General Assembly Passes Standards Review Bill  
Excerpted from Expect More, Achieve More Coalition

The state Senate and House overwhelmingly passed HB1035 this week and sent it to Governor Haslam, who is expected to sign into law the review process for Tennessee’s academic standards.

HB1035 builds on the public review process Governor Haslam and the State Board of Education put in place last year for English and math standards, adds new layers of review, and will lead to new standards for 2017-18. The legislation also establishes the same process for future social studies and science standards. The coalition did not believe Tennessee needed legislation on standards this year, but the bill does provide a path forward for educators, parents, and students. “Tennessee’s educators have clearly said teachers and students need stability on standards and a new assessment that works with those standards,” David Mansouri, executive vice president of the State Collaborative for Reforming Education (SCORE), told Chalkbeat TN.

HB1035 was the only one of multiple measures related to standards or assessments to reach a floor vote. Through emails, phone calls, personal meetings, and testimony to committees, the Expect More, Achieve More Coalition helped prevent harmful measures from advancing.

The General Assembly adjourned on Wednesday, but thoughtful dialogue between coalition members and policymakers should and will continue during the recess. Other legislation of concern this session could resurface when the General Assembly reconvenes in January, including bills to derail the new TNReady assessment, to make the ACT optional, and to allow wide opt-outs of annual assessment.

Expect More, Achieve More members are encouraged to thank senators and representatives for their work and their willingness to listen to the coalition’s views on preparing all students for post-secondary education and work opportunities.
Plans are underway for the **2015 TPA Conference** to be held on December 9 and 10 at the Embassy Suites in Cool Springs. The theme for our 2015 conference is **Legacy of Leadership**.

The conference committee has secured three outstanding keynote speakers: Tennessee Commissioner of Education Dr. Candice McQueen, Retired Col. Arthur J. Athens, and Dr. Pedro Noguera. We look forward to learning from these amazing individuals as to how we can foster our own Legacy of Leadership.

**Dr. Candice McQueen** is the Tennessee Commissioner of Education. Prior to her appointment, Dr. McQueen served as a senior vice president at Lipscomb University. She is credited with overseeing the rise of one of the nation’s top education programs. In June, the National Council on Teacher Quality named Lipscomb, affiliated with the Church of Christ, one of 10 institutions nationwide to have top-ranked teacher preparation programs at the elementary and secondary levels.

**Colonel Arthur J. Athens** is the Director of the U.S. Naval Academy’s Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership and a member of the Academy’s Senior Leadership Team. Colonel Athens retired from the Marine Corps in July 2008 with over thirty years of combined active duty and reserve service. Additionally, he was a White House Fellow under President Ronald Reagan, the Special Assistant to the NASA Administrator following the Space Shuttle Challenger accident, the Executive Director of OCF, the Commandant of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and the Naval Academy’s first Distinguished Military Professor of Leadership.

**Dr. Pedro Noguera** is the Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education at New York University. Dr. Noguera is a sociologist whose scholarship and research focuses on topics such as urban school reform, education policy, conditions that promote student achievement, the role of education in community development, youth violence, and race and ethnic relations in American society.

The main events will occur Wednesday, the 9th and Thursday, the 10th. The exhibit hall will be on Wednesday. Thursday morning we will have a keynote, a set of concurrents, and a luncheon speaker. Mark your calendars for this outstanding professional development opportunity! Registration information will be available within the next month.
Brian Partin was successful in the vice president election for NAESP which concluded on March 15, 2015. It was a very close race, and your votes made the difference for him! There were approximately 1,000 votes cast in that election. One hundred sixteen of the three hundred fifteen ballots mailed out were returned in the TPA election which ended April 6, 2015, which resulted in a 36.8% participation rate.

- 43.9% (51) had Memphis postmarks
- 25.9% (30) had Nashville postmarks
- 21.6% (25) had Knoxville postmarks
- 8.6% (10) had Chattanooga postmarks

The winner in the TPA Vice President race was Dr. Marsha McGill. The results in her race were 74 for McGill, 37 for Alisha Hinton, 1 write in for Brian Partin, and 4 no votes. Dr. McGill will assume her role as Vice President on July 1, 2015.

