



Board of Education Regular Meeting
October 8, 2020 6:30 PM
Sullivan Central High School Theater
131 Shipley Ferry Road
Blountville, TN 37617

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2020
4. Communications to the Board
 - a. Director's Comments
 - a. Recognition of Sgt. Jeret Ratliff
 - b. High School and Middle School Planning Schedule (Work Session Discussion)
 - c. Maintenance Report (Work Session Discussion)
5. Public Comment - Agenda Items
6. Unfinished Business
 - a. Disposition of Holston Valley Middle School Property
 - b. Policy 6.309 Zero Tolerance Offenses - Adopt on 2nd Reading
 - c. Policy 6.316 Suspension/Expulsion/Reprimand - Adopt on 2nd Reading
 - d. 2020-2021 Operating Schedule Update
7. New Business
 - a. Policy 4.205 Enrollment in College Level Courses - Review on 1st Reading
 - b. Policy 6.319 Alternative Education - Waiver of Rules/Adopt on 1st Reading
 - c. Tentative Annual Board Agenda
 - d. 2021-2022 School Calendar
 - e. Consideration of Resolution in Support of Basic Education Program Hold Harmless Legislation
 - f. Consideration of Resolution Moratorium on State Standardized Testing for 20-21
 - g. Naming of Sullivan South Gymnasium - 1st Reading
 - h. Consideration of Approval of High School Dean and Activities Director Positions
8. Public Comment - Non-agenda Items
9. Board Chairman Comments
 - a. Director's Evaluation Results
10. Adjournment

Sullivan County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March	Descriptor Term: Zero Tolerance Offenses	Descriptor Code: 6.309	Issued Date: 10/04/18
		Rescinds: 6.309	Issued: 09/09/13

1 In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the following offenses will not be tolerated:

2 **WEAPONS & DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS**

3 Students shall not possess, handle, transmit, use or attempt to use any dangerous weapon in school
4 buildings or on school grounds at any time, or in school vehicles and/or buses or off the school
5 grounds at a school-sponsored activity, function or event.¹

6 Dangerous weapons for the purposes of this policy shall include, but are not limited to a firearm or
7 anything manifestly designed, made or adapted for the purpose of inflicting death or serious bodily
8 injury or anything that in the manner of its use or intended use is capable of causing death or serious
9 bodily injury.²

10 Violators of this section shall be subject to suspension and/or expulsion from school.

11 **Firearms (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921)³**

12 In accordance with state law, any student who brings or possess a firearm on school property shall be
13 expelled for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. The director of schools shall have the
14 authority to modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.⁴

15 **DRUGS**

16 In accordance with state law, any student who brings or unlawfully possesses any drug including any
17 controlled substance, controlled substance analog, or legend drug on school grounds or at a school-
18 sponsored event shall be expelled for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. The director of
19 schools shall have the authority to modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.⁴

20 **ASSAULT**

21 In accordance with state law, any student who commits aggravated assault⁵ as defined in § 39-13-102
22 or commits assault that results in bodily injury upon any teacher, principal administrator, any other
23 employee of the school or school resource officer shall be expelled for a period of not less than one (1)
24 calendar year.⁶ The director of schools shall have the authority to modify this expulsion requirement on
25 a case-by-case basis.⁴

26 **ELECTRONIC THREATS**

27 In accordance with state law, any student who transmits by an electronic device any communication
28 containing a credible threat to cause bodily injury or death to another student or school employee and

1 the transmission of such threat creates actual disruptive activity at the school that requires
2 administrative intervention shall be expelled for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. The
3 director of schools shall have the authority to modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case
4 basis.⁴

5 NOTIFICATION

6 When it is determined that a student has violated this policy, the principal of the school shall notify the
7 student's parent or guardian and the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system as required by law.⁷

8 **Students that commit a zero tolerance offense may be assigned to an alternative school or**
9 **program at the discretion of the Director of Schools.**⁸

Legal References

1. TCA 39-17-1309(b)
2. TCA 39-11-106(a)(5)
3. 18 USCA § 921(a)(3); 20 USCA § 7961(b)(3)
4. TCA 49-6-4216(b); TCA 49-6-3401(g)
5. TCA 39-13-102
6. TCA 39-13-101(a)(1); Public Acts 2018, Chapter No. 958
7. TCA 49-6-4209; TCA 39-17-1312
8. **TCA 49-6-3401(g)(2); TCA 49-6-3402; Public Acts of 2020, Chapter No. 603**

Cross References

Code of Conduct 6.300
Drug-Free Schools 6.307
Discipline Procedures 6.313
Suspension/Expulsion/Remand 6.316

Sullivan County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Suspension/Expulsion/Remand	Descriptor Code: 6.316	Issued Date: 11/04/13
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 **DEFINITIONS:¹**

2 **Suspension:** dismissed from attendance at school for any reason not more than ten (10) consecutive
3 days. Multiple suspensions shall not run consecutively nor shall multiple suspensions be applied to
4 avoid expulsion from school.

5 **Expulsion:** removal from attendance for more than ten (10) consecutive days or more than fifteen (15)
6 days in a month of school attendance. Multiple suspensions that occur consecutively shall constitute
7 expulsion.

