



# Tennessee Postsecondary Enrollment and Completion Dashboard 2025 Technical Documentation

## ***Overview***

Tennessee's Postsecondary Enrollment and Completion Dashboard was produced by Tennessee's Office of Evidence and Impact (OEI) utilizing data from Tennessee's longitudinal integrated data system, Tennessee Data Analytics for Transparency and Accountability (TN DATA). The dashboard leverages data submitted to TN DATA from the [Tennessee Higher Education Commission](#), [Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association](#), and [Tennessee Department of Education](#). The information reported from TN DATA may differ from other reports produced due to distinct data processes and reporting requirements.

The dashboard illustrates high school graduates' college-going rate for graduation years 2020-2024 and their postsecondary completion six years after high school graduation for classes 2014-2018. College-going rates and postsecondary completion rates are broken down by institution types and student demographics. Data was aggregated and extracted from TN DATA, Tennessee Data Analytics for Transparency and Accountability, Tennessee's longitudinal integrated data system. The dashboard has been reviewed and approved for publication by the partnering agencies.

## ***Background***

TN DATA is a statewide initiative led by OEI and Strategic Technology Solutions (STS) to improve state services and programs by supporting and coordinating agency partnerships through data sharing and analytics. Comprised of more than ten (10) partner state agencies and data sources, TN DATA enables new insights into complex challenges and advances Tennessee's goal of being the best-managed state with high-quality services.

## ***OEI's Role***

Since 2024, OEI has created reports that provide details on education and workforce outcomes for high school and postsecondary students by subgroups and instructional programs. Utilizing TN DATA, interactive publicly available dashboards were created to easily access data from a variety of sources in one place.

## Dashboard Navigation

This dashboard is divided into four distinct pages: *College-Going Rate Dashboard*, *College Completion Dashboard*, *Trend Line Dashboard*, and *Technical Documentation*. The dashboard illustrates high school graduates' college-going rate for graduation years 2020-2024 and their postsecondary completion six years after high school graduation for classes 2014-2018. College-going rates and postsecondary completion rates are broken down by institution types and student demographics. Data was aggregated and extracted from TN DATA, Tennessee Data Analytics for Transparency and Accountability, Tennessee's longitudinal integrated data system.

Users can **navigate** to the different dashboards **by clicking the tabs** at the top of the page. Technical information can be accessed by clicking the Technical Documentation tab or at the end of this report, which defines the terminology and methods of analysis in the report. For Accessibility key navigation follow prompts from the Tableau website [https://help.tableau.com/current/pro/desktop/en-us/access\\_keyboard\\_navigation.htm](https://help.tableau.com/current/pro/desktop/en-us/access_keyboard_navigation.htm).



## Filters

Each dashboard page has unique filters. Filters do not carry across the dashboard pages. Each page will need to have filters selected. To view the data available, each filter must be selected or verified the intended selection is visible in the filter text. **To view a different data breakdown always start with the first filter and move down the filter options.**

## Accessibility Information

The dashboard was created using Tableau which has some known accessibility limitations. Keyboard interaction with individual visualization marks may be limited and may not fully replicate mouse functionality. Those using screen readers may need to click the enter key to select options in filters. Filters are found on the lefthand side of each page. This dashboard is best viewed on a desktop computer. Alternative accessible formats of the data and technical information can be downloaded using the links on the website. If you have any questions, please contact [oei.research@tn.gov](mailto:oei.research@tn.gov).

## ***Dashboard Pages Overview***

**College-Going Rate Dashboard:** Dashboard displays the college-going rate of public high school graduations by graduation year, institution type, and subgroup for 2020 to 2024 high school graduates.

**College Completion Dashboard:** Dashboard displays the postsecondary completion rate of high school graduates six years after high school graduation by graduation year, award level, and subgroup.

**Trend Line Dashboard:** Dashboard displays the college-going rate by race/ethnicity for high school graduation years 2020-2024 and postsecondary completion six years after graduation for high school graduation years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.