The winner in the NAESP State Representative race was Sharon McNary. The results in her race were 71 for Sharon McNary, 44 for Kim Headrick, and 1 no vote. McNary's second term begins July 1, 2015.

The votes were tallied on Friday, April 10, at 2:00 p.m. at Levi Elementary. Dr. Janice Tankson and Dr. Ernest Bentley counted the ballots and then Dr. Kimbrelle Lewis and Dr. Bentley verified the count at 3:30 p.m. at Richland Elementary. The records were signed by those counting in each session and are on file in the TPA office. The TPA governance documents require that the ballots returned and the record of the vote remain on file for one year.

If you participated in the elections, thank you. While the total vote was a bit less than customary, 37% still compares rather favorably with national's 6%.
It has been a fast and furious legislative session, especially in the Senate and House Education Committees, which just ended their business and are expected to hear no more legislation this year. There were several bills that received a great deal of attention from many stakeholder organizations, but in the end, only a few bills made it out of committee.

The education bill that has garnered the most attention is SB1163/HB1035. As amended, this bill creates a review process for Tennessee’s State Standards that includes public comment collected online, committees of educators to review the comments, and creation of a new Recommendation Committee, appointed by the governor and speakers of the Senate and House, to make recommendations on standards to the State Board of Education. The House Finance Subcommittee and the Senate Finance Committee will now hear SB1163/HB1035 the week of April 6th.

Most Education Bills of Note Were Set Aside for This Year…

Most of the high interest bills have stopped advancing in the Tennessee General Assembly for the year. The legislation included bills and resolutions that proposed to:

- Allow school boards to pick and implement their own “inferior” academic standards. The bill was taken off notice. (SB1194/HB1267)
- Permit parents to exempt their students from assessment. The bill was taken off notice. (SB1298/HB1268)
- Reinflate elections for school superintendents and directors. The bill failed to pass out of the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday and was taken off notice in the House. (SB391/HB907)
- Commend parent activists for their opposition to Tennessee’s State Standards. The resolution failed in the House Education Instruction & Programs Subcommittee on Wednesday. (HJR74)
- Repeal Tennessee’s State Standards for English language arts and math and force schools to go back to the state’s previous academic standards. (SB1193/HB1348) Failed in House Education Instruction & Programs Subcommittee on March 25, assigned to General Subcommittee by the Senate Education Committee.
- Delay yet again an assessment aligned with Tennessee’s State Standards. Deferred until 2016 in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee, assigned to General Subcommittee by the Senate Education Committee. (SB803/HB1264)
- Eliminate any standardized assessment in K-2. Taken off notice in the House Education Instruction & Programs Subcommittee, assigned to General Subcommittee by the Senate Education Committee. (SB671/HB983)

There is still the possibility that amendments could be added to bills that would directly impact districts and schools, so until the final gavel drops on session, it is wise to keep a close eye on moving legislation.

Dr. Jared T. Bingham
Director of College & Career Readiness, TN SCORE  jared@tnscore.org
Executive Director’s News Summaries
Dr. Ernest Bentley, Jr.

Annual Conference

Dr. Ann-Marie Gleason serves as 2015 TPA conference coordinator. The dates have been set for December 8, 9, 10 in Embassy Suites in Cool springs. Drs. Gleason and Meador have commitments from three keynote speakers and ideas for two others. The schedule will be packed on Wednesday the 9th with Commissioner Candice McQueen at 10:00 am and Pedro Nugera that afternoon (he will also conduct a session in the concurrents), at least three sets of four simultaneous concurrent session, and the day long exhibit hall operation from 7:30 to 4:30. Sets of concurrents are tentatively scheduled at 8:00 am, 9:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:45 pm. The traditional boxed lunch and drawings for cash and other prizes will be conducted in the exhibit hall area. The theme for 2015 is “Legacy of Leadership.” Principals with “Best Practices” in their schools may submit 50-minute session proposals/topics fitting that theme for inclusion in the concurrents to Dr. Gleason, Dr. Meador, or Dr. Bentley at tprinassoc@comcast.net. Thursday the 10th will feature Colonel Arthur J Athens, USMS (Ret) and a legislative lobbyist in the remaining time period. The business meeting will be about 11:40 am, and the Awards Luncheon will be at 12:00 noon. We are hoping the new Director of Schools will be named in time to be secured as our lunch speaker. Dr. Gleason has a page about the conference on page 2 of this Frontline.

