



**THEEC**

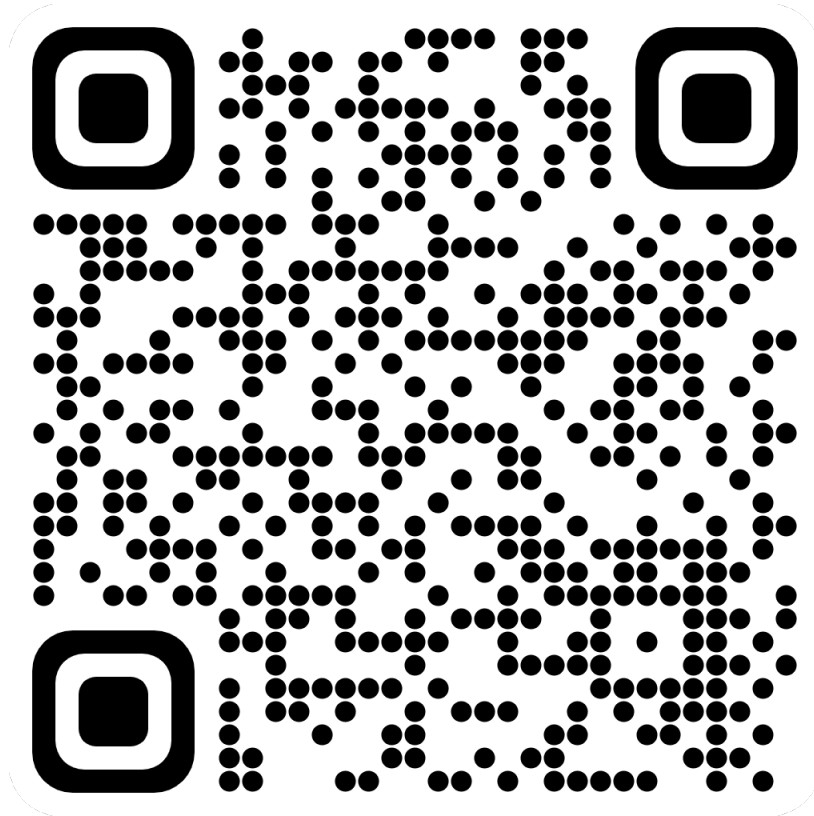
**TENNESSEE HIGHER  
EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**College Going, TN Promise, and  
Access to College**

August 3, 2023

# College Going and the Class of 2022: Continuing Momentum

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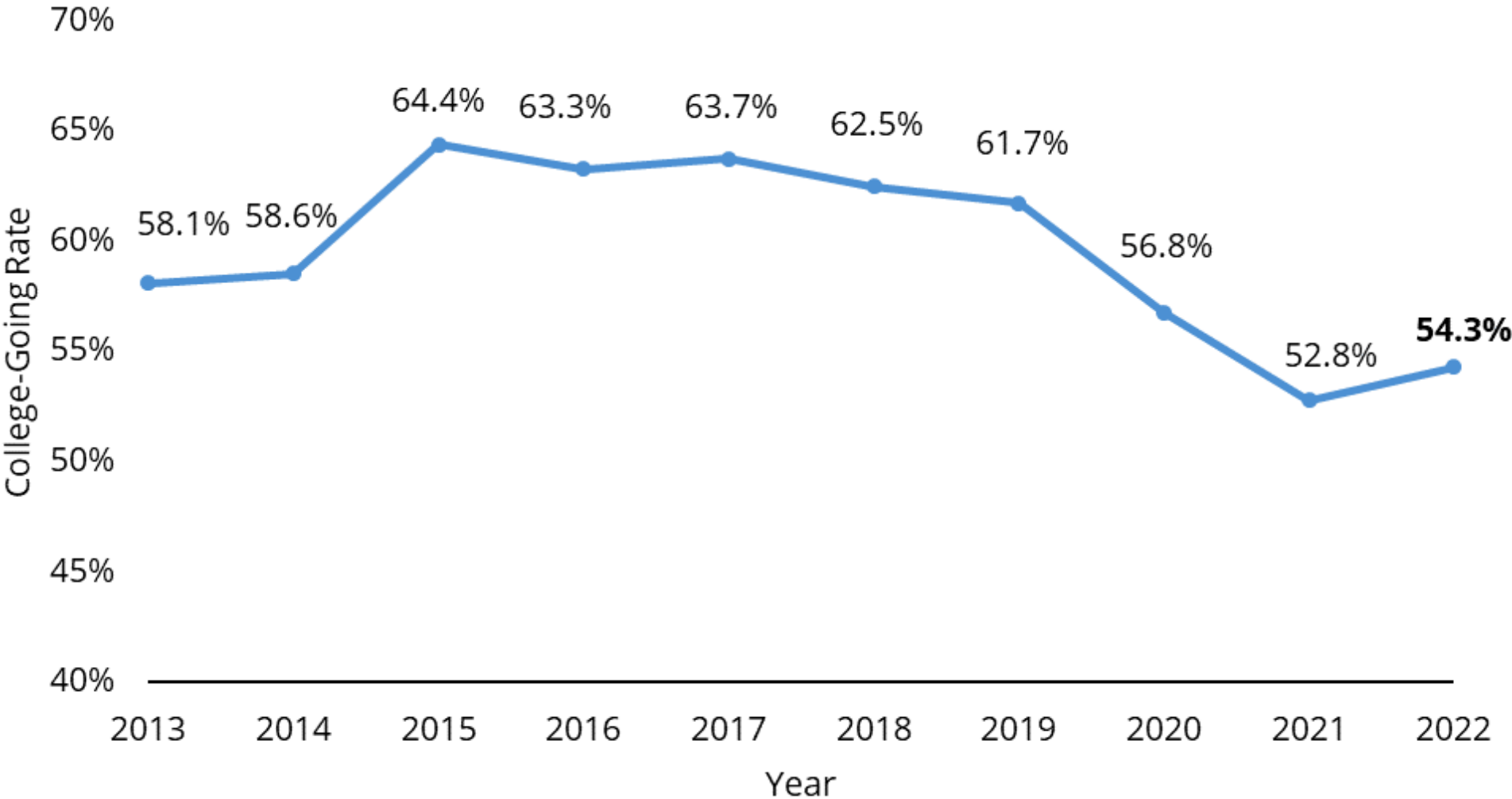
# College-Going Rate, Class of 2022

