

CollegeforTN.org Data Opt-In & New Features

Overview

Beginning this fall, the department will partner with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to connect CollegeforTN.org student accounts with student data from the Education Information System (EIS). CollegeforTN.org is a **free college and career planning resource** that provides planning tools to help students explore career pathways and related postsecondary education opportunities. The State Board of Education's High School Policy (2.103) requires students to complete a career interest inventory in the seventh and tenth grades to inform their four-year plan of study in high school and post-high school graduation plans. CollegeforTN.org provides a **simple, easy tool** for counselors and teachers to use to meet this requirement. For districts that opt in to connect their data, student accounts in CollegeforTN.org will include student demographic information, ACT scores, and school information beginning in September.

CollegeforTN.org has been updated for the 2017-18 school year. CollegeforTN.org's new features include the ability to directly message students through cell phone text messages and emails, virtually make college and career recommendations to students, and monitor student progress towards completion of important college-going milestones. To support teachers and counselors, the site includes lessons, activities, and videos to help students to learn about and see fellow Tennesseans thriving in college.

Purpose

For districts that choose to connect their data, this enhanced data linkage will provide more robust information to students and counselors and enable more personalized planning for life after high school. Students will be able to see where they are eligible to enroll in postsecondary education based on their ACT scores. Counselors will be able to send targeted messages to specific student groups to facilitate the process of applying to postsecondary institutions. Additionally, with this data available through CollegeforTN.org, counselors will have a powerful new tool to help them implement the revised school counseling model and standards.

Questions and Answers

1. Will opting into this data linkage create student accounts in CollegeforTN.org?

No. Students and counselors will need to create accounts in CollegeforTN.org. By authorizing this data linkage, those accounts will become more valuable by enabling students to access their information in the context of planning for postsecondary and career.

2. What student data will be available?

Beginning in September, data on student demographics, school enrollment, and ACT composite scores and subscores will be available to counselors and students via CollegeforTN.org.

3. Are there plans to link additional student data to CollegeforTN.org accounts in the future?

Yes. During the 2017-18 school year, CollegeforTN.org will begin to incorporate student information on early postsecondary opportunities (EPSOs), industry certification, and CTE concentrations.

If you would like professional development on CollegeforTN.org or how to improve the postsecondary-going culture within your district, please reach out to Emily.Wilcox@tn.gov for more information.