NAESP Election Results

Much buzz persisted about the somewhat simultaneous NAESP and TPA elections in March 2015. Tennessee had a candidate in the national Vice President race in Brian Partin, principal at Thomas Jefferson Elementary in Kingsport. In a close contest, Partin prevailed and will become the first ever NAESP vice president on July 1, 2015, leaving one year of his current director position to be filled by appointment. That appointment will be handled by the NAESP state representatives or an officer designee from each of the seven member states in Zone 4. Sharon McNary is interested in completing Brian’s term and hopes for the votes from your state rep or at least half of them. Applications for that position are due for vetting at NAESP by May 1. Brian will rotate through the NAESP officer positions of President Elect and President. See his reports and thank you for your support on his “Zone 4 Report” in this edition of Frontline.

TPA Election Results

Our state election featured slates for vice president and for our officer position of NAESP state representative. Alisha Hinton from Knox County and Dr. Marsha McGill from Davidson County were the candidates for vice president. Dr. McGill was selected by members voting in that race and will begin as
TPA Vice President on July 1, 2015. She will rotate through the officer positions of president elect, president and past president in subsequent terms. Kimberley Headrick and Sharon McNary were the candidates for the state representative position and McNary was reelected for a three year term. That term will run until June 30, 2018. The executive committee continues to appreciate member willingness to be nominated for office and willingness to serve when elected. See the voting statistics in the “Election Report” of this issue of *Frontline*.

### Summer Planning Meeting

Tentative dates of May 30, and 31 are available for a training/orientation event for returning and new board members. 2015 incoming president, Dr. Gleason, has worked with current president, Dr. Flora, to organize for a day and a half of preparation for the 2015/16 membership year (September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016). To be held in mid state for economies of travel, tentative plans are for a late working lunch the first day for the executive committee and new additions like Dr. McGill and any replacements for appointed positions. All board members would have an initial orientation session at 4:00 and a working dinner would be planned for the evening (I think VALIC may be willing to sponsor this for TPA). Hotel site will be determined by the end of April. A large component of the Monday agenda will focus on membership and action plans over the next three to five years. We may invite the new NAESP membership addition (Monique) to speak at dinner and then work with us as a resource consultant during the Sharon McNary-led membership segment on the 15th. Holly and Ann-Marie are considering board appointments for the one-year positions which replace expiring terms and establish special appointments (such as liaisons with the Study Councils, legislative monitor, and coordinator for TPA communications). If you have interest or know someone who could help move TPA forward utilizing their special talents or relationships let them know or send me a blurb at tnprinassoc@comcast.net. Sharon McNary recommends the Grand Division appointments as her leaders for ambassador networks statewide. These three positions are three-year terms on a staggered expiration basis. She keeps a list of interested individuals and would be glad to hear from you. West Tennessee requires an interim appointment this year as Dr. Evans has taken a new position and stepped down. East Tennessee is up for a full three-year appointment July 1. The Middle Tennessee initial term ends in 2016 and will be a three-year appointment. You will have a chance to serve in some capacity if you are willing. With the conference in mid state this year there are wonderful opportunities to be involved in substantive ways.

### Dr. Debra Bentley Appointed to Serve

Dr. Bentley, Supervisor of Instruction and Communications for Johnson City Schools, has been selected to serve on the Tennessee Education Standards Review and Development Committee. Bentley will serve on the English/Language Arts Advisory Committee. The charge of the review and development committees is:
• analyze feedback on the state’s current academic standards in math and English language arts provided from the Governor’s Web site

• share their findings with two committees of Tennessee educators, one committee for math and one for English language arts.

