

TICUA Policy Update

June 5, 2009

Legislative Session Coming to a Close

The first session of the 106th General Assembly is lasting much longer than most had hoped. Many are hoping for a closure by this next week. The reason for the prolonged session centers on the lack of State revenue due to the lagging economy. Both the House and the Senate are grappling with how to handle the shortfall. Governor Phil Bredesen submitted his omnibus budget bill this week hoping for a solution. Still included in the mix is a \$3.2 million increased appropriation for the State's need-based student aid program which will keep the program even with last year's funding.

Math/Science Teacher Scholarship Delayed

TICUA's proposed Math/Science Teacher Scholarship has been delayed for consideration until January 2010. The fiscal condition of the State has caused legislators to be unusually cautious about any programs that might obligate the State for funding in the future. The Scholarship is designed to partner with private corporations and foundations in Tennessee by asking them to front-fund the \$1.5 million program and then have the State provide ongoing funding into the future. The program's fiscal note indicates that the State will possibly need to consider providing some funding in 2012 which caused the bill to be delayed until year.