TN Dept. of  
Education

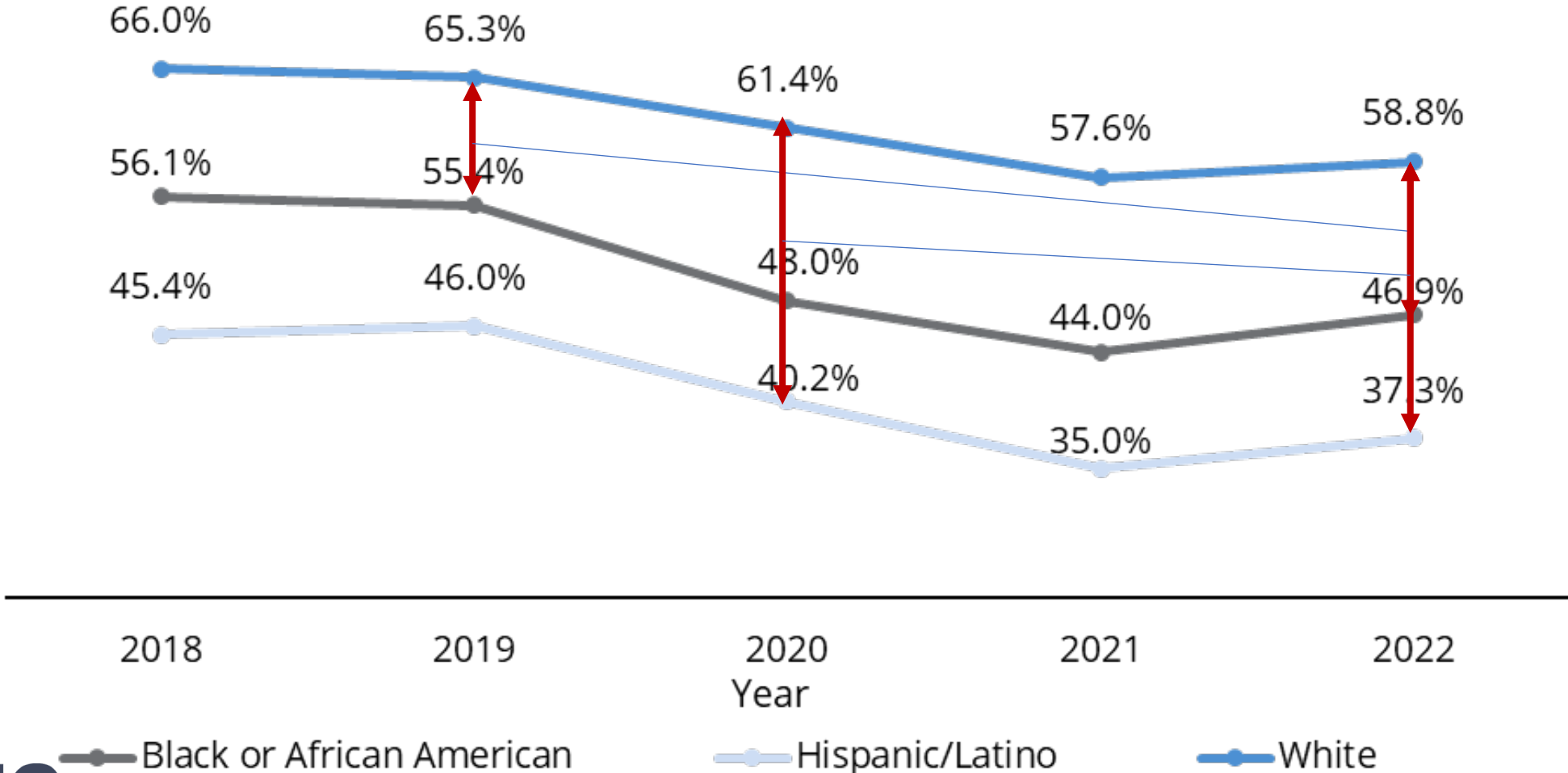
THEC Student  
Information  
System, National  
Student  
Clearinghouse