• make recommendations to the State Board of Education on how we can best revise and develop the standards based on the feedback collected from the public review.

Bentley and other committee members will begin their work, in Nashville, in early June.

Dr. Sharon McNary Appointed to Committee

The Tennessee Department of Education has created a task force to study the landscape of assessments in Tennessee at the state and local level. The committee consists of parents, teachers, community members, and two principals from across the state of Tennessee. **Sharon McNary**, state representative and principal from Memphis, is serving as one of the principals on this committee. The goals of this committee are:

• To conduct an environmental scan of assessment usage and practices across the state.

• To establish principles addressing purposes and goals for assessment relative to locally designed or locally chosen assessments.

• To define appropriate practices associated with these principles that best support decision-making at the state, district, school, and teacher levels.

• To gain insight on ways to best communicate about “Tennessee Ready” to all stakeholder groups.

NDP Finalists Announced

There are four finalists for the 2015 NDP. They are **Robin Pinder**, Principal of Homestead Elementary, Cumberland County; **Roger Thomas**, Principal of Oakshire Elementary, Memphis; **Kathy Joyner**, Principal of Oak Forest Elementary, Memphis; and **LaFrederick Thirkill**, Principal of Orchard Knob Elementary, Hamilton County. A committee consisting of principals representing all three grand divisions of Tennessee will review the candidate packets to determine the 2015 NDP. The winner will be announced before the end of May.
In the Zone
Brian Partin, NAESP Zone 4 Director

Special Note of Appreciation

Wow! What an honor it is for me to have the opportunity to serve as the very first NAESP Vice-President! I would be remissed to not extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Ernie Bentley, TPA Board of Directors, TPA Membership, Zone 4 Membership, and NAESP members across the country who participated in the election - this opportunity would not have been possible without your support and votes. It is very unusual to have two members from one state serve on the NAESP Board of Directors, but because of the election and recent appointment of Kimbrelle Lewis from Memphis, who will be serving as the At-Large Minority Director, Tennessee will continue to have at least two members serve on the board. As most of you know, this has been a luxury we have been able to benefit from over the past three years following the election of Dr. Nancy Flatt Meador in 2012.

Nancy will complete her tenure on the NAESP Board of Directors on June 30, 2015. For those of you who were able to see her speech at last year’s conference in Nashville, you know that she is first-class and has definitely made us all very proud! My personal experience on the NAESP Board of Directors has been greatly enhanced as a result of Nancy, so I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to her for being such an incredible role-model, mentor, and friend!

NAESP: Leading and Learning Goal Update

Leading Vision Goal Update (Advocacy, Public Affairs, & Special Projects)
- Special project work includes implementation activities supported by the WK Kellogg Foundation to develop conference activities and a three-state professional learning program in Pre-K-3 leadership and education, including a curriculum aligned to Leading P-K-3 Learning Communities: Competencies for Effective Principal Practice that will be available for aspiring or in-service principals in the profession. NAESP will be rolling this out as part of the program funding.

Learning Vision Goal Update (Professional Learning and Programs)
- A program for National Mentor Certification renewal is being developed for the 2015-2016 year. The certification is a three year renewal. A one day p-conference workshop for renewal is available at the Long Beach conference. This session will be presented in partnership with McREL and the balanced leadership research.

Communities Vision Goal Update (Membership Marketing, & Communications)
- Production is in full swing for this year’s installment of Principals Perspective TV, in partnership with ITN The program will once again launch at the Annual Conference in Long Beach.

