



www.telltennessee.org

February 18-March 15

February 2013

Dear Tennessee Educators:

The last few years have brought a lot of change for educators in Tennessee, but what has not changed is our steadfast belief in the potential of Tennessee's students and the power of the teachers and principals that lead them every day. To this end, we have laid out a vision for the state of Tennessee to become the fastest improving state in the country by 2015. We know that our students are capable of rising to this challenge, but their success is dependent upon the success of our teachers and principals. It is important that leaders at all levels hear from educators about the tools and supports they need to do their jobs effectively. It is for this reason that Tennessee has committed to administering the TELL Survey as a part of its Race to the Top work, and we look forward to receiving this information in the second administration of the survey coming this spring.

Research from across the country has shown the presence of positive teaching and learning conditions to be essential for student success and teacher retention. That is why we are urging every school-based licensed educator in the state to complete the **TELL (Teaching, Empowering, Leading, and Learning) Survey**. This biennial survey, first administered in 2011, provides all educators in Tennessee the opportunity to share valuable feedback about conditions at their school around the allocation of your time, facilities and resources, student learning, community engagement, empowerment, school leadership, professional development, and mentoring and will provide leaders across the state with valuable longitudinal data about working conditions and their change over time.

The survey will be available online at [www.telltennessee.org](http://www.telltennessee.org) for every educator to access starting February 18, 2013 and ending March 15, 2013. Completion of the survey should take no more than 20 to 30 minutes.

The survey is completely voluntary, confidential, and anonymous. Your access code (listed below) ensures that each educator takes the survey only once and that we correctly identify your school. Rest assured it cannot be used to identify you as an individual.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the survey help desk at [helpdesk@telltennessee.org](mailto:helpdesk@telltennessee.org) or call toll-free at **1-855-258-2818** Monday through Friday between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM. You can also access instant help from the web at: [www.telltennessee.org](http://www.telltennessee.org).

The data generated will be provided to each Tennessee school for use in improving working conditions to impact student achievement. Individual school results will be available online by the end of April 2013 if enough educators participate. Please note that at least 50% of licensed personnel in the building and at least five respondents must complete the survey for results to be utilized. Please encourage your colleagues to participate in the survey. You can track the response rate at your school in real time on the survey website.

<<School Name>>  
<<District Name>>  
**Your Confidential Access Code #**  
<<access code>>

Using your confidential access code, you may complete the survey, from any Internet location from February 18 to March 15, 2013 at [www.telltennessee.org](http://www.telltennessee.org).

Your voice is important in shaping working conditions at your school and we hope to hear from you. Thank you for your participation and your ongoing work to support children, families, and communities across this state.

Sincerely,

Bill Haslam  
Governor

Kevin Huffman  
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Education