8 **Remand:** assignment to an alternative school.

9 **REASONS FOR SUSPENSION/EXPULSION:**

10 Any principal, principal-teacher or assistant principal (herein called principal) may suspend/expel any
11 student from attendance at school or any school-related activity on or off campus or from attendance at
12 a specific class or classes, or from riding a school bus, without suspending such student from
13 attendance at school (in-school suspension), for good and sufficient reasons including, but not limited
14 to:²

- 15 1. Willful and persistent violation of the rules of the school;
- 16
- 17 2. Immoral or disreputable conduct, including vulgar or profane language;
- 18
- 19 3. Violence or threatened violence against the person of any personnel attending or assigned to
20 any school;
- 21
- 22 4. Willful or malicious damage to real or personal property of the school, or the property of any
23 person attending or assigned to the school;
- 24
- 25 5. Inciting, advising or counseling of others to engage in any of the acts herein enumerated;
- 26

- 1 6. Possession of a pistol, gun or firearm on school property;³
- 2
- 3 7. Possession of a knife, etc., as defined in TCA 39-17-1309, on school property;
- 4
- 5 8. Assaulting a principal, teacher, school bus driver or other school personnel with vulgar,
- 6 obscene or threatening language;
- 7
- 8 9. Unlawful use or possession of barbital or legend drugs, as defined in TCA 53-10-101;³
- 9
- 10 10. Engaging in behavior which disrupts a class or school-sponsored activity;
- 11
- 12 11. Making a threat, including a false report, to use a bomb, dynamite, or any other deadly
- 13 explosive or destructive device including chemical weapons on school property or at a school
- 14 sponsored event;
- 15
- 16 12. One (1) or more students initiating a physical attack on an individual student on school
- 17 property or at a school activity, including travel to and from school;
- 18
- 19 13. Off-campus criminal behavior resulting in felony charges;
- 20
- 21 14. When behavior poses a danger to persons or property or disrupts the educational process; and
- 22
- 23 15. Any other conduct prejudicial to good order or discipline in any school.
- 24
- 25 16. **Marking, defacing, or destroying school property.**

26 If as a result of an investigation, a principal or his/her designee finds that a student acted in self-
 27 defense under a reasonable belief that the student, or another to whom the student was coming to the
 28 defense, may have been facing the threat of imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, then,
 29 the student may not face any disciplinary action.⁴

30 **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:**⁵

- 31 1. Students given an in-school suspension in excess of one (1) day from classes shall attend
- 32 either special classes attended only by students guilty of misconduct or be placed in an
- 33 isolated area appropriate for study; and
- 34
- 35 2. Personnel responsible for in-school suspension will see that each student is supervised at all
- 36 times and has ~~textbooks and~~ **curriculum materials and** classwork assignments from his/her

1 regular teachers. Students given in-school suspension shall be required to complete academic
2 assignments and shall receive credit for work completed.

3 **PROCEDURES FOR OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION:**⁶
4

- 5 1. Unless the student's continued presence in the school, class or school-related activity presents
6 an immediate danger to the student or other persons or property, no principal shall
7 suspend/expel any student until that student has been advised of the nature of his/her
8 misconduct, questioned about it, and allowed to give an explanation.
9
- 10 2. Upon suspension/expulsion of any student (in-school suspension in excess of one (1) day),
11 the principal shall make an immediate attempt to contact the parent or guardian to inform
12 them of the suspension/expulsion. The student shall not be sent home before the end of the
13 school day unless the parent or guardian has been contacted.
14
- 15 3. The principal shall notify the parent or guardian and the director of schools or designee in
16 writing:
17
- 18 a. Of the suspension/expulsion and the cause for it; and
 - 19 b. A request for a meeting with the parent or guardian, student and principal, to be
20 held as soon as possible, but no later than five (5) days following the
21 suspension/expulsion.
22
- 23 4. Immediately following the scheduled meeting, whether or not attended by the parent or
24 guardian or student, the principal shall determine the length of the suspension/expulsion and
25 set conditions for readmission. If the principal determines the length of the suspension to be
26 between six (6) and the maximum of ten (10) days, the principal shall develop and implement
27 a plan for correcting the behavior when the student returns to school.
28
- 29 5. If at the time of the suspension the principal determines that an offense has been committed
30 which, in the judgment of the principal would justify a suspension/expulsion for more than
31 ten (10) days, he/she may suspend/expel/remand the student unconditionally for a specified
32 period of time or upon such terms and conditions as are deemed reasonable.
33
- 34 6. The principal shall immediately give written or actual notice to the parent or guardian and the
35 student of the right to appeal the decision to suspend/expel/remand for more than ten (10)

1 days. The notice shall include a statement that, unless the student's parent or guardian
2 requests an open hearing in writing within five (5) days of receipt of the notice, any hearing
3 will be closed to the public. All appeals must be filed, orally or in writing, within five (5)
4 days after receipt of the notice and may be filed by the parent or guardian, the student or any
5 person holding a teaching license who is employed by the school system if requested by the
6 student.

7
8 7. The appeal from this decision shall be to the Board or to a disciplinary hearing authority
9 appointed by the Board.
10

11 8. If the suspension/expulsion occurs during the last ten (10) days of any term or semester, the
12 student shall be permitted to take such final examinations or submit such required work as
13 necessary to complete the course of instruction for that semester, subject to conditions
14 prescribed by the principal.

