

HOUSE BILL 649

By Raper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2; Title 49, Chapter 5 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to local education agencies.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Each LEA shall offer employees of the LEA the opportunity to volunteer to participate in a working group that will collect, review, and report suggestions received from employees on how the LEA can improve its goals, operations, and outcomes.

(b) The working group shall accept written suggestions on how to improve the LEA that are submitted by an employee of the LEA; provided, however, that the working group shall not accept written suggestions regarding salary or benefits. An employee of the LEA may submit a written suggestion to the working group anonymously.

(c) The working group shall annually compile the written suggestions submitted to the working group into a report. The working group shall submit the report to the LEA's director of schools and local board of education.

(d) If an employee of the LEA submits a suggestion to the working group and the content of the suggestion requires that the suggestion be reported pursuant to a policy adopted by the LEA, then the working group shall submit the suggestion in accordance with the adopted policy.

(e) The LEA's director of schools and local board of education shall jointly:

(1) Address each written suggestion identified in the report as necessary, as determined by the director and the local board; and

(2) Notify the working group of how the director and the local board intends to address, or why the director and local board will not address, each written suggestion identified in the report.

(f) An employee who volunteers to serve as part of a working group shall receive in-service credit for the time the employee served as part of the working group.

(g) Any documents created for purposes of this section must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g); § 10-7-504; the Data Accessibility, Transparency, and Accountability Act, compiled in chapter 1, part 7 of this title; and all other relevant privacy laws.

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