The Lay of the Land: An Overview

• The Tennessee Educational Equity Coalition Overview

• Report: The Case for Place-Based Equity

• Rural Matters for…
  • Early Postsecondary Opportunities in High School

• Tennessee Pathways: Increasing Postsecondary Access for All Students

• Conclusion & Discussion
Who We Are

- Formed in spring 2016
- Network of over 2000 advocates and allies
- Intentional focus on students of color, and English Learners and those living in poverty
- Advocacy centered on 4 key policy priorities
- Led by a statewide Steering Committee
- Regional Presence across the State
Policy Priorities

1. Excellent Teachers & Leaders for Every Child
2. Strong Accountability Systems
3. Appropriate & Equitable Resources
4. Successful Outcomes in Postsecondary Access & Success
## A Closer Look at Place

**NCES Locale Codes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midsize</td>
<td>Midsize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fringe</td>
<td>Fringe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distant</td>
<td>Distant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote</td>
<td>Remote</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Design

Statewide Listening Tour (West, Middle, & East TN)
- 10 district personnel
- 20 teachers and additional school staff
- 11 principals
The Case for Place-Based Equity

**Chart 2**

**Proficiency Rates by Locale**

*Source: Tennessee Department of Education*

- **Large City**: 25.7% (Green), 40% (Blue), 44.9% (Teal)
- **Large Suburb**: 49.4% (Purple)
- **Midsize Suburb**: 42.9% (Orange), 40.8% (Yellow)
- **Distant Town**: 34.4% (Pink), 44.2% (Orange), 39% (Yellow)
- **Distant Rural**: 37.2% (Pink), 41.6% (Orange), 35.7% (Yellow)
The Case for Place-Based Equity

Chart 3
Proficiency Rates for Black, Latino and Native American Students

Source: Tennessee Department of Education
The Case for Place-Based Equity

**Chart 4: High School Graduation Rates**

Source: Tennessee Department of Education

1 No Tennessee high school is located within the “Suburban: Small” locale.
The Case for Place-Based Equity

**Chart 6**

**Students Receiving a 21 or Higher on ACT**

*Source: Tennessee Department of Education*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Latino</th>
<th>Black or African-American</th>
<th>Asian</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rural Matters for...

• English Learner Education

• Early Postsecondary Opportunities

• Strong Educators
At the school-level, rural schools offer fewer Advanced Placement courses.

3 No Tennessee high school is located within the “Suburban: Small” locale.
Rural schools offer a greater number of dual enrollment courses, although many schools still lag behind.

\[\text{CHART 12} \]

**MEDIAN NUMBER OF DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES PER SCHOOL WITHIN LOCALE\(^4\)**

*Source: Tennessee Department of Education, 2017-2018*

\[^4\text{No Tennessee high school is located within the “Suburban: Small” locale.}\]
When it comes to student participation by subject area, subject-area concentration is an important consideration.
Voices from Rural Tennessee

• When it comes to offering EPSOs, proximity to postsecondary institutions matter.
• External partnerships, including industry, also seem to be important.
• Exam fees and transportation are important student access barriers.
• And staffing is an important consideration when looking at expanding EPSOs at the school-level.

“I feel like we’re fortunate in that we’ve got outlined partners with postsecondary and if we didn’t have [a community college] in our backyard, that would look different…” - Middle Tennessee

“I have a lot of students that will not take dual enrollment classes because they don’t have transportation.” – East Tennessee

“But…our smaller rural schools…a lot of programs there’s one teacher. Can that teacher offer a seamless program of study? No. And that’s a problem.” – Middle Tennessee
What’s Next?

Expanding Access to Early Postsecondary Opportunities (EPSOs)

- Invest in (1) focused regionalized councils and (2) local higher education centers to promote postsecondary pathways.

- Set districtwide goals for enrolling students in a variety of Early Postsecondary Opportunities courses.

SPOTLIGHT
Tennessee Pathways

Tennessee Pathways is a K-12 strategy of Tennessee’s initiative to increase postsecondary attainment statewide. Tennessee Pathways seeks to create stronger alignment among K-12, postsecondary and industry to ensure all students are prepared for high-quality careers in their communities and across the state. The work is driven by nine regional coordinators who act as the “glue” between schools, postsecondary institutions and industry leaders, advocating for expanded early college and career experiences that prepare students for the future of work. The program also offers a recognition for schools called the Tennessee Pathways Certification. Schools that earn the certification have demonstrated their high school pathways to postsecondary and career are seamless, leading to an industry certification, postsecondary college credit and/or postsecondary credentials of value. If expanded, Tennessee Pathways has the potential to address many of the unique needs of rural communities in adding EPSO coursework, providing seamless programs of study for postsecondary and the workforce, and supporting schools and instructors in addressing staffing and student needs for EPSO provision.
Objectives

