



TENNESSEE

Reconnect

Tennessee Reconnect is a last-dollar scholarship for adults to attend a community college tuition-free.

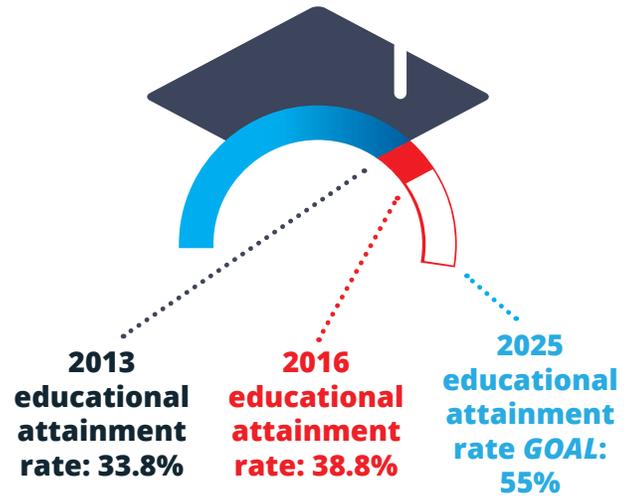
To be eligible for Tennessee Reconnect adults must:

- Not already have an associate or bachelor degree.
- Have been a Tennessee resident for at least one year.
- Complete the FAFSA and be determined as an independent student.
- Be admitted to an eligible institution, enroll in a degree or certificate program, and attend at least part-time.
- Participate in a partnering advising program.

Through Tennessee Reconnect, all Tennesseans will now have access to a postsecondary degree or certificate, tuition-free.

Program	Students Served	Use at TCAT	Use at Community College
Tennessee Promise	Recent high school graduates	✓	✓
Tennessee Reconnect	Adult learners	✓	✓

Why Tennessee Reconnect?



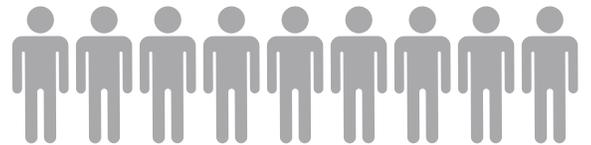
Tennessee needs **871,000 degrees** to reach the goal of 55% by 2025.



645,000 high school students in Tennessee are expected to graduate between 2014 and 2022.



In Tennessee, **900,000 adults have some college but no degree** and are considered prospective adult learners.



Without reaching adults, Tennessee won't meet the goals of the Drive to 55.



Tennessee Reconnect Act of 2017

[House Bill Number 531](#)

[Public Chapter Number 448](#)

The Tennessee Reconnect Act establishes a last-dollar scholarship for adults to attend a community college tuition-free. With this extension of the Drive to 55, which comes at no additional cost to taxpayers, **every** Tennessean will have the opportunity to enter or reenter public higher education with no tuition expenses.

Why Tennessee Reconnect?

Tennessee needs **871,000** degrees to reach our Drive to 55 goal, but only **645,000** high school students are expected to graduate between 2014 and 2022. We must bolster our focus on the recruitment, retention and completion of adults in higher education. At every public higher education institution in Tennessee adults earn a higher share of credentials, often because they return to education more focused on the challenge. Today, the state has a tremendous opportunity to attract more adults to higher education, with more than **900,000** Tennesseans having earned some college credit but no degree. Tennessee Reconnect provides an immediate payoff for Tennessee's workforce and an investment in the state's economy that will provide dividends for decades to come. Employers will get the skills and credentials they are seeking from the workforce, and employees will have new opportunities for career growth.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for Tennessee Reconnect, the student must:

- Not already have an associate or bachelor degree;
- Have been a Tennessee resident for at least one year preceding the date of application for the scholarship;
- Complete the FAFSA and be deemed an independent student¹;
- Be admitted to an eligible institution² and enroll in a degree or certificate program at least part time (6 semester hours) beginning with the 2018-19 year; and
- Participate in an advising program approved by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

In order to maintain the Tennessee Reconnect scholarship, the student must enroll in classes leading to an associate's degree or certificate, maintain a 2.0 GPA, and maintain continuous enrollment. Adults who meet all the requirements will receive a **last-dollar scholarship**, which is equal to the difference between tuition and fees and any gift aid (grants and scholarships) that a student receives. Tennessee Reconnect will be funded through the **lottery for education account** and will cost approximately \$11.2 million per year once fully implemented.

