



# THE COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE



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The pandemic hasn't stopped our District and School Board from supporting students, families and employees. Several drive-thru events have been held to provide school supplies, food, clothing, and more to families during these challenging times.



## MEETING SUMMARY

On May 11, The Community Engagement and Legislative Advocacy Committee met to discuss the equity audit, lead results and next steps. Discussions were made to create a Board Resolution to direct the Superintendent to create an accountability metric for the McKinney Bill. Updates were provided regarding the District's summer programs, as well as discussions regarding the priorities for the 2022 legislative agenda.

## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2022

The School Board discussed potential items to add to the 2022 SCS Legislative Agenda. Topics/bills discussed include the Continuing Contract (SB1345/HB1443), a bill presented by the State of Tennessee focusing on Teachers, Principals and School Personnel. Other bills include Background Checks (SB1424/HB1131), Cybersecurity (SB1425/HB925), and RTI2 (SB1465/HB1548).

Next steps in the committee include the 2021 Legislative Report, the review of legislation to determine policy implications, scheduling meetings with Chiefs, Directors and Principals to provide an overview of passed legislation, scheduling time for lobbyists to meet with the Board, and preparations for the 2022 Legislative Agenda.

Click these links to view the [2020](#) and [2021](#) Legislative Agendas.

Committee Co-Chair - Stephanie P. Love

## SCS BOARD MEMBERS

Committee Co-Chair - Sheleah Harris



Michelle Robinson McKissack  
District 1



Althea Greene  
District 2



Stephanie P. Love  
District 3



Kevin Woods  
District 4



Sheleah Harris  
District 5



Shante K. Avant  
District 6



Miska Clay Bibbs  
District 7



William "Billy" Orgel  
District 8



Joyce Dorse Coleman  
District 9



***A student volunteers during a school supply drive held last March in preparation of SCS students returning to in-person learning.***

## EQUITY AUDIT

The School Board pushed for an equity audit to help identify barriers to educational equity that exist among schools and neighborhoods. The Board believes that every student regardless of race, income, personal characteristics, or other societal conditions have a right to an equitable educational experience.

The District requested that the Center for Research in Educational Policy (CREP) at the University of Memphis conduct an equity audit outlining by race and ethnicity the extent to which any barriers to educational equity exist among schools and neighborhoods. Schools in the District are grouped and results reported in seven regions based on geographical location. The Office of Equity and Access presented the results of the audit. Click [here](#) to review the presentation.

### **Schools are grouped & results reported in seven regions based on schools' geographic location.**

- 1. Black students in ELA Math, science, & social studies were more likely than Latinx or White students to have the lowest grade for all three years in each subject. Averaged a C in all regions except Southwest high B.
- 1. By subject Latinx students never had the lowest mean grade across all grades from 2017-2020. Averaged a low to mid B range.
- 1. White students were more likely than Black or Latinx to have the highest grade for 2017-20 in each subject in five or seven regions. Averaged a high B in all regions except North and Southwest.

## THE SCS MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT OVERVIEW

The Student Equity, Enrollment, and Discipline Office (S.E.E.D.) provided an overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Under McKinney-Vento, state educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) must ensure that homeless children and youths have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

Supports provided include transportation, school supplies and uniform vouchers, connection to medical and health resources, academic tutoring, and more.

The McKinney-Vento program is funded in part by sub grants awarded based on the district's needs, goals, objectives, and quality of the sub-grant application. The program is also funded through the Homeless Title I Set-Aside Funds which are determined based on the needs of the program and community trends regarding homelessness.

For more details, view the presentation [here](#).



*A community member donates winter clothing to students in need.  
December 2020*

### **For more information and to review the details of the committee reports, [click here](#).**

Committee meetings are for Board members to have in-depth discussions with District leadership on specific topics and provide feedback/input on items that affect the District. There are no official actions or votes during these meetings.