• Understand the foundations of Tennessee’s statewide approach to ensuring college and career pathways.
• Strategize and share how to increase EPSO access and postsecondary-going in rural contexts.
• Identify areas of potential support from the Tennessee Pathways team.
Current Landscape
Labor market projections and educational attainment

- Nationally, 65% of jobs will require a postsecondary degree or credential by 2020.
  - 35% of these jobs will require a bachelor’s degree.
  - 30% will require an industry certification or associate’s degree.
- In Tennessee, 40.7% of adults currently hold a postsecondary degree or credential.
Student Progression from Ninth Grade into College
By Quartile of 8th Grade Achievement

Sample: 236,568 2007-08 through 2010-11 first-time ninth graders with valid 8th grade math test scores. Post-secondary enrollment outcomes from THEC and NSC matched records. All other data from TNDOE administrative records. Results exclude students who transferred out of TN public schools. Alternative high schools have been excluded from these analyses.
Regional support
What is a pathway?

• A pathway is composed of high school coursework, work-based learning experiences, and early postsecondary opportunities.

• A pathway should accelerate a student’s progress toward an industry or postsecondary credential, thereby reducing time and cost as a student transitions from education to employment.

• A pathway should include opportunities for a student to stack credentials in order to gain knowledge and skills that can lead to higher wages and broader employment opportunities.

• A pathway is a process of discernment, not a destination. Pathways are not intended to place students on tracks. They simply provide a jumpstart toward a student’s chosen path.
CTE pathway example

**Rigorous Academic Coursework**
- Nursing Services program of study, including dual enrollment Anatomy & Physiology and dual enrollment Nursing Services

**Work-Based Learning**
- Classroom speaker from a local hospital
- College fair for health sciences
- Job shadowing a nurse
- Clinical placement at a local hospital

**Postsecondary Education**
- Practical Nursing at TCAT Murfreesboro
- Nursing A.A.S. at Motlow State Community College
- Nursing BSN at Middle Tennessee State University

**Career Opportunities**
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Registered Nurse
Non-CTE pathway example

Rigorous Academic Coursework
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- Local dual credit Anatomy and Physiology

Work-Based Learning
- Classroom speaker from a local hospital
- College fair for health sciences
- Job shadowing a nurse, physican, or related field
- Clinical placement at a local hospital

Postsecondary Education
- Practical Nursing at TCAT Murfreesboro
- Nursing A.A.S. at Motlow State Community College
- BS in Biology or Chemistry at Middle Tennessee State University

Career Opportunities
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Registered Nurse
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician
Hickman County

• Problem: limited ability to offer advanced manufacturing course that aligned to their local community college, main obstacle finding/affording qualified instructor

• Solution: county leaders advocated for an expansion of an existing Williamson County EPSO program

• Student opportunity: Columbia State Community College partnered to provide instructor from the Engineering Systems Technology program to expand EPSO course offerings aligned to their AAS degree at East Hickman High School
• Problem: limited ability to offer advanced manufacturing course that aligned to their local technical college, main obstacle finding/affording qualified instructor

• Solution: county leaders partnered with Tennessee College Applied Technology Hohenwald with grant funding to open satellite program in Industrial Maintenance Technology, combined resources and student headcount made program viable

• Student opportunity: high school and adult students in Perry County can enroll in the diploma program which removes travel barrier, students have potential to graduate with both their high school and TCAT diplomas
Lincoln County

• Problem: Expanding EPSO offerings, obstacles include finding/affording qualified instructors, classroom space, and equipment

• Solution: county leaders partnered with Tennessee College Applied Technology Shelbyville to offer cyber security in reallocated ninth grade academy building with the renovation of classrooms for welding, machining and cosmetology to be completed within next year

• Student opportunity: starting in 2019 students will have access to EPSO in Information Technology and Infrastructure Management program
Contact Information

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• 615-587-2367
Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.
What’s Next?

Expanding Access to Early Postsecondary Opportunities (EPSOs)

- Invest in (1) **focused regionalized councils** and (2) **local higher education centers** to promote postsecondary pathways.
  - Regional Collaboratives akin to Pathways (**Highlands Economic Partnership**)
  - Higher Education Centers (**Kingsport Center for Higher Education, Lawrence County project**)

- Set **districtwide goals for enrolling students** in a variety of Early Postsecondary Opportunities courses.
Questions?
Upcoming Webinars: Tune In!

- **Supporting English Learner Success in Rural Tennessee**
  Tuesday, July 16, 12-1PM CST

- **Moving from Seats to Students in K-12 Funding**
  Monday, July 29, 12-1PM CST
Questions?

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