In February of this year, I proposed a plan to give our high school graduates the opportunity to earn a two-year certificate or degree from a state community college or technical college absolutely free of tuition and mandatory fees. The General Assembly approved the plan in April, and we’re in the process of making sure the program is up and running for the graduating classes of 2015 across our state.

The Tennessee Promise is part of our larger Drive to 55 campaign, which is an initiative to ensure that 55 percent of our population holds a certificate or degree by 2025. Attaining this goal is key to our state’s workforce readiness and economic future. The Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship that covers the remaining tuition and mandatory fees after all other financial aid and can be used at any of Tennessee’s 13 community colleges or 27 colleges of applied technology. It can also be used to cover a portion of tuition at our public and private four-year institutions that offer an associate’s degree.

High school seniors will be able to apply for the Tennessee Promise through November 1st. This timeframe means that it is important to communicate with high school seniors almost immediately about how the Promise scholarship works and how they can submit an application.

We know that you, our school counselors, are one of the most valuable resources, if not in some cases the only resource, for students to make decisions about their future in college and career. Our hope is that this guide will be helpful to you in communicating to your students and their families about the Tennessee Promise and how they can take advantage of it.

Thank you for your continued work and dedication to our students. You are helping to create opportunity for Tennessee students and their families.

Sincerely,

Bill Haslam
Governor of Tennessee
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SECTION 1

About Tennessee Promise
Tennessee Promise is one of the cornerstone initiatives of Governor Haslam’s Drive to 55. The Drive to 55 is a mission to increase the percentage of working adults with some kind of postsecondary degree or credential from 32 percent at present to 55 percent in the year 2025. Researchers at Georgetown University predict that 55 percent will be necessary in that year in order to meet the demands of the workplace. Currently, Tennessee ranks 43rd in the nation in higher education attainment. The Drive to 55 is not just about higher education, but it is critical for workforce and economic development in Tennessee. It is a drive to reduce unemployment and improve quality of life.

In order to achieve 55 percent, Tennessee must drastically expand and improve student access to and success in higher education. The following five strategies serve as the framework for the Drive to 55 and its initiatives:

1. Get students ready. Reduce the need for remedial courses; boost participation in early college opportunities.

2. Get students in. Reduce financial barriers, especially to community and technical colleges. Improve mentoring and guidance for students.


4. Finish. Create new opportunities for the 900,000 to 1 million adults with some college but no degree.

5. Create alignment and accountability. Ensure state agencies, educational institutions, and employers work together to identify skills gaps of the future and proactively fill them. Furthermore, measure investments to increase accountability and value.

Tennessee Promise is a critical piece of the Drive to 55 effort to get students to college and provide them with the tools to get a certificate or degree.
What is Tennessee Promise?
Tennessee Promise is a financial aid program offering Tennessee high school graduates two years of tuition-free community or technical college beginning with the Class of 2015. The program provides eligible students a last-dollar scholarship, meaning the scholarship will cover tuition and mandatory fees not covered by the Pell grant, the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS), or the Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA). While removing students’ financial burden is key, a critical component of Tennessee Promise is the individual guidance each participant will receive from a mentor as the student enters higher education. Local partnering organizations will ensure that all Tennessee Promise students have a mentor. Students must participate with a partnering organization to access Tennessee Promise dollars.

Student Eligibility
To be eligible to receive a Tennessee Promise Scholarship, a student must:

- Be a Tennessee resident
- Graduate from an eligible Tennessee high school, complete a Tennessee home school program, or, prior to reaching 19 years of age, obtain a GED or HiSET diploma
- Enroll in an eligible college or program and attend full-time the fall after graduation (students attending a TCAT may enroll the summer following their high school graduation)
- Complete the Tennessee Promise application at www.TNPromise.gov
- Meet all deadlines and requirements before enrolling

Additional information about student eligibility can be found on pages 8 and 9.

Program Requirements
In order for students to participate in the program, they must meet several requirements and deadlines:

- **November 1**: Apply for the Tennessee Promise scholarship at www.TNPromise.gov
- **February 15**: Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov
- **By March 1**: Attend first mandatory meeting coordinated by partnering organization
- **By May 31**: Attend second mandatory meeting coordinated by partnering organization
- **In the spring**: Apply to and register for classes at an eligible institution (partnering organizations may recommend applying by February 15)
- **Before start of term**: Complete 8 hours of community service by the first day of class (partnering organizations may have earlier deadlines to complete the community service)

Once in the program, students must do the following to retain their scholarship:

- Maintain satisfactory academic progress – that is the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA at a community college or four-year institution or satisfactory academic progress at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology
- Complete the Tennessee Promise application for renewal by November 1
- Complete 8 hours of community service per term enrolled, to be completed before the start of the term
- Complete the FAFSA by February 15 every year of the program

Administration of Funds
The Tennessee Promise scholarship will be administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC), while the mentoring and community service portions of the program will be coordinated by the partnering organization designated by each county’s mayor or executive. Once a student applies for Tennessee Promise through www.TNPromise.gov, his or her respective partnering organization will be responsible for reaching out regarding program requirements and mentor assignments.

Students will never directly receive cash from Tennessee Promise. Once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied, TSAC will send scholarship funds covering the remaining costs of tuition and mandatory fees directly to institutions for students who have met all eligibility requirements.
Partnering Organization

Tennessee Promise’s mentoring component distinguishes the program from any other state financial aid program across the country. Partnering organizations, designated by the mayor of each Tennessee county, will work with the TSAC to administer Tennessee Promise, including the provision of student mentoring. Partnering organizations will:

- Provide mentoring services
- Conduct required Tennessee Promise meetings for students*
- Approve and report community service performed by students
- Provide notification to TSAC when Tennessee Promise participants have met all scholarship requirements
- Establish local Tennessee Promise advisory councils to build a network of advocates for the program

A list of approved Tennessee Promise partnering organizations is located below.