Drive to 55

In 2013, Governor Haslam launched the Drive to 55 to increase the number of Tennesseans with a postsecondary degree or certificate to 55 percent by 2025. As a result, the Haslam administration and General Assembly established the **Tennessee Promise**, which allows high school graduates meeting certain requirements to attend two years of *community or technical college* free of tuition and fees, and the **TCAT Reconnect** scholarship, which provides free *technical college* for adults. Drive to 55 is changing the landscape of what is possible in Tennessee public higher education, its workforce and economy. **Tennessee Reconnect** enhances these possibilities and solidifies Tennessee's standing as the nation's leader in higher education innovation and opportunity.

¹An "independent" student is defined as one of the following: at least 24 years old, married, a graduate or professional student, a veteran, a member of the armed forces, an orphan, a ward of the court, or someone with legal dependents other than a spouse, an emancipated minor or someone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Please see <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/dependency> for a complete list.

² An eligible institution includes any of the state's 13 public community colleges and certain four-year institutions with associate degree programs that are eligible for the Tennessee education lottery scholarship, as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-4-902, on July 1, 2013.

Tennessee Adult Learner Initiatives

"If you compare the incomes of someone with a degree or certificate to someone who doesn't have one, moving our population to 55 percent would mean \$9 billion in additional income for Tennesseans. I can't think of anything else that comes close to this effort for impacting the future of Tennessee."
Governor Bill Haslam²



Current Tennessee postsecondary educational attainment rate¹



Governor's goal for educational attainment rate, to be reached by 2025

Guiding Strategies

1. Research and building the policy framework.
2. Supporting and reaching out to adult learners.
3. Supporting and building capacity within institutions to better serve adults.
4. Developing and leveraging employer and workforce partnerships.
5. Coordinating regional initiatives and promoting community ownership.

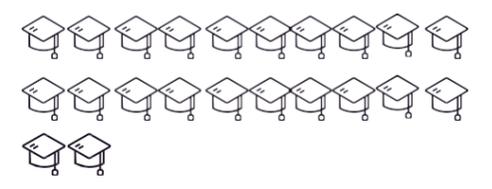
Tennessee Reconnect

is a major initiative of the Drive to 55, focused on helping adults 25 and older enter postsecondary education so that they may gain new skills, advance in the workplace, and fulfill lifelong dreams of completing a degree or credential. The overarching Tennessee Reconnect program is made up of several state and local efforts which aim to increase support to and opportunities for adults returning to higher education.

Why adults?

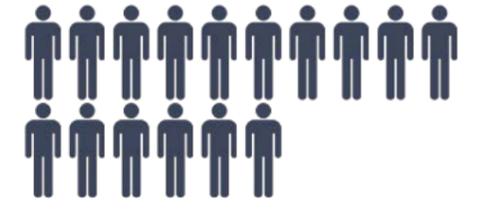
871,000

Degrees needed to reach 55% educational attainment rate goal³



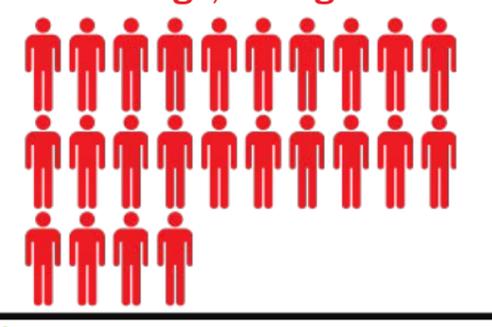
645,000

Tennessee high school students projected to graduate between 2014 and 2022⁽⁴⁾



900,000

Tennesseans over the age of 25 with some college, no degree⁵



Our Initiatives



Granting over \$748,000 to institutions, funding 17 initiatives, including:

- Establishing an adult-specific orientation at Volunteer State Community College including financial and academic planning and career assessments.
- Piloting and marketing a deferred payment plan that allows flexible payment plans for students to increase adult enrollment and retention at Jackson State Community College.
- Creating a highly interactive, adult-specific website, and increased marketing for adult learners at Middle Tennessee State University.
- Establishing a network of academic and student services support including peer-to-peer advisors at Austin Peay State University.
- Building an interactive display where adults can access learning modules, course options, and potential career paths at Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Shelbyville.
- Hosting an apply-on-site day for potential adult students at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.
- Hiring an adult retention & success coach at Columbia State Community College and creating an evening accelerated hybrid program for adult learners with options of online and traditional courses.



Inviting students to Reconnect

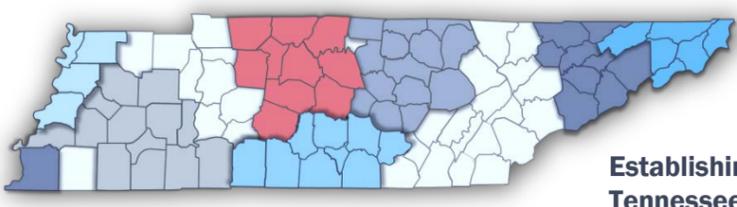
2700 televised advertisements, **3500** radio ads, **21** billboards.