Legal References:

1. TCA 49-6-3007(h)
2. TCA 49-2-203(a)(7); TCA 49-6-3401(a)
3. TCA 49-6-4216; TCA 39-17-1309; TCA 39-17-417
4. TCA 49-6-3401(i)
5. TCA 49-6-3401(b)(1)
6. TCA 49-6-3401(4)-(6); *Goss v. Lopez*, 419 U.S. 565 (Ohio, 1975);
Individuals with Disabilities Act Amendments of 1997 § 615

Cross References:

- Procedural Due Process 6.302
Interference/Disruption of School Activities 6.306
Bus Conduct 6.308
Zero Tolerance Offenses 6.309
Dress Codes 6.310
Discipline Procedures 6.313
Disciplinary Hearing Authority 6.317

Sullivan County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Enrollment in College Level Courses	Descriptor Code: 4.205	Issued Date: 02/07/19
		Rescinds: 4.205	Issued: 02/04/13

Students who complete college-level courses aligned to a graduation requirement course in the 11th or 12th grade may earn high school credit. ~~by enrolling in college level courses.~~¹ Written approval by the parent, principal, and institution of higher learning shall be required before enrollment.

Students shall be eligible to earn one (1) high school credit for each three (3) semester hours of college credit.

These courses may be offered at the high school,² post-secondary institution, or online. If not offered on the high school campus, the Board shall not be responsible for transportation. Any tuition or fees due to enrollment in college-level courses are the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s).

Grades earned in such college-level courses may be used to determine class rank, and grade point average.

~~The Board shall not be responsible for transportation to and from the college or for payment of tuition or related fees.~~

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Students may earn credit by enrolling in a postsecondary institution and taking college-level courses. Students who take and pass dual enrollment courses at a postsecondary institution shall have their post-secondary credits accepted for high school credit as a substitution for an aligned graduation requirement course.³

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Students will earn high school credit for taking and passing an AP course. Postsecondary credit and the application of that credit to the college course of study is dependent upon the receiving institution.

Legal References

1. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06(4)

Click here to choose a school board.			
Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March	Descriptor Term: Alternative Education	Descriptor Code: 6.319	Issued Date:
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 *General*¹

2 The Board shall operate an alternative school and/or program for students in grades ~~seven~~ six through
3 twelve (~~7~~6-12) who have been suspended or expelled from the regular school program.

4 ~~{If the district maintains both an alternative school and program, adopt both definitions. If your
5 district only has one option, choose the appropriate definition.}~~

6 ~~An alternative school is a short term intervention program designed to provide educational services
7 outside the regular school program for students who have been suspended or expelled. The alternative
8 school is located in a separate facility from the regular school program.~~

9 An alternative program is a short-term intervention program designed to provide educational services
10 outside the regular school program for students who have been suspended or expelled. Alternative
11 programs may be located within the regular school or be a self-contained program within a school.
12 Alternative programs shall include, but are not limited to, the following: ~~_____ [e.g. night
13 school or in-school suspension].~~

14 The alternative school and/or program shall be operated in accordance with state laws and the rules of
15 the State Board of Education, and instruction shall proceed as nearly as practicable in accordance with
16 the instructional program at the student’s regular school. The Director of Schools shall develop
17 procedures that provide appropriate educational opportunities for all students assigned to the
18 alternative school or program. These educational opportunities shall adhere to Tennessee’s academic
19 standards.²

20 **ASSIGNMENT**

21 Students who have been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled shall be assigned to the
22 alternative school or program if there is staff and space available.³ Availability of staff and space shall
23 be determined at the time the disciplinary decision is rendered. The Director of Schools/designee shall
24 make this determination by evaluating factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- 25 1. Level of supervision available;
- 26
- 27 2. Safety considerations; and
- 28
- 29 3. Type of infraction.

30 Students who have committed a zero tolerance offenses are not required to be assigned to alternative
31 schools or programs.⁴

1 Prior to the assignment of the student to the alternative school or program, the Director of
 2 Schools/designee shall provide written notice to the student's parent/guardian stating the reason for the
 3 student's placement.⁵

4 Placement in an alternative education setting shall be reserved for students who significantly disrupt
 5 the educational process. If a student has an active Individualized Education Plan, a 504 plan, or is
 6 suspected of having a disability, all state and federal laws and rules and regulations related to special
 7 education shall be followed. The Director of Schools/designee shall develop procedures regarding
 8 placement of students in the program, taking into consideration the impact of exclusionary discipline
 9 practices.⁶

10 The Director of Schools/designee shall monitor and regularly evaluate the academic progress of each
 11 student enrolled in the alternative school.

12 **REMOVAL**⁷

13 A student may be removed from the alternative school or program if:

- 14 1. He/she violates the rules of the alternative school or program; or
- 15
- 16 2. He/she is not benefitting from the assignment and all interventions have been exhausted
- 17 unsuccessfully.

18 **ADDITIONAL OFFENSES**⁸

19 Any new disciplinary offense committed during a student's original suspension or expulsion period
 20 shall be treated as a new and separate offense. These offenses shall not constitute an extension of the
 21 original suspension or expulsion.

