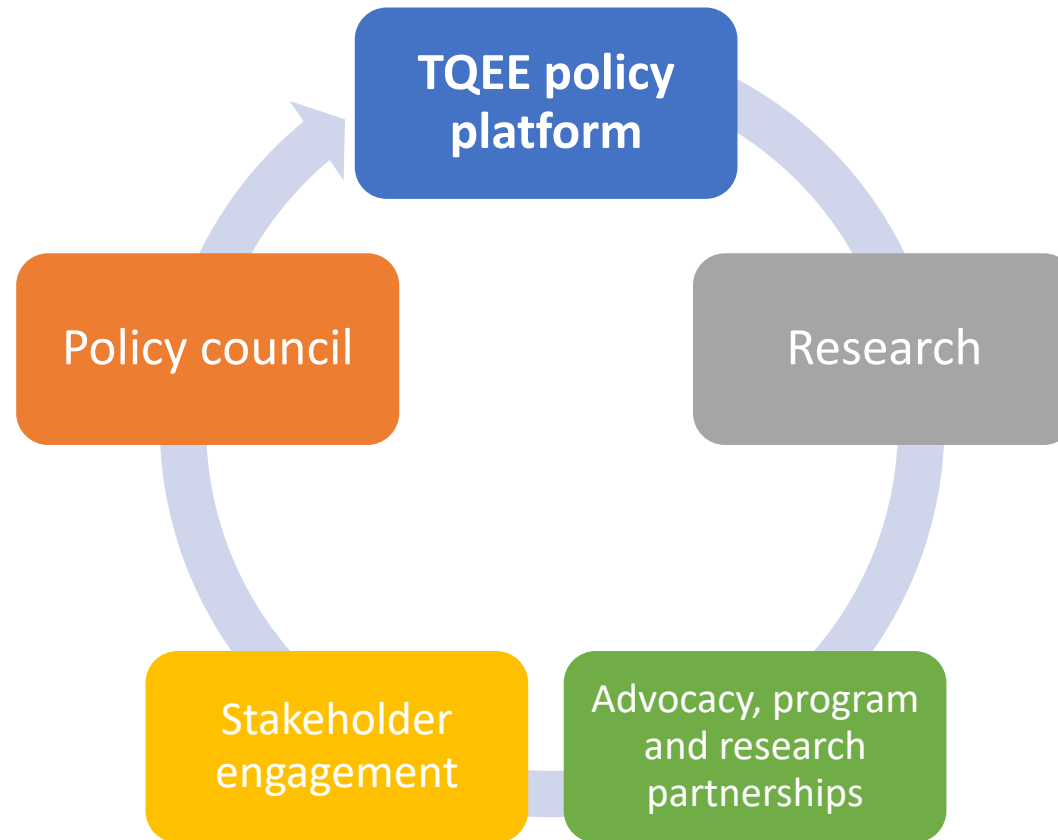
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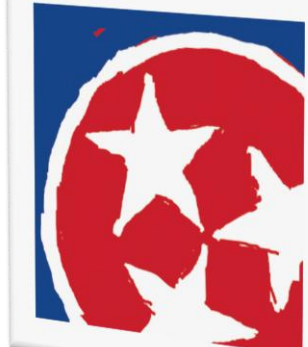


- TQEE was formed in 2015 in response to Vanderbilt University Peabody Research Institute's study of the Tennessee's Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) program.
- TQEE's work was launched with the PreK Quality Act of 2016.
- Today, TQEE has grown to include a large coalition and a robust policy agenda which reflects the **importance of the full birth through third grade continuum in preparing children for future academic success.**
- And our work has only just begun...

TQEE Policy Development

TQEE's 85+ member policy council guides and informs the development of a policy platform focused on improving the early learning experiences of children in Tennessee.