*Only partnering organizations can conduct the required meetings. Counselors and school staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Community Service

Community service is an important component of Tennessee Promise. A student participating in the program must perform a minimum of eight community service hours per academic term, prior to the beginning of each term. Partnering organizations must provide students with community service guidelines in advance and are responsible for documenting and reporting that students meet the service requirement.

For their community service, students may choose any activity benefiting their community provided it fits within the guidelines set by their partnering organization and it does not fall into one of the following categories:

- Community service performed prior to high school graduation
- Work resulting in payment or remuneration of any kind
- Work directly benefiting family members

For more information on community service requirements or opportunities, contact your county’s local partnering organization.

PARTNERING ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Ayers Foundation
Susan Rhodes
susan.rhodes@theayersfoundation.org
931-589-3660

MadisonAchieves
Linda Austin
LindaAustin@madisonachieves.org
731-513-1445

Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)
Joe Barker
jwbarker@swtdd.org
731-668-6402

tnAchieves
Krissy DeAlejandro
krissy@tnachieves.org
865-621-9223
Summary of Rules and Regulations

The Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program rules were adopted by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation in order to implement Public Chapter 900, the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Act of 2014.

The Tennessee Promise Scholarship:

• Provides financial assistance to offset tuition and mandatory fees associated with pursuing postsecondary education after all other gift aid has been credited to tuition and mandatory fees. "Gift aid" is defined as Pell, TELS, and TSAA awards.

• Shall not include fees charged for the Regents Online Degree Program, specific programs of study, books, or supplies even if such fees are considered necessary for enrollment.

Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program Participants Must:

• Complete the Tennessee Promise Scholarship award application no later than November 1 of their senior year of high school for the initial year of enrollment. For each successive year, the renewal application must be submitted no later than July 1 prior to the academic year.

• File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or renewal FAFSA, available at www.fafsa.gov, in each year of program participation. Students must file the FAFSA by February 15 for fall enrollment or by November 1 for spring and summer enrollment. Students enrolled at a TCAT must complete the FAFSA by February 15 for summer enrollment.

• Be a Tennessee resident as defined by Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0240-02-02, as promulgated by the Board of Regents.

• Graduate from an eligible Tennessee high school or home school program beginning in the spring of 2015 or obtain a GED or HiSET diploma prior to reaching 19 years of age. Eligible high schools are defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902 and an eligible home school student is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-708.

• Attend full-time and continuously at an eligible postsecondary institution as defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-708 in the fall term immediately following graduation or attainment of a GED or HiSET diploma; except that a student enrolling in a Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) may enroll in the summer prior to the fall term.

• Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0, as determined by the eligible postsecondary institution, at the end of each academic year if enrolled in an associate’s degree program or maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by a TCAT if enrolled at a TCAT.

• Prior to fall enrollment, attend two mandatory meetings organized by a county’s partnering organization.

• Complete eight hours of community service each semester while participating in the program. Service shall be performed prior to the beginning of each academic semester, including the initial fall semester, in which the scholarship is received.

• Complete a diploma or associate’s degree in the amount of time remaining before reaching a terminating event if a student transfers from one eligible postsecondary institution to another.

• Comply with United States Selective Service System requirements for registration, if such requirements are applicable to the student.

• Be in compliance with federal drug-free rules and laws for receiving financial assistance and not be incarcerated.

• Not be in default on a federal Title IV or Tennessee educational loan and not owe a refund on a federal Title IV or a Tennessee student financial aid program.

• Meet the following criteria to be granted a personal or medical leave of absence from the scholarship program:

  • Allowable medical or personal reasons may include illness of the student; illness or death of an immediate family member; extreme financial hardship of the student or student’s immediate family; fulfillment of a religious commitment expected of members of that faith; fulfillment of required military service; the program of study at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology only begins in the spring or summer academic term or openings are unavailable for the fall academic term; or other extraordinary circumstances beyond the student’s control where attendance by the student creates a substantial hardship. In the event an institution denies a student’s request for a medical or personal leave of absence, the student may appeal the decision in accordance with these rules. The appeals process is explained at: www.tn.gov/CollegePays/mon_college/tels_appeals_exception.html
Tennessee Promise Scholarship
Termination Criteria:

A student shall be eligible for the Tennessee Promise Scholarship until the occurrence of the first of the following events:

• The student has earned a diploma or associate’s degree; or
• The sum of the number of years the student attended a postsecondary institution, exclusive of approved leaves of absence, equals two and one-half years from the date of the student’s initial enrollment at an eligible postsecondary institution. An approved leave of absence of six months or less shall not count against the two and one-half years from the date of the student’s initial enrollment at an eligible postsecondary institution.

Partnering Organization Requirements:

Partnering organizations that participate in the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program shall meet the following requirements:

• Be established as a not-for-profit organization that operates as a college access and success program serving Tennessee residents, excluding postsecondary institutions receiving funding under the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program.
• Demonstrate annually to TSAC that funding exists within the partnering organization’s budget to provide all services under the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program for a minimum of one year.
• Agree to provide Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program services to all eligible high school, home school, and GED/HiSET students in a county.
• Provide a mentoring program to serve Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program participants and obtain a certified background check on all mentors working with students. The mentoring program shall have a ratio of one volunteer mentor to no more than ten eligible students. This ratio, however, shall not apply to partnering organizations employing full- or part-time paid mentors or counselors.
• Select volunteer mentors prior to December 1 and provide at least one mentor training meeting prior to January 31.
• Host two meetings for all Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program participants prior to March 1 and May 31, respectively.
• Organize a local advisory council to serve as an advocate for the program comprised of at least five members including one representative from the LEA, one from the county mayor’s office, and one from a local postsecondary institution. Organizations which have been in existence for a minimum of three (3) years may use existing boards or boards of trustees as the local advisory council if the board or board of trustees is substantially similar to the requirements listed above.
• Obtain an insurance policy that limits liability of the partnering organization against physical and sexual abuse or misconduct.
• Adhere to rules promulgated by TSAC.
• Enter into a memorandum of understanding with TSAC regarding program requirements and partnering organization obligations and provide all requested information to TSAC as detailed in rule.
Advisory council: Each partnering organization organizes a local advisory council to serve as an advocate for the program. The advisory council is comprised of a minimum of five members, with at least one member representative from each of the following: the local education agency, the county mayor or executive’s office, and a local postsecondary institution.