22 **TRANSITION PLAN**⁹

23 The Director of Schools/designee shall develop procedures regarding the implementation of transition
 24 plans for the integration of students assigned to the alternative school.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-3402(a); Public Acts of 2020, Chapter No. 603; TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09
2. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(a)
3. Public Acts of 2020, Chapter No. 603
4. Public Acts of 2020, Chapter No. 603; TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(6)(a)
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(i)
6. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(h)
7. Public Acts of 2020, Chapter No. 603
8. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(g)(2)
9. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(m)

Cross References

- Special Education 4.202
- Suspension 6.316
- Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority 6.317
- Special Education Students 6.500



SULLIVAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
154 Blountville Bypass
P.O. Box 306
Blountville, TN 37617

**Tentative Annual
Board Agenda**

Monthly Consent Agenda Items:

Meeting Minutes
Field Trip Requests
Surplus Property

January

Policy Review: Section 2 – Fiscal Management
Begin Budget Process

February

Policy Review: Section 5 - Personnel (5.100 – 5.310)
New Courses

March

Textbook Adoptions
Policy Review: Section 5 – Personnel (5.400 – 5.803)

April

Annual School Fees
Policy Review: Section 6 – Student (6.100 – 6.319)

May

Annual Budget
Application for Local Consolidated Plan
Differentiated Pay Plan
Policy Review: Section 6 – Student (6.400 – 6.711)

June

Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook

July

Free/Reduced Price Policy
Program Agreement for School Lunch Program
Tenure Approval
Annual Agenda
Transportation Contracts

August

September

Electing of Board Chair & Vice Chair
Director's Evaluation
Policy Review: Section 1 – School Board Operations

October

Textbook Adoption Committee
Board Committee Assignments
Board Self Evaluation
Policy Review: Section 3 – Support Services
Calendar for Next School Year

November

Annual Approval for New Courses
Annual LEA Compliance Report
Early Graduates Update
Policy Review: Section 4 – Instructional Program

December

PECCA Approval

Sullivan County Department of Education

2021-2022

Academic Year Calendar

DRAFT CALENDAR 2

July 21						
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March 22						
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June 22						
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July 22						
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August 22						
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Events

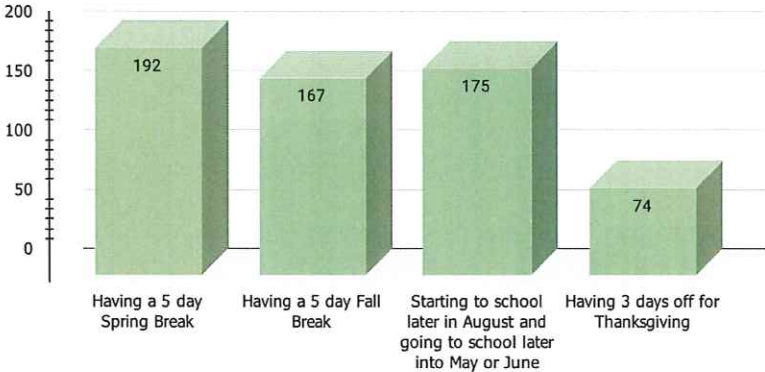
- Aug. 2 Administrative Day All Teachers
- Aug. 3 Inservice Day All Teachers
- Aug. 4 Inservice Day All Teachers
- Aug. 5 Inservice Day All Teachers
- Aug. 6 Administrative Day All Teachers
- Aug. 9 First Day for Students
- Sept. 6 Labor Day
- Sept. 13 Parent-Teacher Conference Day
- Oct. 8 End of First Nine Weeks
- Oct. 11-15 Fall Break
- Oct. 22 Inservice Day All Teachers
- Nov. 24, 25, 26 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 17 1/2 Day for Students /End Term 1
- Dec. 20- Dec. 31 Closed for Holidays
- Jan. 3 Staff Development Day
- Jan. 4 First Day of Second Term (Full Day of School)
- Jan. 17 Closed for Martin Luther King Holiday
- Feb. 7 Parent-Teacher Conference Day
- March 4 Staff Development Day & End of 3rd 9 weeks
- March 28-April 1 Spring Break
- April 15 Schools Closed Good Friday
- May 3 Closed for Election (date could change)**
- May 26 is 1/2 for Students/ End Term 2
- May 27 Administrative Day
- 11 built in Snow Days
- 177 Student Attendance Days
- 2 Staff Development Days
- 3 Administrative Days
- 2 Parent-Teacher Conference Days
- 4 Inservice Days
- 1 INSERVICE DAY PROVIDED BY PRINCIPAL AFTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY

- No school for students or staff
- Staff development day; students do not attend
- Inservice day; students do not attend
- 1/2 Day for Students