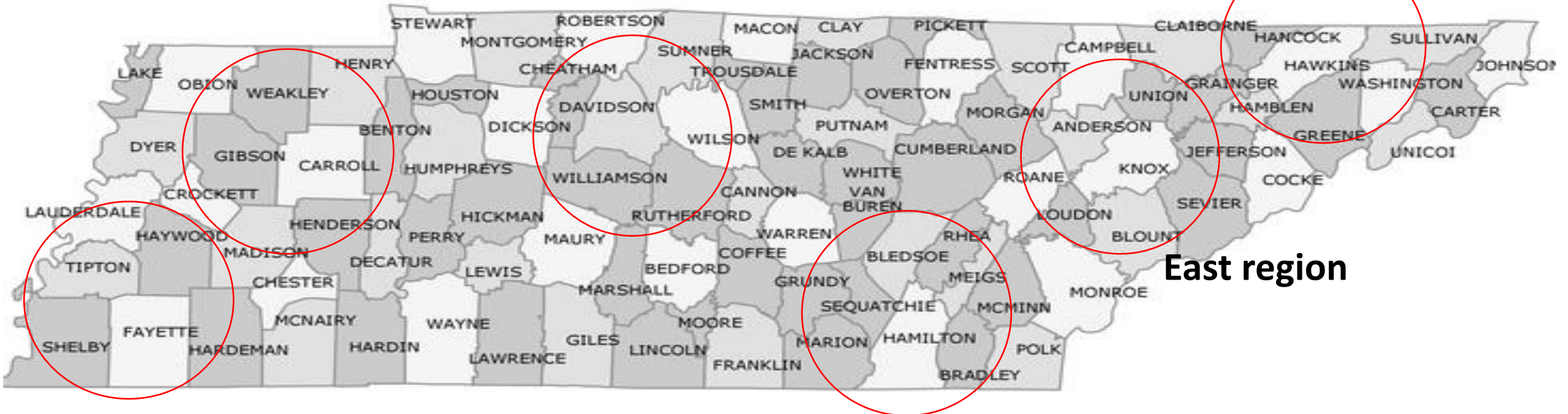




Northwest region

Middle region

Tri-Cities region



Southwest region

Southeast region

East region

Policy Priorities



- ✓ **Engage and Empower Parents**
- ✓ **Strengthen Teaching and Learning in the Early Grades, Pre-K through Third Grade**
- ✓ **Improve Child Care Quality, Affordability & Accessibility**
- ✓ **Strengthen Accountability & Continuous Improvement in Early Education**

Engage and Empower Parents



Policy Priorities

- **Early Parenting Support.** Expand evidence-based home visiting programs that provide early parenting support for at-risk families.
- **Parent-Teacher Partnerships.** Encourage parent-teacher partnerships in early learning programs and elementary schools to boost children's learning and academic outcomes.
- **School-Community Partnerships.** Establish, encourage and expand birth to third grade school-community partnerships that connect families in need to critical resources and services.

Strengthen Teaching and Learning in the Early Grades, Pre-K through Third Grade



What is needed?

An early grades transformation rooted in four key pillars of high quality early childhood instruction:

- 1. Developmentally-appropriate teaching;**
- 2. Knowledge-building curriculum;**
- 3. Social and work-related skill-building; and**
- 4. High expectations and academic challenge.**

Strengthen Teaching and Learning in the Early Grades, Pre-K through Third Grade



Policy Priorities

- Improve and expand quality pre-k;
- Expand the use of knowledge-rich, developmentally-appropriate and inquiry-based curriculum;
- Strengthen early grades teachers preparation and training;
- Prioritize recruitment and retention of highly effective teachers in the early grades;
- Provide comprehensive professional development focused on high-quality early childhood instruction; and
- Build principals' knowledge of high quality early childhood instruction.

Improve Childcare Quality, Affordability & Accessibility



Policy Priority

- **Optimized Childcare.** Restructure Tennessee's child care system to expand quality, affordability and accessibility of care for children of low-income working parents.
 - Quality: Quality standards include instructional best practices; and staff are prepared, trained, and supported to help children learn
 - Affordability: Disadvantaged families who need childcare receive assistance to pay for quality care
 - Accessibility: Families in every region have quality childcare options

Strengthen Accountability & Continuous Improvement in Early Education



Policy Priorities

- Establish a birth to 5 *coordinated early learning data system* to maximize the reach and effectiveness of early childhood education programs and services;
- Develop a *streamlined system* for measuring and improving instructional effectiveness and learning outcomes, Pre-K through 3rd grade; and
- Ensure early grades teachers have *extensive training and support* to know how to use early grades data to improve instruction.

2018 Legislative Session



Across the Board Wins!

- Defended Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Funding
- Supported VPK Quality Improvement Initiatives
- Partnered with DOE to Commission Key Studies from Vanderbilt University:
 - Early Grades Instructional Quality
 - Early Grades Teacher Assignment Practices
- Established Pilot Parent-Teacher Teamwork Initiative
- Grew the budget for Early Home Visiting
- Supported Expansion of ACEs Innovation Grants

For more info check out <https://www.tqee.org/blog/legislative-wins-build-momentum-for-quality-early-education/>

Political Landscape



Change is a Comin'

- Tennessee will have a new governor for the first time since 2010
- 32 Legislative Seats are open due to retirements or aspirations for higher office
 - At least 25% of House seats will be freshmen
 - Nearly 20% of the Senate will be freshmen
 - Not included: Surprise incumbent defeats
- A new Speaker of the House: Glen Casada (R-Franklin), Curtis Johnson (R-Clarksville), Tim Wirgau (R-Buchanan)

Unprecedented Opportunity



Open seats, new Speaker and Governor in same year is rare

- Opportunity to elect pro-early education candidates to Legislature
- Influence new Speaker's appointments to education committees
 - Education Planning and Administration Committee losing 8 of 13 members
 - Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee losing 4 of 7 members
- Work with new Governor on key cabinet appointments and early education policy

Join TQEE and Help Make a Difference!



www.TQEE.org

Celebrations



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