numerous school boards. across the state, less as advocates for students and children than as shills for teachers' unions. The National Education Association gave \$20 million in contributions to its favored

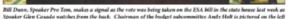
candidates in 2016, while

the American Federation of

Teachers gave roughly \$12

million to its endorsed can-

didates. From 2017-2018



payer dollars. The politics approved by the Tennessee or higher on the ACT...' passiout diplomas 'even as lalone. Shelby County and 'their educational future.

and Republican leader William Lamberth is on the right.

than \$19 million, while fierce fight inside the legis- affects those schools in "and a widely accepted led with data that tells us could not stall or defeat

bers whose association is can primary.

funded entirely through tax- The ESA legislation dents did not score a 21 Public Schools continue to son County and Nashville have a choice in deciding

the American Federation lature. Knox County Board three districts, including indicator of both "college only 25% of these students of Teachers has spent in of Education member Jen-Shelby and Davidson countries and career readiness. Ms. are actually ready for the islation sponsored by thenexcess of \$10 million. It's infer Owen has issued a ties that are failing. Know- Scarlett's article grewieven inextistep." Scarlett rueful- Governor Lamar Alexander not uncommon to see state. full-throated call for can-ville has its own schools more alarming when she it noted the 'reality is that. Considering the teachers organizations to spend lib- didates to challenge those that are failing. Tara Scar- shared "the state assess- the other 75% of MNPS stu- and their unions have usuerally in local races, hoping who did not hew to the lett, writing in the Nashville ment indicates 89% of our dents will likely struggle to ally managed to have their to influence decisions on line favored by the teach- Tennessean noted "80% high school students are find and keep a job that, way with issues involvpensions and benefits, all ers' union. Patti Bounds is of our students straduat- not proficient in strade level pays a living waste, or will ingicharter schools and of which are paid for by the being urged to challenge ed high school on time", math; and 81% are not pro-spend their first year accol-vouchers, it is all the more taxpayers. In fact, legisla- Bill Dunn, the champion of but "this same report also ficient in grade level Eng- lege or university in remer-remarkable newcomer Bill tors were besieged and lob- choice for children in Ten- shows that three out of lish Language Arts. Tara dial courses." bied by school board mem- nessee, inside a Republi- four MNPS (Metro Nash- Scarlett's article conclud- Those statistics are made history in allowing

ville Public Schools) stu- ed as the Metro Nashville not confined to David- families and students to

The NEA had spent more continues to swirl after a General Assembly only. That is the state's marker our community is confront, when the teachers' unions the education reform leg-Lee was the governor who

time with coaches and only

40% with students. Bur-

chett pulled back the spe-

cial funding he had provid-

their allies furned because

it was the worst defeat they

have suffered in the Ten-

nessee General Assembly

since both chambers have

had Republican majorities.

The only similar loss was

The teachers' union and