Associate’s degree: An undergraduate academic degree awarded by community colleges, technical colleges, bachelor’s degree-granting colleges, and universities upon completion of a course of study usually lasting two years or 60 credits.

Certificate program: A sequence, pattern, or group of academic credit courses that focuses on an area of specialized knowledge or information and has specifically defined outcomes. Many programs are designed for working students who wish to upgrade their skills or gain additional certification in a particular area.

Community college: A non-residential, non-profit college offering certificate and associate’s degree programs.

Community service: Any service which benefits the community and neither results in payment or compensation, nor directly benefits family members. Partnering organizations will provide specific guidelines for community service to students receiving the scholarship, and students must complete their eight community service hours before the start of each academic term.

Eligible student: Any student who graduates from an eligible Tennessee high school, completes a Tennessee home school program, or, prior to reaching 19 years of age, obtains a GED or HiSET diploma can apply for Tennessee Promise. Students will apply in the fall of their high school senior year and begin working with a mentor and attending mandatory meetings in their counties in the spring of their senior year. The program will launch with the graduating class of 2015.

Eligible institution: Any of Tennessee’s 27 colleges of applied technology, 13 community colleges, or any HOPE eligible independent or public four-year university offering an associate’s degree or certificate.

Full-time student: A student enrolled in and attending a postsecondary educational institution and registered for and taking at least twelve semester hours during each semester of attendance or the equivalent.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): The form that must be completed in order to qualify for any type of governmental financial aid for higher education.

Last-dollar scholarship: For the purpose of Tennessee Promise, a last-dollar scholarship pays the remaining tuition and mandatory fees after Pell, TELS, and TSAA funds have been awarded.

Mandatory meeting: A meeting organized and held by the partnering organization and attended by students and mentors. Various college topics including financial aid, application process, and FAFSA completion will be discussed at meetings.

Mentor: A mentor serves to help students navigate the college application and matriculation processes. Tennessee Promise partnering organizations administer the mentoring portion of the scholarship. At a minimum, a mentor must be at least 21 years of age and pass a background check. Partnering organizations will host mandatory student meetings in each county where mentors and students will interact. All mentors must be trained by a partnering organization prior to mentoring Tennessee Promise students.

Partnering organization: A partnering organization is an organization that will work with TSAC and postsecondary institutions to administer the Tennessee Promise program. Partnering organizations will be responsible for providing mentoring services, conducting meetings for students regarding various college topics (financial aid, application process, FAFSA completion, etc.), and approving/reporting community service performed by students. These organizations will operate independent of state funding. Partnering organizations will also establish local Tennessee Promise advisory councils to advocate for the program in each county.

Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT): Tennessee institutions which provide technical training for workers to obtain the technical skills and professional training necessary for advancement in the job market. Students completing a program at a TCAT can receive certificates and industry certifications.
Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS): 
Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship program includes all scholarships funded by the Tennessee Lottery Education Act. This includes, but is not limited to, the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship, Tennessee HOPE Access Grant, Aspire Award, the General Assembly Merit Scholarship (GAMS), and Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant. Detailed information regarding TELS, TELS eligibility, and a full list of TELS scholarships and grants can be found at: www.tn.gov/collegepays

Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA) program: A need-based, state grant program available to Tennessee residents who are enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at least half-time at public or eligible non-public postsecondary institutions in Tennessee.

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC): 
TSAC is a state agency that provides financial assistance for postsecondary educational opportunities to Tennessee residents and other students who have established eligibility in accordance with program guidelines. TSAC administers Tennessee Promise, with assistance from the partnering organizations.

Tennessee Reconnect: An initiative aimed at helping adults earn a postsecondary credential. As part of the Reconnect initiative, Tennessee adults will be able to attend and earn a certificate at one of Tennessee’s 27 colleges of applied technology (TCATs) completely free of tuition and mandatory fees.

Tennessee Transfer Pathways (TTPs): Advising tools designed to help community college students plan for transferring to Tennessee public universities or select regionally accredited, non-profit, Tennessee private colleges or universities to complete their baccalaureate degree. The TTPs also constitute an agreement between community colleges and four-year colleges/universities confirming that community college courses meet major preparation requirements.

Tuition and mandatory fees: Tuition and mandatory fees include credit hour charges, activity fees, and other associated institutional fees. Tennessee Promise does not cover fees for the Regents Online Degree Program, specific programs of study, books, or supplies.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Students MUST fill out the application for Tennessee Promise by November 1. The application is available on <a href="http://www.TNPromise.gov">www.TNPromise.gov</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Students must file the FAFSA at <a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a> by February 15. If families haven’t filed taxes, estimated income can be used and updated later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By March 1</td>
<td>Partnering organizations will host mandatory meetings in the spring for students. The first meeting will be held prior to March 1. The second meeting will be held prior to May 31.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By May 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Spring</td>
<td>Students must apply to and register for classes at an eligible college program prior to the beginning of classes. The earlier students apply and register, the better, to ensure they meet all deadlines from the institution. (Partnering organizations may recommend applying by February 15.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Summer</td>
<td>Students must complete 8 hours of pre-approved community service prior to the beginning of each semester. Partnering organizations will provide guidelines and verify community service hours.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TENNESSEE PROMISE INSTITUTIONS

#### TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chattanooga State Community College</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.chattanoogastate.edu">www.chattanoogastate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland State Community College</td>
<td>Cleveland, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.clevelandstatecc.edu">www.clevelandstatecc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia State Community College</td>
<td>Columbia, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.columbiastate.edu">www.columbiastate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyersburg State Community College</td>
<td>Dyersburg, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dscc.edu">www.dscc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson State Community College</td>
<td>Jackson, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.jscc.edu">www.jscc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motlow State Community College</td>
<td>Tullahoma, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mscc.edu">www.mscc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville State Community College</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nscc.edu">www.nscc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast State Community College</td>
<td>Blountville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.northeaststate.edu">www.northeaststate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pellissippi State Community College</td>
<td>Knoxville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pstcc.edu">www.pstcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roane State Community College</td>
<td>Harriman, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.roanestate.edu">www.roanestate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Tennessee Community College</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.southwest.tn.edu">www.southwest.tn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer State Community College</td>
<td>Gallatin, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.volstate.edu">www.volstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walters State Community College</td>
<td>Morristown, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ws.edu">www.ws.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES WITH ELIGIBLE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin Peay State University</td>
<td>Clarksville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.apsu.edu">www.apsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee State University</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tnstate.edu">www.tnstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PRIVATE COLLEGES WITH ELIGIBLE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquinas College</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aquinascollege.edu">www.aquinascollege.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Institute of Tennessee- Nashville</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td>new.artinstitutes.edu/nashville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel University</td>
<td>McKenzie, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bethelu.edu">www.bethelu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan College</td>
<td>Dayton, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bryan.edu">www.bryan.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carson-Newman University</td>
<td>Jefferson City, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cn.edu">www.cn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland University</td>
<td>Lebanon, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cumberland.edu">www.cumberland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiwassee College</td>
<td>Madisonville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hiwassee.edu">www.hiwassee.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John A. Gupton College</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.guptoncollege.edu">www.guptoncollege.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson University</td>
<td>Knoxville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.johnsonu.edu">www.johnsonu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Memorial University</td>
<td>Harrogate, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.imunet.edu">www.imunet.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Methodist College</td>
<td>Pulaski, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.martinmethodist.edu">www.martinmethodist.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South College</td>
<td>Knoxville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.southcollegegetn.edu">www.southcollegegetn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Adventist University</td>
<td>Collegerdale, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.southern.edu">www.southern.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee Temple University</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tn">www.tn</a> temple.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toccoa Nazarene University</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.trebecca.edu">www.trebecca.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union University</td>
<td>Jackson, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uu.edu">www.uu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welch College</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.welch.edu">www.welch.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These institutions have two-year programs which are eligible for Tennessee Promise. Four-year programs at these institutions are not eligible.*
TENNESSEE COLLEGES OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY (TCATs)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Athens
Athens, TN
www.tcatathens.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN
www.chattanoogastate.edu/tcat

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Covington
Covington, TN
www.tcatcovington.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Crossville
Crossville, TN
www.tcatcrossville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Crump
Crump, TN
www.tcatcrump.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Dickson
Dickson, TN
www.tcatdickson.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Elizabethton
Elizabethton, TN
www.tcatelizabethton.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Harriman
Harriman, TN
www.tcatharriman.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Hartsville
Hartsville, TN
www.tcathartsville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Hohenwald
Hohenwald, TN
www.tcathohenwald.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Jacksboro
Jacksboro, TN
www.tcatjacksboro.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Jackson
Jackson, TN
www.tcatjackson.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Knoxville
Knoxville, TN
www.tcatknoxville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Livingston
Livingston, TN
www.tcatlivingston.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- McKenzie
McKenzie, TN
www.tcatmckenzie.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- McMinnville
McMinnville, TN
www.tcatmcminnville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Memphis
Memphis, TN
www.tcatmemphis.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Morristown
Morristown, TN
www.tcatmorristown.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Murfreesboro
Murfreesboro, TN
www.tcatmurfreesboro.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Nashville
Nashville, TN
www.tcatnashville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Newbern
Newbern, TN
www.tcatnewbern.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Oneida/Huntsville
Huntsville, TN
www.tcatoneida.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Paris
Paris, TN
www.tcatparis.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Pulaski
Pulaski, TN
www.tcatpulaski.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Ripley
Ripley, TN
www.tcatripley.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Shelbyville
Shelbyville, TN
www.tcatshelbyville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Whiteville
Whiteville, TN
www.tcatwhiteville.edu
SECTION 2
Implementing Tennessee Promise
Integrating Tennessee Promise into Events

Tennessee Promise Pep Rally/Kickoff

A Tennessee Promise kickoff event or pep rally is a great way to inform your students of Tennessee Promise and to encourage a college-going culture in your school. This event can include just your seniors or your entire student body; it’s also a great opportunity to invite community members, mentors, your county’s partnering organization, teachers, and parents to help build school-wide excitement and enthusiasm around going to college.

Your kickoff event should be representative of your school and students. Some activity ideas are:

- **Invite a motivational speaker or alumnus of your school to talk to students about college**
- **Host a panel of recent graduates to discuss their successful transition into college**
- **Ask communications students at your high school or local university to make a short video about Tennessee Promise**
- **Introduce members of your school’s staff and your partnering organization’s staff who can help students through the college-going process**
- **Ask your school’s staff and other staff to wear college gear**

College App Week

College Application Week is a statewide event sponsored by CollegeforTN.org and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The goal of College App Week is to build excitement and enthusiasm around the college application process and provide every graduating senior with the opportunity to apply. Though there is a focus placed on first-generation students and students who may not otherwise apply to college, all students, from kindergarten to 12th grade, are encouraged to participate and start making their college plans.

