Forming the Priorities: Input First
Feedback

500+ CLASSROOM VISITS

70+ DISTRICT MEETINGS

35,000+ SURVEY COMMENTS
We Are Listening
Reflections from the Educator Survey and Focus Groups

Strategic Priority 1: Academics
Tennessee’s focus on standards, assessments, evaluation, and turnaround helped the state grow rapidly.
Strategic Priority 2: Whole Child
Over the last five years, the needs of our students have evolved and we must support the whole child.
Strategic Priority 3: Educators

If we want Tennessee to be the highest performing state, then we must invest in educator growth, provide opportunities for teachers to teach and lead, and better prepare our future educators.
When we talk to students, their favorite thing about school is the teachers who see their potential.

When we visit schools, principals want us to observe their strongest teachers' classrooms, and see how their students are achieving.

When we talk to families, they tell us about the teacher who intervened in their child's life.
Vision

We will set all students on a path to success.

IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL, THEN TENNESSEE WILL SEE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON-TRACK TO MEETING POSTSECONDARY GOALS TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION

- Two-year college persistence
- TCAT certificate
- Military enlistment
- Or similar paths
BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

ACADEMICS

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

WHOLE CHILD

Tennessee public schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all students.

EDUCATORS

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.
Strategic Priority 1: Academics

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

Early Literacy Supports

Invest in a proven, coherent statewide literacy program that includes high-quality materials, coaching, and shared diagnostics for data review.

This includes support to:

- Purchase high-quality materials
- Select implementation support
- Purchase, use, and report on a shared diagnostic
- Family reading guides
Strategic Priority 1: Academics

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

High-Quality Instructional Materials

Invest in high-quality resources and implementation support to districts.

State-level support will include:

- Regional trainings and workshops on high-quality materials selection processes
- Support implementation of high-quality materials
- Online tool to explicitly connect TN standards, assessment items, and high-quality materials lessons
Strategic Priority 1: Academics

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

Innovative Assessments
Build free, curriculum-aligned interim and formative assessments for districts to use.

Free state resources will include:

- Free formative assessments with TCAP questions aligned to high quality instructional materials
- Interim assessments aligned to annual TCAP
- Assessment bank of TCAP released questions, with learning progressions, for local use
- Data analytics capacity and recommended professional development supports
Strategic Priority 1: Academics

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

Career Exploration

Ensure every student has career exploration in middle school and a high school pathway that aligns to their interests and strengths, focusing on industry demand, STEM, and the arts.

State supports will include:

- Free access to at least one PK-8 career exploration tool
- Professional development on coaching and counseling students based on career interest and capacity
- Supporting the development of innovative high school models aligned to regional and student need
Strategic Priority 2: Whole Child

Tennessee public schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all kids.

Supports

Ensure that schools and districts are able to quickly and appropriately respond to students in need.

The state will:

- Conduct a needs assessment on what resources and supports will be most helpful
- Create tools that match schools and districts with local supports and work closely with other agencies and partners to expedite services
- Identify opportunities to increase in-school resources for whole child needs
Strategic Priority 2: Whole Child

Tennessee public schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all kids.

Character Education

Develop a Tennessee-specific character and citizenship education program that prepares students to make successful contributions to society.

Content will include:

• Personal characteristics
• Financial literacy
• Citizenship and civics
Strategic Priority 2: Whole Child

Tennessee public schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all kids.

Exceptionalities

Create a statewide network that effectively supports students with disabilities.

The state will develop:

• Tools for families and educators to help identify and navigate resources
• Regional hubs with the expertise in special education that districts need
• Stronger regional engagement opportunities so that stakeholders feel connected
Strategic Priority 3: Educators

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.

**Recruitment**

Recruit and retain future teachers into the profession.

This will include:

- Creating advanced courses for teaching as a profession in K-12
- Launching teacher fellowship opportunities
- Expanding “Grow Your Own” opportunities for prospective educators
- Continuing to support improvements to educator compensation
Strategic Priority 3: Educators

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.

Preparation

Ensure educators are prepared to be successful in the classroom upon completion of their educator preparation program.

This will include:

- Educator Preparation Innovation
- Leader Preparation Innovation
Strategic Priority 3: Educators

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.

Pathways

Elevate teacher leaders through regional networks, professional development pathways, and state leadership roles.

This will include:

- Regional Teacher Leadership Network
- Articulated Pathways for Tennessee Master Teacher Networks
- Elevation of Teacher of the Year and similar programs
Strategic Priority 3: Educators

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.

Development

Support the development of effective leadership structures in every school, and create cohorts of leaders focused on building their degrees, certifications, and professional development.

This will include:

• Rural Principal Network
• Aspiring AP Network
• Principal Supervisor Network
• TN Academy of School Leaders
• Turnaround Principal Network
• District Leader Network
Theory of Action

The department will create meaningful and lasting change for students in Tennessee through:

- **Foundations**: Build upon the commitment to standards, assessment, evaluation, and turnaround.
- **Access**: Focus on rigorous academic expectations for all children.
- **Supports**: Provide whole child supports for schools, teachers, and families.
- **Pipeline**: Build and maintain a strong educator pipeline and retention strategy.
- **Capacity**: Build district capacity and consider the needs and realities of each district in our work.
- **Engage**: Authentically engage with stakeholders to measure what is and isn't working, and provide choices for families.
THANK YOU

#TNBestforAll