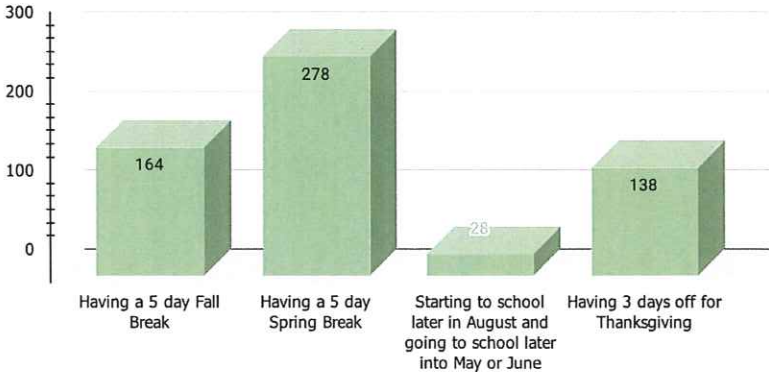
- First day of school for the term
- Parent-Teacher Conference Day Students do not attend
- Administrative Day; students do not attend

Employee Responses: 608

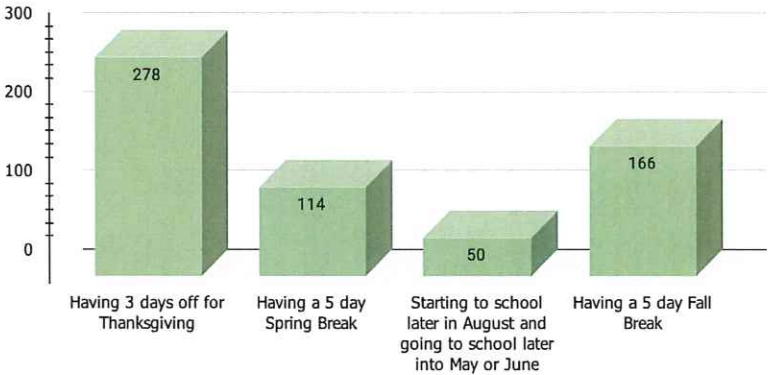
Employee: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [First Choice]



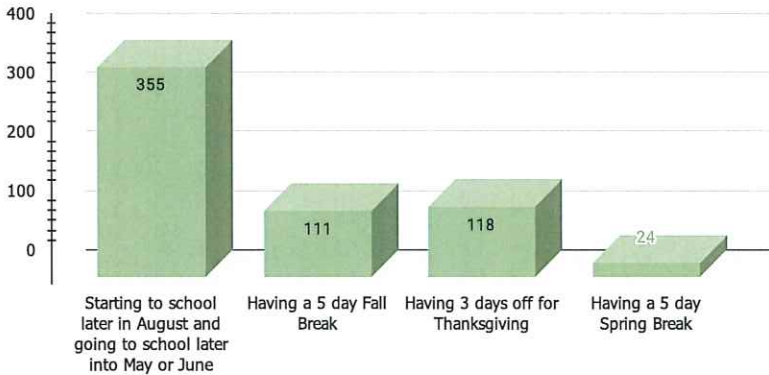
Employee: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [Second Choice]



Employee: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [Third Choice]

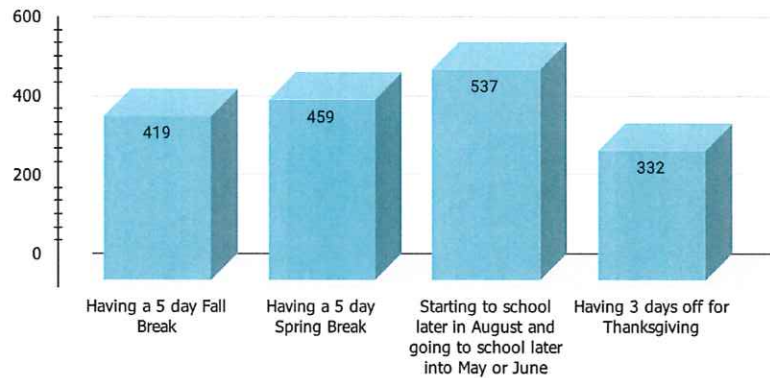


Employee: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [Fourth Choice]

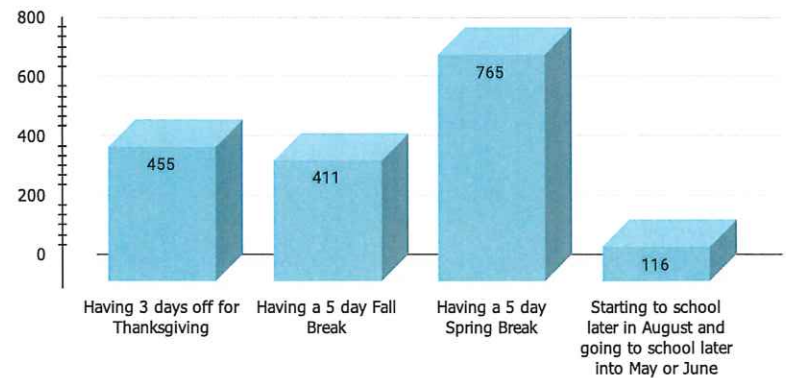


Parent Responses: 1747

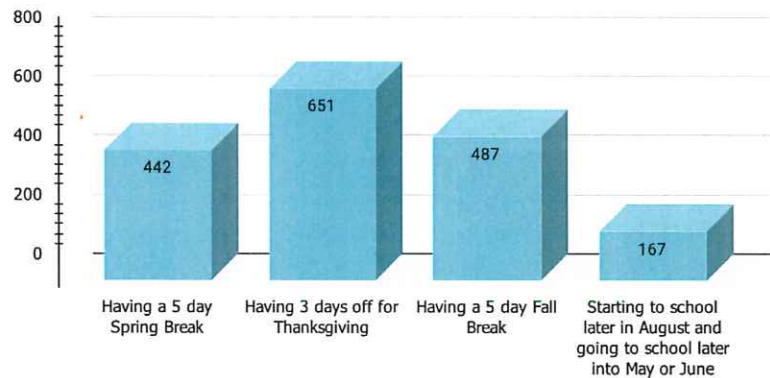
Parent: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you.
[First Choice]