College App Week is a great time to talk to your seniors about Tennessee Promise and encourage all students who are interested in a certificate or two-year program to apply for the Tennessee Promise scholarship! Consider marking the Tennessee Promise application page (www.TNPromisegov) as a “Favorite” or “Bookmarked” page on the computers being used during College App Week to allow students to quickly navigate to and complete the application after they have completed their college applications.

If you would like to register your school as a College App Week location and receive the College App Week Site Coordinator Handbook and College App Week promotional materials, you can find more information and the registration link here: secure.collegefortn.org/Home/College_App_Week/_default.aspx

If you have any questions about College App Week, please contact Kate Derrick (kate.derrick@tn.gov, 615-532-0428) or Mary Laphen (mary.laphen@tn.gov, 615-253-1155).

College Goal Tennessee

College Goal Tennessee is a non-profit program that provides free information and assistance to Tennessee families applying for financial assistance for higher education. College Goal Tennessee mobilizes financial aid professionals from Tennessee colleges, universities, career colleges, and technology centers to help families of college-bound students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the form used to apply for federal aid and for state aid such as the HOPE scholarship and TSAA.

As you prepare for and advertise the College Goal Tennessee event in your area, we encourage you to reach out to your Tennessee Promise students and remind them their FAFSA must be completed by February 15th. If your event is being held before February 15th, encourage your Tennessee Promise students to attend and complete the essential step of completing their FAFSA at your local College Goal Tennessee event.

To learn more about College Goal Tennessee, please visit: www.tn.gov/collegegoaltennessee or contact your TSAC outreach specialist to schedule a workshop at your high school. You can find outreach specialist contact information here: www.tn.gov/tsac/About_Us/directory.html
College Signing Day

College Signing Day is a statewide event sponsored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. We encourage high schools to devote one day in the spring to celebrate their seniors who are continuing to postsecondary education. The highlight of this day is often a school-wide assembly or pep rally during which each senior’s college choice (college is defined as any type of formal postsecondary training) is announced and celebrated among the school community. The goal of the event is to celebrate and encourage the seniors who are pursuing postsecondary education, while also raising enthusiasm and awareness of college options and attendance among the entire student body.

We encourage you to include your partnering organization in College Signing Day. This is a great opportunity to invite local mentors to attend the event and support their students. Your partnering organization may also want to recognize their Tennessee Promise students with a certificate at College Signing Day or Senior Awards Ceremony.

For more information and resources to plan your College Signing Day, please contact Mary Laphen (mary.laphen@tn.gov, 615-253-1155).

Parent Outreach

When talking about scholarship opportunities, reaching out to parents can be as important as reaching out to students. We recommend hosting a “Paying for College” Parent Night at your school to tell parents about Tennessee Promise and how their students can benefit from it and other available state aid programs, such as Tennessee Reconnect, the HOPE scholarship, and TSAA. On TNPromise.gov, you will find a PowerPoint slide deck, which can be used at your parent meetings.

TSAC can assist you in hosting a parent night. Contact TSAC to schedule an outreach specialist to attend the event and talk about available financial aid in Tennessee. You can find outreach specialist contact information here: www.tn.gov/tsac/About_Us/directory.html

We also recommend using your school’s automated call or text message system to remind parents of Tennessee Promise application and financial aid deadlines.
In-School Promotion Ideas

Get the Word Out
Use your school’s morning announcements to promote Tennessee Promise. Particularly, as deadlines or meetings are approaching, remind your students about requirements for Tennessee Promise. If your school has a morning news program, coordinate with the producers to feature segments on Tennessee Promise. Once students have been accepted and assigned a mentor, invite students and their mentors to give brief interviews. Pitch an article on Tennessee Promise to your school newspaper. Topics could include encouraging students to apply for the scholarship or a feature of Tennessee Promise students and mentors.

Feature Alumni
Encourage recent alumni of your high school to come back to your school for a panel to talk about their experiences at a community college or Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT). Featuring recent alumni, who students will trust to “tell it like it is”, can be a powerful tool in encouraging students to go to college. Connect with your school newspaper or school news program to interview the recent alumni about their college experiences.

Wall Clings and Posters
Put the Tennessee Promise wall cling and posters on the wall of a high traffic area in your school. The posters provide valuable information about the application process for Tennessee Promise, while the wall clings increase visibility and familiarity of the scholarship. To use the wall cling, gently separate the wall cling from the attached white paper and place on the wall. The wall cling will not damage walls or paint and can be moved from place to place as often as you choose.

Host Homeroom Workshops
Teachers can host workshops during homeroom to talk to seniors about Tennessee Promise and apply for the scholarship. These workshops are a great opportunity for teachers to talk to students about the importance of college, answer questions they have about college and the application process, and share their own college experiences.

Communicate
Hand out the Tennessee Promise information cards to students and their parents. You should have enough information cards to provide them to both seniors and their parents. Give cards out at a school-wide event, send them home with report cards, or hand them out in homerooms. You can also have a stack of them available in your school’s front office.

Send letters or e-mail about Tennessee Promise to all parents, students, and school staff. See the templates provided on pages 32, 33, and 34.

You can also host a family information night to talk to students and families who want to learn more about Tennessee Promise. Invite your local partnering organization and/or a TSAC outreach specialist to speak at the event. You can use the PowerPoint template provided on the Tennessee Promise website.