Organizational Vision Goal Update (Governance, Finance, Administrations, Foundation, & Partnerships)
- The NAESP Board of Directors announced the resignation of Brian Partin from his position as Zone 4 Director, effective June 30, 2015. Brian was recently elected to the position of NAESP Vice President and will begin his term in that position on July 12015. Per Policy 300.2 Election Procedures for Zone Directors, Zone 4 has established the following procedures to fulfill the Zone 4 Director vacancy. The Zone 4 NAESP State Representatives will use the weighted “State Vote Allocation” outlined in Article V Section 5(f) of the NAESP Bylaws to elect the Zone 4 Director to serve the remainder of Brian Partin’s unexpired term, ending June 3, 2016. Following the expired term, tentative plans are for all Zone 4 members to vote and elect the next Zone 4 Director to a three year term on the NAESP Board of Directors. Please contact Jennifer Shannon at NAESP if you are interested in running for this position.
Kimbrelle Barbosa Lewis, principal of Cordova Elementary School in Cordova, Tennessee, was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). Gail Connelly, NAESP’s executive director, announced the decision from the Association’s headquarters.

Lewis begins her three-year term as director at large, minority level, on July 1, 2015. She will be tasked with representing minority principals and principals of schools that serve minority communities.

“Minority Principals must address the unique needs of impoverished populations while also being able to address the cultural needs and significance of diverse groups within their schools and cities,” said Lewis. “As a school administrator, I have worked within schools that resided in the most impoverished inner city zip codes, within the highest income brackets, and within a school (currently) with students from dozens and dozens of countries.”

Lewis has been a member of NAESP since 2006. She is also a member of the Tennessee Principals Association, and has served as its vice president since 2014.

Lewis has been principal of Cordova Elementary School since 2014. She has also served as principal of Raleigh-Bartlett Meadows Elementary School, and as assistant principal at Richland Elementary School. Lewis has an Ed.S. in administration and supervision and an M.E.D. in curriculum and instruction from Union University. She earned her B.A. from Rhodes College.

Principals are the primary catalysts for creating lasting foundations for learning. Since 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) has been the leading advocate for elementary and middle level principals in the United States and worldwide. NAESP advances the profession by developing policy, advancing advocacy and providing professional development and resources for instructional leadership, including specialized support and mentoring for early career principals. Key focus areas include pre-K-3 education, school safety, technology and digital learning, and effective educator evaluation. For more information about NAESP, please visit www.naesp.org. NAESP administers the National Principals Resource Center, the American Student Council Association, and the President’s Education Awards & American Citizenship Awards Programs.
April 10, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairman  Ranking Member  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
U.S. Senate  U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the nation’s 115,500 elementary, middle, and high school principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders, the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) congratulate you on remaining committed to a bipartisan process to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). In response to the negotiated bill that has been put forward for mark-up next week, our organizations are writing to provide comments concerning the “Every Child Achieves Act of 2015.”

Overall, AFSA, NAESP, and NASSP applaud the Every Child Achieves Act’s emphasis on supporting principals and school leaders. We specifically support the following provisions of the bill:

- Clarification of the term “School Leader” as the principal of an elementary, middle, or high school
- Inclusion of use of funds in Title II for a “School Leader Residency Program”
- Updated school leadership focused activities to improve the recruitment, preparation, placement, support, and retention of effective principals and other school leaders in high-need schools
- Allowable use of local Title II funds to develop induction and mentoring programs that are designed to improve school leadership and provide opportunities for mentor principals and other educators who are experienced, effective, and have demonstrated an ability to work with adult learners, as well as provide “personalized” professional development for educators
- Use of Title II funds to provide programs and activities to increase the knowledge base of teachers and principals on instruction in the early grades, which may include joint professional learning activities for principals leading preschool programs and early childhood educators focusing on transition issues for young children

We would also like to draw your attention to some concerns that we have with some principal-related provisions in the bill. First, we are pleased that the bill recognizes the value of principal-specific professional development opportunities and includes a provision that would allow states, under certain conditions, to reserve 3 percent of overall LEA funding for such activity. Our
organizations are concerned, however, that the bill makes principal professional development an optional activity subject to appropriations funding levels. Given the erratic nature of federal funding in recent years and in order for the provision to have a meaningful impact on directing funds to support principals as the bill intends, we urge you to make state reservations for principal professional development a required use of Title II funds.