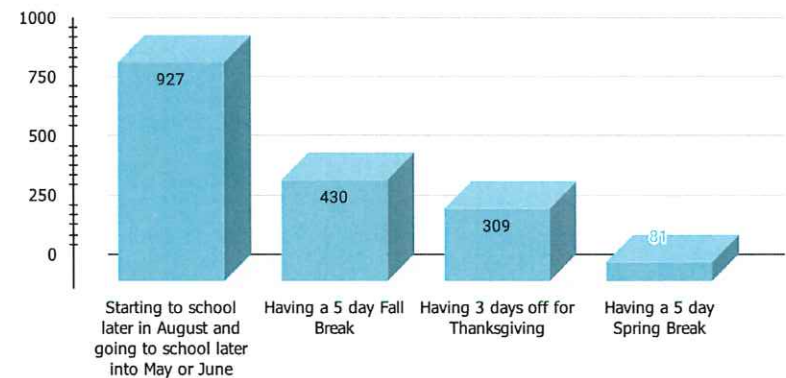
Parent: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you.
[Second Choice]



Parent: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you.
[Third Choice]

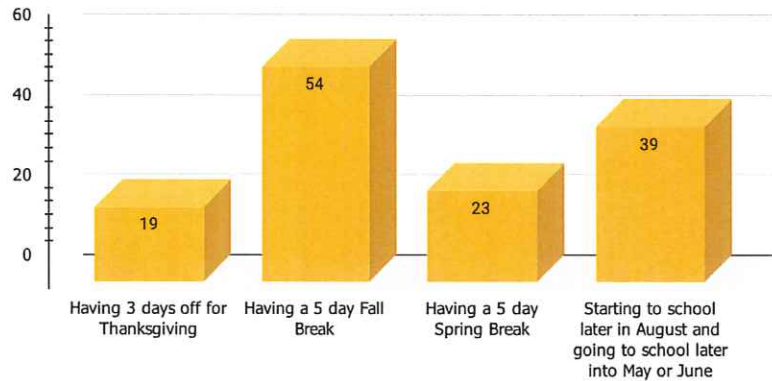


Parent: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you.
[Fourth Choice]

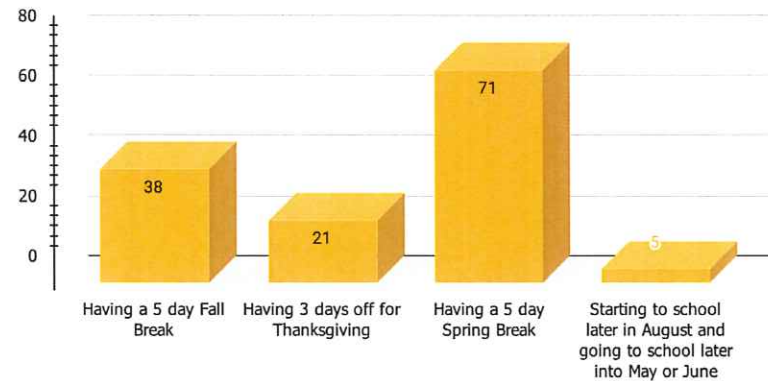


Student Responses: 135

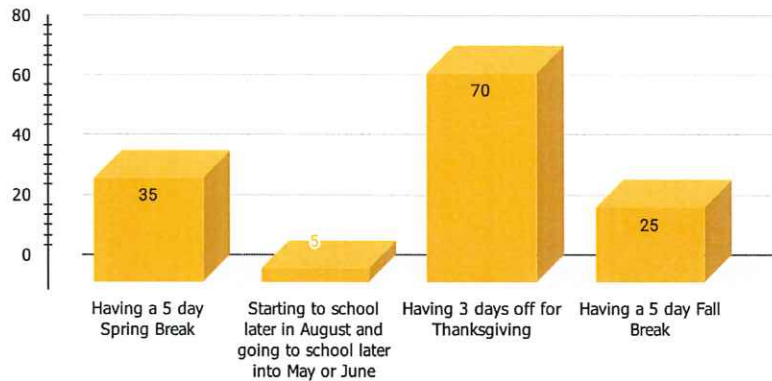
Student: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [First Choice]



