

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING GUIDE

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Pathways to Postsecondary - Part 2

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

Equity & Access

- Tennessee has made significant progress. Over the past few years, graduation rates and ACT scores have consistently improved.
- > Too few students are seamlessly enrolling in postsecondary.
- Tennessee students who graduated from high school in 2014 and directly entered the workforce earned an average salary of \$10,880 annually.
- Only about one-quarter of high school graduates earn an early postsecondary credit. High-quality, early postsecondary opportunities (EPSO) help students bank credits in high school (saving time and money).

Recommendations: bridging the gap

- Foster collective responsibility among middle and high school faculty and staff for the postsecondary readiness of students.
- Communicate with students early and often about postsecondary and career options.
- Ensure all students have equitable access to course opportunities to increase postsecondary readiness and success.
- Leverage external partnerships and resources to add capacity, expertise, and influence.

Continue the Conversation

"How do we foster district and school-wide cultures in which postsecondary enrollment is the expectation?"



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Podcast Episode 12 — Run Time 19:48

Lunch & Learn •))

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Food for Thought

Equity & Access

- When and how are parents being engaged in the postsecondary planning process?
- Do teachers have the information to speak knowledgeably about all types of postsecondary options (technical college, community college, military)?
- How are we helping students make the connection between opportunities like EPS course, ACT preparation, work-based learning, and their career aspirations?

Recommendations: bridging the gap

- How would you rate your school's or community's current efforts with regard to the recommendations of the Seamless Pathways report?
- Who would you need at the table to make significant adjustments

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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