Second, we appreciate the inclusion of improvements to principal evaluation systems where, if states and districts choose to focus on principal evaluation, they must address multiple measures and provide timely feedback and professional learning opportunities for principals. In addition, we recommend that the bill require states and districts to adjust and align principal evaluation systems to measure multiple domains of effective school leadership. We believe that Congress has a responsibility to provide more direct guidance to state and local efforts in order to support effective principal evaluation systems that will lead to improved school leadership performance. Therefore, we request that you incorporate into the bill the six domains of effective school leadership: student growth and achievement, school planning and progress, school culture, stakeholder support and engagement, professional qualities and practices, and professional growth and learning.

Finally, we appreciate the bill’s inclusion of requirements that states and local educational agencies work with local stakeholders, including principals, to develop differentiated state accountability systems and measures that go beyond student achievement. We also concur with the bill’s guidance to states and districts to utilize programs and strategies that have a strong evidence base. However, our organizations believe the bill should require states to base assessment and accountability systems on student growth to avoid an overreliance on standardized assessments. This should not be an option. Failure to make student growth the cornerstone of assessment and accountability systems may exacerbate the current problems in schools related to states’ overreliance on high-stakes summative assessments.

Our groups support a number of other provisions contained in the negotiated bill that we hope will remain part of the final, Senate-approved version, including:

- The elimination of Adequate Yearly Progress measures and the 100 percent proficiency requirements
- The removal of the one-size-fits-all federal accountability system
- The removal of the unworkable school turnaround models that are required under the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program regulations
- The continued disaggregation of subgroup data and reporting
- The absence of a provision to transform Title I funding—which is designed to assist public schools with high concentrations of poverty and high-need students—into a public or private school voucher through “portability”

We respectfully encourage you to continue to focus Every Child Achieves on supporting principals and school leadership. AFSA, NAESP, and NASSP look forward to working with you and the other committee members to include these critical issues in the reauthorization of ESEA. Our goal is to help promote legislation that will meet the current needs of schools and students through a balanced, fair, and appropriate federal role in education. We thank you again for your efforts to accomplish this goal through a bipartisan reauthorization process on behalf of the nation’s educators and students.

Sincerely,

JoAnn D. Bartoletti  Gail Connelly  Diann Woodard
Executive Director, NASSP  Executive Director, NAESP  President, AFSA
At the National Leaders Conference in February of each year, TPA leaders participate with leaders from other states in systematic, coordinated visitations with congressional offices in our nation’s capitol. Joined in these visits with key staffers and elected members of congress our Tennessee TPA delegation of president, president elect, NAESP state representative and executive director, and the two TPA members currently serving as officers or board members for the national association, Dr. Nancy Meador and Brian Partin. The full group of Flora, Gleason, McNary, Bentley, Partin, and Meador attended Senator Alexander and Senator Corker’s event known as Tennessee Tuesday. Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act was a key discussion topic this year. Your delegation specifically lobbied against the portability provision and for specified inclusion of principals and their important roles as school leaders. The portability provision (another term for draining off public school dollars) was later removed to get this bill out of committee. It will replace several negative/harmful provisions of what came to be known as “No Child Left Behind” from the Bush reauthorization (NCLB). In planned training sessions the NAESP legislative staff briefed us on key provisions before the visits were made.
# TPA’s 2015 Approved Budget

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- 2015 -

**May 30,31** Proposed TPA summer planning meeting, Nashville area

**June 1-5** Standards Review and Development Committee meets in Nashville

**June 30-July 2**
NAESP Annual Conference, Long Beach, California

**July 1**
Southeast Council, Long Beach, California

**September**
Executive Committee Conference Call, date and time TBA

**October 26-28**
LEAD, Music City Center, Nashville

**November 13-16**
TSBA Annual Convention, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville

**December 5-9**
Learning Forward 2015, Washington D.C.

**December 9,10**
TPA Conference, Embassy Suites, Cool Springs/Franklin
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West Grand Division Director
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Special Appointment
Catherine Prentis
(retired)

Special Appointment
Dr. Sam Shaw
Berclair Elementary