Individual Meetings with Targeted Students
If you have students that you believe would especially benefit from Tennessee Promise or additional college information, set up individual meetings with them to discuss the scholarship. Work with your partnering organization to check that these students are meeting all requirements.
### Sample Tennessee Promise Promotion Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| August | • Hang Tennessee Promise wall clings and posters in your school.  
       | • Send out Tennessee Promise emails and letters (see page 32, 33, and 34 for templates).  
       | • Distribute Tennessee Promise information cards to seniors and their families.  
       | • Host a Tennessee Promise Kickoff (see page 16 for kickoff ideas). |
| September | • Host an alumni panel featuring students in two-year programs.  
          | • Feature Tennessee Promise stories in the student newspaper.  
          | • Host a family night to give parents and families more information about Tennessee Promise. |
| October | • Include Tennessee Promise in your College Application Week activities.  
         | • Host homeroom workshops leading up to the Tennessee Promise application deadline. |
| January | • Encourage students to participate in College Goal Tennessee and file their FAFSA.  
         | • Pitch the student newspaper with profiles of Tennessee Promise mentors.  
         | • Attend the partnering organization meetings with your students and introduce yourself to mentors. |
| April/May | • Host a College Signing Day to recognize students’ postsecondary plans. |
Using the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation Student Portal, students can access updated and personalized information about their application(s) for state financial aid. They can check the status of their awards, contact TSAC with questions, or update their profile information.

To register for an account and access the portal:

Go to www.tn.gov/collegepays and click “TSAC Student Financial Aid Portal.”

Click the “red” text to create an account.
Complete the application, “check” the box to accept the terms and conditions, and click “create my account.”

Next, click “Click here to log in.”
Enter the username created and click “Log In.”

Answer your challenge questions. Be sure to click the box beside the statement reading “Register this computer to skip this step next time...” and click “Continue.”
Then, you will see the image you selected along with another box asking for a password. Enter your password and click “Log In”.

Click “Apply for Scholarships” to access online applications for TN Promise, the Dual Enrollment Grant, Ned McWherter Scholars, etc.
As a counselor, you can access updated student information through the e*GRandS system. Starting in the 2014-2015 academic year, you can pull a roster of students who have applied for Tennessee Promise or any other financial aid grants through TSAC. Below is an example of how to run the Dual Enrollment Grant status report. The process for pulling a Tennessee Promise report will be very similar.

In e*GRandS, first (1), click “Reports” to access Dual Enrollment Grant Status report (the screen below). Next (2), click “Dual Enrollment Grant Status Report” to highlight; make sure appropriate academic year is selected; and finally (3), click “Generate Report.”
SECTION 3

Resources
What is Tennessee Promise?

Tennessee Promise offers up to two and a half years of tuition-free community or technical college to Tennessee high school graduates beginning with the Class of 2015. The program provides eligible students a last-dollar scholarship, which covers tuition and mandatory fees not covered by the Pell grant, TELS, and TSAA. Students will also be assigned a partnering organization and mentor who will provide guidance and assistance as the student enters higher education. Students must participate with a partnering organization to access Tennessee Promise dollars.

Who is eligible for Tennessee Promise?

To be eligible to receive a Tennessee Promise Scholarship, a student must:

- Be a Tennessee resident
- Graduate from an eligible Tennessee high school, complete a Tennessee home school program, or, prior to reaching 19 years of age, obtain a GED or HiSET diploma
- Complete the Tennessee Promise application at www.TNPromise.gov by November 1
- Apply to and enroll full-time in a community college, college of applied technology, or eligible program the fall after graduation from high school
- Meet all deadlines and requirements before enrolling

What are the service requirements?

Community service is an important component of Tennessee Promise. A student participating in the program must perform a minimum of eight hours of community service prior to each academic term the student receives the scholarship. Partnering organizations must approve community service activities in advance.

Any service performed by a student which benefits the community may be counted, except:

- Community service performed prior to high school graduation
- Work resulting in payment or remuneration of any kind
- Work directly benefiting family members

How are funds distributed?

Students will never directly receive cash from Tennessee Promise. Once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied, scholarship funds covering the remaining costs of tuition and mandatory fees will be sent directly to institutions for students who have met all eligibility requirements.
What information do I need when I fill out the FAFSA?

You should have the following information and documents with you as you complete the 2015-16 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

- Student’s Social Security number
- Parent(s)’ Social Security number(s) if, per FAFSA, student is dependent
- Student’s driver’s license number if student has one
- Student’s Alien Registration Number if student is not a U.S. citizen
- 2014 tax information (if required to file) for student (and spouse, if married) and parent(s) if, per FAFSA, student is dependent
  - To complete and submit the 2015-16 FAFSA in January, use estimated tax information (i.e. 2013 tax return, 2014 W-2 information, or last paystub)
- Records of untaxed income, such as child support received and veterans noneducation benefits, for student and parent(s) if, per FAFSA, student is dependent
- Information on checking and savings account balances; investments; and business and farm assets for student and parent(s) if, per FAFSA, student is dependent
- Student’s Federal Student Aid PIN (may be obtained during application)
- Parent’s Federal Student Aid PIN if, per FAFSA, student is dependent
  (may be obtained during application)

Once you’ve submitted the FAFSA:

- If you’re selected for FAFSA verification, please complete the verification by June 30th. Verification is an important part of the financial aid process and failing to complete a verification request could delay receipt of funds.
Student eligibility and requirements

Who is eligible for Tennessee Promise?
Any high school senior, beginning with the Class of 2015, who graduates from an eligible Tennessee high school, completes a Tennessee home school program, or prior to his or her 19th birthday, obtains a GED or HiSET diploma, can apply for the Promise. Students will apply by November 1 of their high school senior year and begin working with a mentor and attending mandatory meetings in their counties by January.

What information will students need to fill out the application?
For the Tennessee Promise application, students will need their full first name, last name, middle initial, social security number, date of birth, full address, county, email address, gender, race, home phone number, cell phone number, school name, graduation date, and an idea of which community college, college of applied technology, or eligible two-year program they would like to attend.