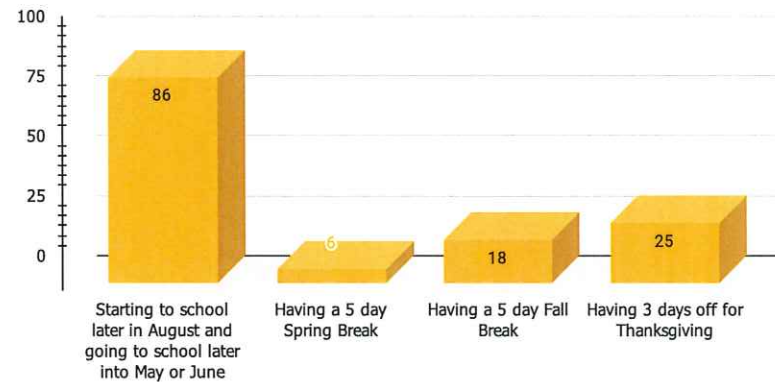
Student: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [Second Choice]



Student: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [Third Choice]

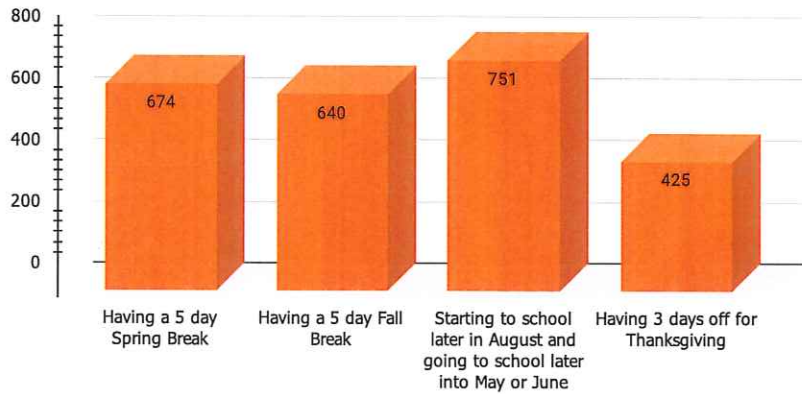


Student: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [Fourth Choice]

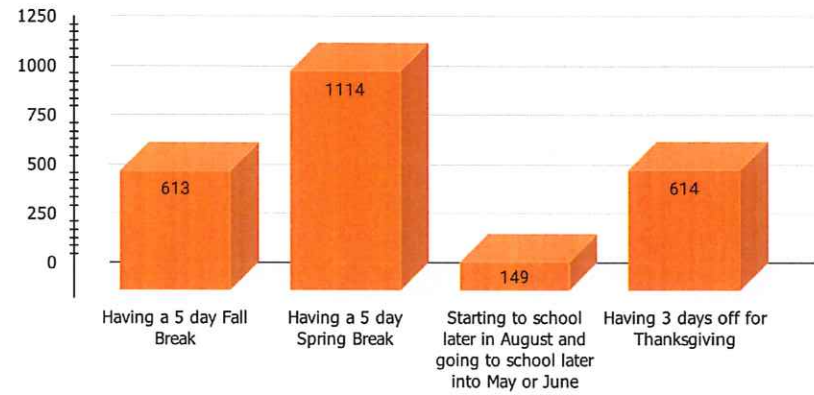


Overall Responses: 2490

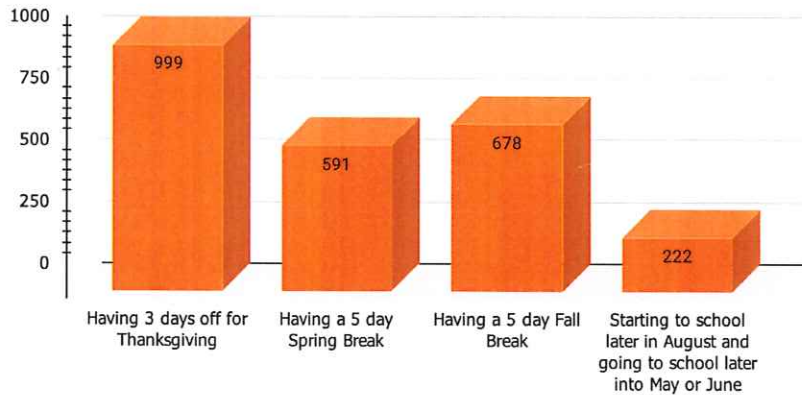
Overall: Count of Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [First Choice]



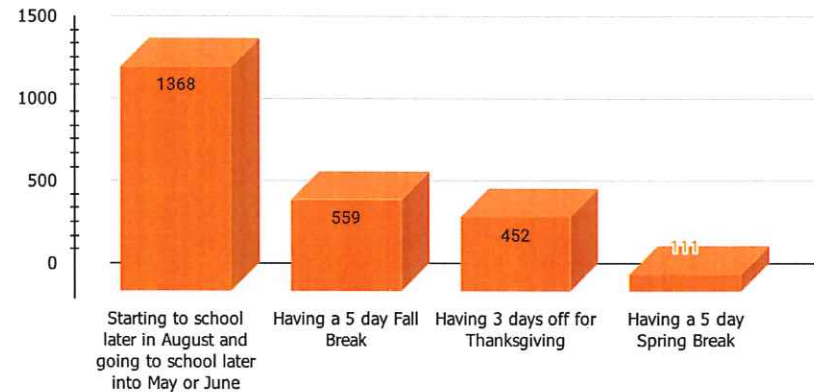
Overall: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [Second Choice]



