

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING GUIDE

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Podcast Episode 11 — Run Time 15:52

#### Pathways to Postsecondary - Part 1

In Tennessee, we want postsecondary education to become the *new normal* for all students. The success of Tennessee Promise along with recent improvements in graduation rates and ACT scores are opening more doors for students after high school. Still, too few students are directly enrolling in postsecondary education. This conversation will explore recent recommendations for how to bridge the gap between K-12 and postsecondary.

#### **Summary Points**

#### Student advisement

- Too many students say they are not receiving the guidance or support to set them on a pathway to postsecondary.
- On average, school counselors in our state are responsible for serving over 400 students each.
- Despite heroic effort, school counselors are unable to offer high-quality advisement to all students on their caseloads.
- High school teachers appear unaware of the problem, with most believing that students are well informed and plan to attend postsecondary.

#### **Continue the Conversation**

"What steps can your school or district take to create a culture of collective responsibility regarding access to postsecondary education opportunities?"



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### Food for Thought

Student advisement

- How can we inform and empower others in the school building to be trusted advisors?
- How can we integrate college and career planning and experiential learning prior to the end of high school?
- Are there community partners—from higher education, industry, and non-profit organizations—who can extend the capacity of our school staff?

#### **References & Recommended Resources**

- A Path of Choice: Building a Postsecondary-going School Culture (Rep.). (2017, May). Retrieved November 6, 2017, from Tennessee Department of Education website: https://tn.gov/assets/entities/education/attachments/ccte\_sr\_a\_path\_of\_choice.pdf
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- Seamless Pathways: Bridging Tennessee's Gap Between High School & Postsecondary (Rep.). (2017, February). Retrieved November 6, 2017, from Tennessee Department of Education website: https://tn.gov/assets/entities/education/attachments/rpt\_high\_school-seamless\_ pathways.pdf

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