If students and their families haven’t filed taxes by February 15, can they still file the FAFSA before the Tennessee Promise deadline?
Yes. Students can file the FAFSA anytime between January 1 and February 15 and still be eligible for Tennessee Promise. For students whose families have not filed taxes by February 15, they can use estimates when filing the FAFSA. Soon after filing taxes, students should go in and update their FAFSA with recently filed tax information.

Some students may also be asked to verify their FAFSA information. If a student is asked for verification, he or she should complete the verification by June 30th to ensure timely receipt of funds.

How long after high school graduation will students have in order to be eligible for Tennessee Promise?
To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must attend and enroll full-time in an eligible postsecondary program in the fall term following graduation from an eligible high school or homeschool program, or completion of a GED or HiSET diploma, provided that the diploma was earned before the student reached nineteen years of age.

FAQ’S

Are GED recipients eligible for Tennessee Promise?
Students who complete a GED or HiSET diploma must enroll full-time in an eligible postsecondary program in the fall after they receive their diploma, provided that the diploma was earned before the student reached nineteen years of age.

Do non-U.S. citizens qualify for Tennessee Promise?
No. In order to be eligible, students must be able to complete the FAFSA as well as qualify for in-state tuition.

What other scholarships are available for students not eligible for Tennessee Promise, such as students who graduated prior to 2015?
Additional information on scholarships available to students who don’t qualify for Tennessee Promise can be found at: www.tn.gov/collegepays

Tennessee Reconnect is an adult initiative aimed at helping adults earn a postsecondary credential. As part of the Reconnect initiative, Tennessee adults will be able to attend and earn a certificate at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) completely free of tuition and mandatory fees. For more information on Tennessee Reconnect, visit: www.driveto55.org/tennessee-reconnect

How do students renew the scholarship?
Once in the program, students must do the following to retain their scholarship:

• Maintain a 2.0 GPA if at a community college or eligible program at a four-year institution or satisfactory academic progress at a TCAT
• Complete a renewal application at www.TNPromise.gov by July 1 prior to the academic year
• Complete 8 hours of community service per semester enrolled, to be completed before the start of the term
• Complete the FAFSA by February 15 each year the student participates in the program

Partnering organizations will work with students to ensure they get full information about renewing Tennessee Promise each year, including approval and verification of community service hours.
Funding

How does the last-dollar scholarship work?
Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship that funds any remaining tuition and mandatory fees at TCATs, two-year, and four-year schools offering associate’s degrees once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have all been applied.

Students who attend a four-year public or independent university offering an associate’s degree will receive a last-dollar scholarship based on the average tuition and mandatory fees at Tennessee public community colleges. The average tuition at the public community colleges in 2014-2015 is $3,985.

What costs does Tennessee Promise cover?
Tennessee Promise only covers remaining tuition and mandatory fees after Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied. Tennessee Promise funds cannot be used for books or other indirect costs, such as transportation, books, living expenses, etc.

Does Tennessee Promise cover remedial education?
Yes. Tennessee Promise will cover remedial classes if a student should need to take them.

How will the funds be administered?
Students will never directly receive cash from Tennessee Promise. Once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) will send the funds covering the remaining costs of tuition and mandatory fees directly to institutions for students who have met all eligibility requirements.

How does Tennessee Promise change the HOPE Lottery scholarship award amounts?
Changes to the HOPE Lottery scholarship only affect students graduating with or after the Class of 2015.

For students attending a community college, the new award amount will increase from $1,000 to $1,500 per semester. Students attending four-year institutions will receive $1,750 per semester as freshmen and sophomores and $2,250 per semester as juniors and seniors.

Institutions and programs

What institutions accept Tennessee Promise?
Students can use Tennessee Promise at any of Tennessee’s 27 colleges of applied technology (TCATs), 13 community colleges, or any HOPE eligible independent or public four-year university offering an associate’s degree or certificate.

For a full list of eligible institutions, please see pages 13 and 14.

Can Tennessee Promise be used toward a four-year program?
No. Tennessee Promise funds can only be used toward an associate’s degree or a certificate at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology. However, the Tennessee Transfer Pathways ensure that students can apply credits from an associate’s degree or certificate to easily transfer to a four-year program at a public institution without duplicative course requirements. To learn more about the Tennessee Transfer Pathways, visit: www.tntransferpathway.org

Can students transfer to a four-year program or institution once they have completed their degree or certificate through Tennessee Promise?
Yes. The Tennessee Transfer Pathways ensure that students may follow a prescribed curriculum that is universally transferable, marked by clarity, and available for students to review on the first day of enrollment.

Currently, there are 49 approved transfer pathways, spanning 28 disciplines and accepted at all public institutions in Tennessee. Additionally, many private institutions accept these pathways. More information about participating institutions can be found at: www.tntransferpathway.org/transfer-campus
Partnering organizations and mentors

What is the role of the partnering organizations?
Partnering organizations will work with the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) and the postsecondary institutions to administer Tennessee Promise. Partnering organizations will:

- Provide mentoring services
- Conduct the required meetings for students
- Approve and report community service performed by students
- Provide notification to TSAC when Tennessee Promise participants have met all scholarship requirements
- Establish local Tennessee Promise advisory councils to advocate for the program in the county

A list of approved partnering organizations for Tennessee Promise is on page 7.

How were the partnering organizations selected?
In July 2014, county mayors and executives determined which eligible partnering organization would administer Tennessee Promise in their counties.

How does a student get a mentor?
Each student who completes the initial Tennessee Promise application on www.TNPromise.gov will be assigned a mentor. Partnering organizations will be responsible for reaching out to students to match them to a local mentor.

