

A RESOLUTION OF THE KNOXVILLE CHAMBER SUPPORTING COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

WHEREAS, in order to become America's Best Business Address, the Knoxville region needs to have the most-skilled and educated workforce to meet existing and future industry workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Supreme Court has determined that the State Constitution requires that the state provide, at a minimum, an adequate education described as "the opportunity to acquire knowledge, develop the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally prepare students intellectually for a mature life;" and

WHEREAS, only twenty-one percent of Knox County students met all four ACT college readiness benchmarks, which are proven indicators of a student's likelihood of success in post-secondary training and the workplace; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the U.S. Chamber of Commerce published a state-by-state report card which gave Tennessee an "F" for Truth in Advertising about Student Proficiency, which led to Tennessee's first steps toward improving its academic standards through the Tennessee Diploma Project in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee enhanced their commitment in 2010 by adopting its new standards, known as the Common Core State Standards, created by a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers and supported by all 146 school systems, teacher associations, and businesses across the state; and


WHEREAS, the Common Core State Standards were voluntarily adopted by Tennessee and were not mandated by the Federal government and do not dictate specific curriculum to be taught, but instead clearly state what students should know at each grade level and subject; and

WHEREAS, the Knoxville Chamber believes that as expectations rise so shall achievement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Knoxville Chamber supports the efforts of our Governor, Commissioner of Education, members of the Tennessee General Assembly, and educators across Tennessee to fully implement the Common Core State Standards, as a critical and long-overdue step in creating the academic success our children and State deserve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Knox County Schools Board of Education, the Knox County Commission, the Mayor of Knox County, the Knoxville City Council, the City of Knoxville Mayor, and all State Representatives and Senators representing the Knoxville area.

ADOPTED at a duly called meeting of the Government Relations committee of the Knoxville Chamber on the 1st day of August, 2013.



Susan Williams
Chair, Government Relations Committee
Member, Board of Directors