50,000 push cards sent to students with at least 50% of the credits required for a degree.



Supporting 21 Reconnect-themed outreach events in March & April, 2016.



Establishing 8 Tennessee Reconnect Communities in a 66 county coverage area.



Providing last dollar scholarships for:

adults attending Tennessee Colleges of Applied technology & adults returning to Community Colleges (as part of a pilot program beginning in 2016)

Aligning financial incentives for institutions:

80%

premium is applied to each adult that progresses toward and finishes with an undergraduate award, using the Tennessee outcomes funding formula.



1.American Community Survey (2013) One-year estimates.
 2.Office of the Governor (2016) State of the State Address. <https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/governor>.
 3.National Center for Education Statistics (2014) Projections of Education Statistics to 2022. From Table 14. Actual and projected numbers for public high school graduates, by region and state: School years 2004-05 through 2022-23. <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014051.pdf>.
 4.American Community Survey (2013) One-year estimates.
 5.THEC (2015) Master Plan <https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/thec/attachments/MasterPlan2025.pdf>.



Tennessee Promise Enrollment Snapshot 2015 - 2016

Tennessee Promise Students*

16,291

Tennessee Promise students
enrolled in Fall 2015

85%

enrolled at
community
colleges or APSU

13%

enrolled at TCATs

2%

enrolled
at TICUA
institutions

19.1

Average ACT score

3.05

Average HS GPA

Financial Aid*	Percentage
Pell eligible	53%
Full Pell eligible	34%
Pell covers tuition & fees	45%
TELS eligible	58%

\$1,020

Average Tennessee Promise
award per student

\$10.6 million

Net cost of Tennessee
Promise for 2015-2016

Overall First-time Freshmen (FTF) Enrollment

10.1%

One year increase in
overall FTF enrollment
in Tennessee public
higher education

Changes in FTF Enrollment

24.7% increase at
community colleges



20.0% increase at
TCATs



8.4% decrease at
TBR universities



4.6% decrease at
UT campuses



The average ACT score
of FTF increased at
four-year institutions

Institutions with Largest Increase in FTF

Institution	Increase
Motlow State CC	74.8%
TCAT - Pulaski	68.3%
Volunteer State CC	54.8%
TCAT - Ripley	51.8%
Columbia State CC	45.1%
TCAT - Knoxville	40.5%

*Enrollment and aid numbers based on information provided by institutions as of November 18, 2015. Numbers are subject to change, based on final certification of students.



Tennessee Promise Year 2 Enrollment 2016-17

Tennessee Promise Total Enrollment

33,081

total students that have enrolled in postsecondary education using Tennessee Promise since Fall 2015

Fall 2016 Enrollment

All figures below are for students who received payment through or were considered eligible for Tennessee Promise in Fall 2016.

16,790

Cohort 2 | Class of 2016

6,505

Cohort 1 | Class of 2015

23,295

total enrolled Fall 2016

86%

enrolled at community colleges, APSU, or TSU

10%

enrolled at TCATs

4% enrolled at private institutions

\$1,090

Average Tennessee Promise award (2016-17)

\$25.3 million

Total cost of Tennessee Promise (2016-17)

Tennessee Promise Cohort 1 Retention

63%

of Tennessee Promise Cohort 1 students re-enrolled in 2016-17

(10,236 students)

58%

retention for Tennessee Promise students at community colleges

83%

retention for Tennessee Promise students at TCATs

Numbers above are for all students who were ever enrolled while eligible for Tennessee Promise.

42%

retention for non-Promise first-time freshmen entering in Fall 2015 (community colleges only; includes part-time students)

58%

retention for first-time freshmen entering in Fall 2014, before Tennessee Promise (community colleges only)

Overall First-time Freshmen (FTF) Enrollment

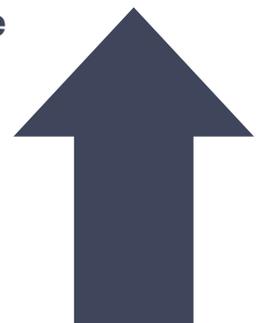
13%

Increase in overall FTF enrollment in Tennessee public higher education between Fall 2014 and Fall 2016

Since Tennessee Promise implementation....

30% FTF increase at community colleges

32% increase in enrollment at TCATs



Enrollment and aid numbers based on information provided by institutions as of January 27, 2017. Numbers are subject to change, based on final certification of students.