



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tennesseans for Quality Early Education issues the following statement today in support of Governor Lee's education proposals:

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE) issues the following statement today in support of Governor Lee's education proposals:

“With nearly two-thirds of Tennessee’s third graders not proficient in reading and math – a number that has likely worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic – improving early education is an urgent priority. TQEE supports the Lee administration’s education proposals as a strong and important start for addressing the literacy crisis and education-related challenges laid bare by the pandemic. We urge the legislature to provide swift passage and begin a robust, ongoing effort to boost early learning in Tennessee.”

Why 3rd grade reading proficiency matters

Third grade is widely acknowledged as a critical benchmark year for future academic success. Yet far too many Tennessee school children reach third grade significantly behind and most of those children never catch up. Data and evidence overwhelmingly show a connection between third grade reading proficiency and future academic success.

Like applying bricks and mortar when building a house, all learning builds on prior learning. The first eight years are especially crucial. [TQEE supports policy proposals that help ensure our children have the early learning foundation needed for future success in school and life.](#)

About TQEE

Tennesseans For Quality Early Education (TQEE) is a bipartisan coalition of Tennesseans committed to ensuring Tennessee’s youngest learners, birth through 3rd grade, get the quality early education they need to power our state’s future.

TQEE is on the web at tqee.org.