Who are the mentors?
Depending on which partnering organization is working with a county, mentors will either be paid employees of the partnering organization or volunteer mentors from the local community. Volunteer mentors must be at least 21 years of age and pass a background check prior to being assigned to a student. The mentors are recruited from the local community and are all trained by the partnering organization prior to meeting their students.

What is the role of the mentor?
The role of the mentor is to help reduce the barriers associated with college access by encouraging students and reminding them of requirements and deadlines. Mentors are asked to be in touch with their students at least once per month, either in person or via phone, text message, or email.
You can use this sheet if you would like to track where your students are with Tennessee Promise. An Excel version of this spreadsheet is also available on www.TNPromise.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Meeting 1</th>
<th>FAFSA</th>
<th>Meeting 2</th>
<th>Community service</th>
<th>Applied to school</th>
<th>Registered for classes</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
As a senior at [high school name], you are eligible for the Tennessee Promise scholarship, which provides two years of tuition-free education at a community college or college of applied technology. Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship, which means it will cover all costs of tuition and mandatory fees after all gift aid (Pell, TELS, and TSAA) has been applied. As a Tennessee Promise student, you will also be paired with a partnering organization and a mentor who will support you during the college application process. Students must participate with the partnering organization to access Tennessee Promise dollars.

Any student can apply for Tennessee Promise by November 1 at www.TNPromise.gov. Beyond the application, you must meet the following deadlines and requirements:

2. File the FAFSA by February 15. You must file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 15 at www.fafsa.gov.
3. Attend mandatory meetings by March 1 and May 31. You are required to attend the first and second mandatory meetings coordinated by [insert mentoring organization name: tnAchieves/Ayers Foundation/REDI].
4. You will need to complete 8 hours of community service for each semester you receive Tennessee Promise funding, including the summer before you begin college. Check with your local partnering organization for their specific community service deadlines.
5. Apply to and register for classes at an eligible program. Before the fall semester begins, you will need to apply to a community college, college of applied technology, or eligible program at a four-year institution. Partnering organizations may ask you to apply to an eligible college program by February 15. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the school once your enrollment is confirmed.

For more information on Tennessee Promise and to apply, please visit www.TNPromise.gov. Remember, if you do not complete the Tennessee Promise application and requirements, but still choose to attend a community college or technical school, you will be responsible for all tuition and mandatory fees not covered by other scholarships or financial aid.

If you have any questions about Tennessee Promise, please contact [partnering organization contact name] at [phone number] or [email address].
As a senior at [high school name], your student is eligible for the Tennessee Promise scholarship, which provides two years of tuition-free education at a community college or college of applied technology. Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship for tuition and mandatory fees, meaning it will cover any costs not met from Pell, TELS, or TSAA. As part of the program, your student will be paired with a partnering organization and mentor who will support them during the college application process. Your student must participate with a partnering organization to access Tennessee Promise dollars.

Any student can apply for Tennessee Promise by November 1 at www.TNPromise.gov. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must meet the following deadlines:

2. File the FAFSA by February 15. Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 15 at www.fafsa.gov. For families who have not yet filed taxes for the prior year, estimates can be used on the FAFSA and updated once taxes have been filed.
3. Attend mandatory meetings by March 1 and May 31. Your student will be required to attend the first and second mandatory meetings coordinated by [insert mentoring organization name: tnAchieves/Ayers Foundation/REDI]. The meeting will be held at the high school.
4. Your student will need to complete 8 hours of community service for each semester they receive Tennessee Promise funding, including the summer before they begin college. Check with your local partnering organization for their specific community service deadlines.
5. Apply to and register for classes at an eligible program. Before the fall semester begins, your student must apply to a community college, college of applied technology, or eligible program at a four-year institution. Some partnering organizations may ask students to apply to an eligible college program by February 15. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the school once his or her enrollment is confirmed.

For more information on Tennessee Promise and to apply, please visit www.TNPromise.gov. Remember, if your student does not complete the Tennessee Promise application and requirements, but still chooses to attend a community college, college of applied technology, or two-year program at an eligible four-year institution, he or she will be responsible for all tuition and fees not covered by other scholarships or financial aid.

If you have any questions about Tennessee Promise, please contact [partnering organization contact name] at [phone number] or [email address].
For the first time in Tennessee, graduating seniors have the opportunity to attend a community college or college of applied technology free of tuition and fees under Tennessee Promise. The scholarship covers two years of tuition and mandatory fees at a Tennessee community college, Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT), or an eligible two-year program at a four-year college or university. Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship to cover costs not met from Pell, TELS, or TSAA. As part of the program, students will be paired with a partnering organization and mentor who will support them during the college application process. Students must participate with a partnering organization to access Tennessee Promise dollars.

Talk to your students about Tennessee Promise and encourage them to apply for the scholarship. For students planning to attend a two-year program or college of applied technology, Tennessee Promise will provide them with a valuable scholarship and a meaningful mentorship opportunity.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must meet the following deadlines:


2. File the FAFSA by February 15. Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 15 at www.fafsa.gov.

3. Attend mandatory meetings by March 1 and May 31. Student will be required to attend the first and second mandatory meetings coordinated by [insert mentoring organization name: tnAchieves/Ayers Foundation/REDI]. The meeting will be held at the high school.

4. Students will need to complete 8 hours of community service for each semester they receive Tennessee Promise funding, including the summer before they begin college. Students will need to check with the local partnering organization for specific community service deadlines.

5. Apply to and register for classes at an eligible program. Before the fall semester begins, students need to apply to a community college, college of applied technology, or other eligible program at a four-year institution. Some partnering organizations may ask students to apply to an eligible college program by February 15. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the school once his or her enrollment is confirmed.

For more information on Tennessee Promise, please visit www.TNPromise.gov.

If you have any questions about Tennessee Promise, or if any of your students have questions, please contact [partnering organization contact name] at [phone number] or [email address].