Overall: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [Third Choice]



Overall: Please rank your choices in order of importance to you. [Fourth Choice]





**SULLIVAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM HOLD HARMLESS LEGISLATION FOR THE
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a global pandemic that can lead to serious illness or death and spreads through close contact among individuals; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread at a rapid rate in Tennessee and has impacted school districts across the state; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools, in order to comply with Tennessee State Board of Education requirements will likely have to engage in remote learning, in whole or in part, during the 202-2021 academic school year due to the continued spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be implementing different plans for learning from county to county across the state for the 2020-2021 school year, based upon the needs of their students and COVID-19 outbreaks in each county; and

WHEREAS, the Basic Education Program (BEP) is the funding formula through which state education dollars are generated and distributed to Tennessee schools; and

WHEREAS, Student enrollment (average daily membership) is the primary driver of funds generated by the BEP; and there are 47 BEP components, most of which are based on student enrollment; and the funds generated by the BEP are divided into state and local shares for each of the three major categories: instructional, classroom and non-classroom; and

WHEREAS, because of COVID-19, it is likely that many families across the state may remove their students from public schools during the 2020-2021 school year and choose other learning options; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools may see a decrease in attendance in the 2020-2021 school year as families take precautions to combat the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, holding school districts harmless for enrollment decreases is the top priority of the BEP Review Committee of the Tennessee State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, there is a one-year lag in how enrollment affects BEP funding amounts;

Now, therefore, be it resolved on this the 8th day of October 2020, by the Sullivan County Board of Education that Sullivan County Schools:

Supports and respectfully requests that BEP funding for the 2021-2022 school year be based on and equal to or greater than the July Final BEP enrollment allocation provided by the state department for the school year 2020-2021. Also, the Sullivan County Board of Education requests the BEP allocation amounts provided to districts for the 2021-2022 school year would additionally reflect the growth funds equal to or greater than funds received for the 2019-2020 school year. Most importantly, BEP allocations should not be negatively impacted based on student ADM of the 2020-2021 school year.

Randall Jones
Board Chair

Matthew Spivey
Board Vice-Chair

Randall Gilmore
Board Member

Michael Hughes
Board Member

Mark Ireson
Board Member

Paul Robinson
Board Member

Dr. Mary Rouse
Board Member



**SULLIVAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION
MORATORIM ON STATE STANDARDIZED TESTING FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a global pandemic that can lead to serious illness or death and spreads through close contact among individuals; and

WHEREAS, beginning on March 12, 2020, Governor Bill Lee declared Tennessee to be in a state of emergency until June 30, 2020, pursuant to Executive Orders 14 and 36, due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, beginning on March 16, 2020, Tennessee schools were closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, in response to requests made by Governor Bill Lee that they close to combat the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Tennessee General Assembly approved the cancellation of state standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year, due to the statewide closure of schools and subsequent lack of standardized instruction being delivered to students; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, the Tennessee State Board of Education approved Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-.01, which requires Tennessee school districts to provide students in grades one (1) through twelve (12) access to six and one half (6 ½) hours of instructional time each school day during the 2020-2021 school year, even if there are school closures or disruptions related to outbreaks of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order 50 signed by Governor Bill Lee, the state of Tennessee is to remain in a state of emergency until at least September 30, 2020 and COVID-19 continues to spread at a rapid rate in Tennessee; and,

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools, in order to comply with State Board requirements, will likely have to engage in remote learning, in whole or in part, during the 2020-2021 academic school year due to the continued spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to State Board Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-.01, Tennessee school districts are required to each create and implement their own plans to facilitate continuous learning in light of the continued spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be implementing different plans for learning from county to county across the state for the 2020-2021 school year, based upon the needs of their students and COVID-19 outbreaks in each county; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee students will likely face significant academic and behavioral regression upon returning to school, having lost approximately two (2) months of standard instruction and attendance due to the extended closure; and

WHEREAS, when schools resumed in August 2020, students spent approximately five (5) consecutive months out of school; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be focused not only on student growth and safety, but also on recoupment of academic and social and emotional skills lost during the extended closure; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved on this the 8th day of October 2020, by the Sullivan County Board of Education that Sullivan County Schools:

Supports and respectfully requests a moratorium on state standardized testing and accountability associated with such testing for the 2020-2021 school year, to include end-of-year examinations, end-of-course exams, and formative assessments throughout the year. The Sullivan County Board of Education requests that, if state standardized testing does continue in some format for the 2020-2021 school year, the results of that testing be used as metrics of student progress rather than to determine district rankings and scorings statewide and not count toward student grades or teacher and administrator evaluations, due to the disparity in 1) learning methods that will be used across the state in light of COVID-19; 2) resources available to each district in the state of Tennessee; and 3) internet access available to the student population across the state. Such a moratorium would permit school districts to focus on recoupment of students' academic and social/emotional skills lost during the extended school closure and the safety and welfare of students.

Randall Jones
Board Chair

Matthew Spivey
Board Vice-Chair

Randall Gilmore
Board Member

Michael Hughes
Board Member

Mark Ireson
Board Member

Paul Robinson
Board Member

Dr. Mary Rouse
Board Member