**Technical Documentation:** Dashboard depicts the business rules including definitions and calculations used throughout the dashboards.

## ***Reporting, Suppression, and Exclusions***

**Data Suppression:** Suppressing cells with small counts allows data to be published in compliance with state and federal law by limiting potential unauthorized disclosure of personally identifiable information. Suppression has not been applied to this dashboard as state level aggregate percents were used and no counts were reported in the dashboard. One record from high school graduation year 2022 was not included in the data due to no gender categorization being reported.

**Data Counts and Sources:** Data was aggregated and extracted from Tennessee Data Analytics for Transparency and Accountability (TN DATA). Tennessee State agencies reporting into TN DATA for this dashboard include Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE), Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA), and Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TLWD). Data included in this dashboard may differ from reports produced by Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, and Tennessee Department of Education due to agency distinct data processes and reporting requirements. Review the metric sections below for how these partner agencies report to TN DATA and the data included in this report.

## KEY CONCEPTS

**High School Graduates:** Includes the public high school graduates with the completion period between August 1 to July 31 of next year. Examples: High school graduates graduated during academic year 08/01/2017 – 07/31/2018 which is school year 2017-2018, and is represented in the data as graduation year (class of) 2018.

Class of	High School Graduation Dates
2020	08/01/2019 – 07/31/2020 (school year 2019-20)
2021	08/01/2020 – 07/31/2021 (school year 2020-21)
2022	08/01/2021 – 07/31/2022 (school year 2021-22)
2023	08/01/2022 – 07/31/2023 (school year 2022-23)
2024	08/01/2023 – 07/31/2024 (school year 2023-24)

**College-Going Rate:** Percent of public high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary institution in the immediate fall term (seamless enrollment). Example: The college-going rate for 2022 high school graduates reports the postsecondary enrollment status during Fall 2022.

**Postsecondary Institution Enrollment Status:** Whether a public high school graduate is counted as being enrolled in or not enrolled in postsecondary institution during fall term after high school graduation.

**Enrolled:** High school graduates with seamless enrollment. Enrolled in postsecondary institution during fall term August 1-December 31.

**Not Enrolled:** High school graduates without seamless enrollment. Not enrolled in postsecondary institution during fall term August 1-December 31.

**Postsecondary Student Enrollment Data Calculation:** Student postsecondary enrollment data was extracted from the Tennessee Longitudinal Data System, P20 Connect. The data in P20Connect is populated by Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), who submits two postsecondary enrollment tables. The files include: The Tennessee public institutions files, which is created from the THEC data systems and includes enrollment for in-state, public four-year universities, community colleges and technical colleges, and the National Student Clearinghouse (NSCH) file, which includes enrollment in out-of-state and private institutions for the fall following high school graduation. This is the only NSCH data provided in the dashboard.

The data published in this dashboard may differ from reports produced by other agencies due to agency specific data processes and reporting requirements. Below are some of the similar reports produced by other TN agencies.

**TDOE:** <https://www.tn.gov/education/families/report-card.html>

**THEC:** <https://www.tn.gov/thec/data-research-reports/reports-studies-pub/college-going-reports.html>

**Postsecondary Graduates:** Student outcome data includes students who graduated from postsecondary institutions/colleges from academic years 2017-2024. The data includes public institutions: Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs), TBR community colleges, Locally Governed Institutions, University of TN system colleges, and some private institutions, members of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Associations (TICUA). To capture those students who received at least a certificate or degree, sufficient credential and basic skills completer award levels were excluded and all other degree (award) levels, from less than one-year certificates through doctoral degrees are included. Completion data also does not include out-of-state NSCH data or industry-recognized credentials, so the overall completion rate is likely higher than presented in this data.

**Postsecondary Awards:** Include awards received from Tennessee public institutions: Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs), TBR community colleges, Locally Governed Institutions, University of TN system colleges, and some private institution members of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Associations (TICUA). To capture those students who received at least a certificate or degree, sufficient credential and basic skills completer were excluded from award type. TCAT includes only in-state technical schools, out of state technical schools or in-state private trade schools are not counted in this group. Completion data also does not include out-of-state NSCH data or industry-recognized credentials, so the overall completion rate is likely higher.

<b>Class of</b>	<b>Six Years After High School Graduation</b>
2014	Postsecondary awards received before 07/31/2020
2015	Postsecondary awards received before 07/31/2021
2016	Postsecondary awards received before 07/31/2022
2017	Postsecondary awards received before 07/31/2023
2018	Postsecondary awards received before 07/31/2024

**Highest Award Level:** High school graduates who received a postsecondary institution award are counted at the highest level achieved and are counted only once per person regardless of how many of the same highest award type was received. All degree (award) levels, from less than one-year certificates through doctoral degrees are included except sufficient credential and basic skills completer.

**Postsecondary Award Status:** Whether a high school graduate from 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 are counted as award received or no award received within 6 years of graduation.

**PS Award:** High school graduates with postsecondary award received within 6 years of high school graduation.

**No PS Award:** High school graduates with no postsecondary award received within 6 years of high school graduation.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**College-Going Rate of High School Graduates by Institution Type:** Percent of public high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary institution fall term following high school graduation by institution type. For students enrolled in multiple institution types, the enrollment is prioritized in the order of university, community college, then TCAT institution. Example: When a student is enrolled in university and community college in the fall term, the student is counted in the university enrollment but not in community college.

**Institution Type Enrollment Hierarchy:** For students enrolled in multiple institution types, the enrollment is prioritized in the order of university, community college, then TCAT institution.

**Postsecondary Institution Enrollment Status by Race/ Ethnicity and Institution Type:** Percent of high school graduates by postsecondary enrollment status. The percentage is based on each race/ ethnicity group. The percentage of graduates with postsecondary awards is further detailed based on the postsecondary institution type.

**Graduates with Postsecondary Awards:** Percent of high school graduates who received postsecondary award within 6 years after graduating from high school.

**Highest Award Level Hierarchy:** (Highest to lowest order) Post-Baccalaureate or Higher, Bachelors, Associate, TCAT Diploma, TCAT Certificate, Certificate 1-2 Years, and Certificate <1 Year. Sufficient credential and basic skills completer levels were excluded from the data.

**Post-Baccalaureate or Higher Category** includes Certificate Post-Bach., Masters, Certificate Post-Masters, First-Professional, and Doctoral degrees or awards.

**Highest Postsecondary Award Earned:** The percentage of high school graduates who received postsecondary award counted by their highest award received from postsecondary institution.

**Graduates Highest Educational Attainment by Race/ Ethnicity:** Percent of high school graduates with or without postsecondary award, 6 years after graduating from high school. The percentage is based on each race/ethnicity group. The percentage of graduates with postsecondary awards is further detailed based on the highest award level.

### **Trend Lines Dashboard College-Going Rate by Race/ Ethnicity 2020- 2024:**

**X-Axis:** High school graduation year 2020- 2024, and includes those high school graduates who were enrolled in postsecondary institution by race/ ethnicity. Data can be further broken down by gender.

**Trend Lines:** By race/ ethnicity with the total college-going rate for each year as the black dashed line.

## **Trend Lines Dashboard Postsecondary Awards 6 Years after High School Graduation**

### **by Race/ Ethnicity, 2014- 2018:**

**X-Axis:** High school graduation years 2014- 2018 and includes those high school graduates who received a postsecondary award within six years after graduation by race/ ethnicity. Data can be further broken down by selecting specific gender.

**Trend Lines:** By race/ ethnicity with the total college completion rate for each year as the black dashed line.

### ***Additional Resources***

The interactive dashboard is available on [OEI's website](#). Previous versions of the dashboard and other similar reports can be found on the OEI webpage under the *Similar Resources* section.

**For further questions, please contact [OEI.Research@tn.gov](mailto:OEI.Research@tn.gov)**