CGR =  
Postsecondary  
Enrolled ÷  
HS Graduates

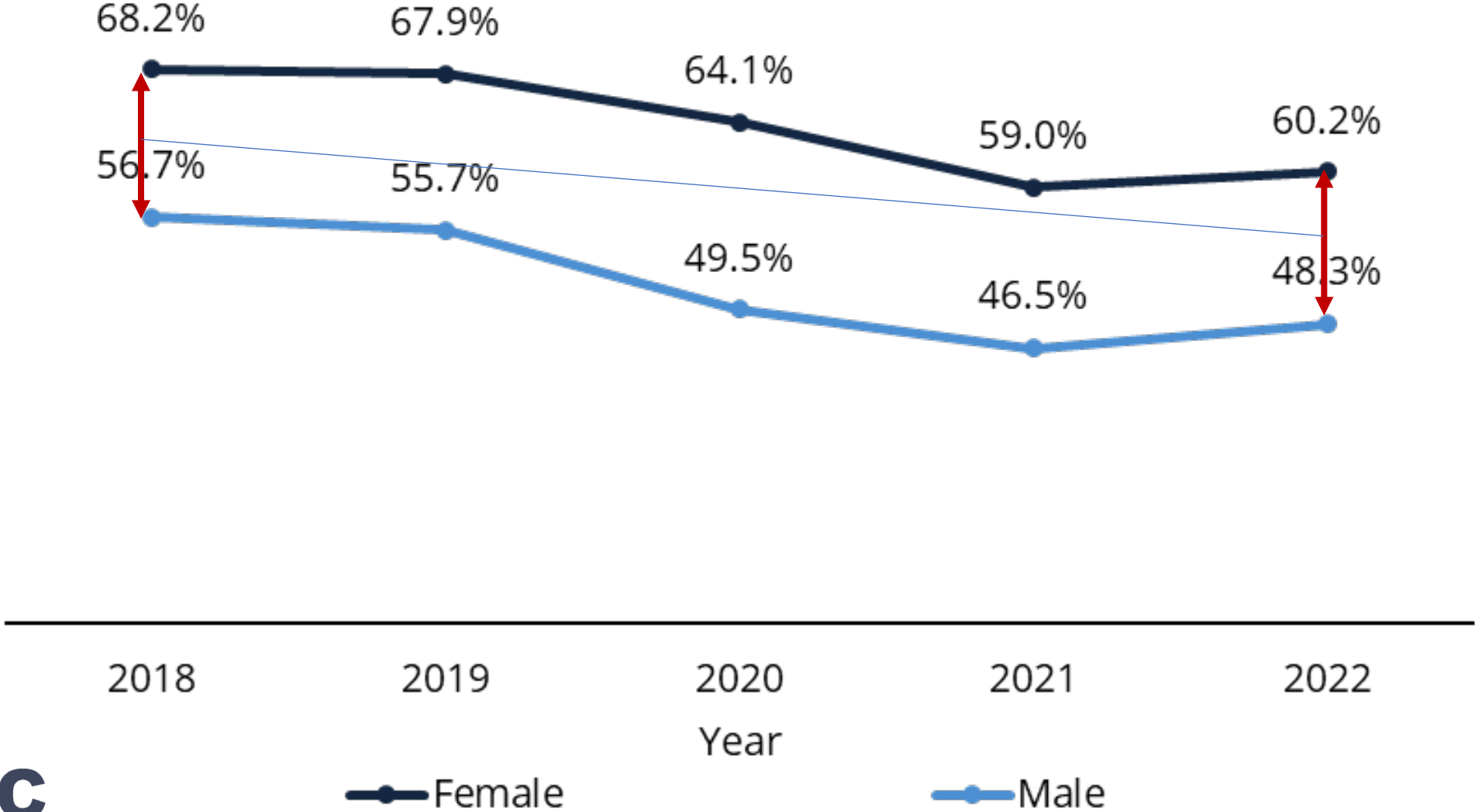
# Class of 2022 and CGR Over Time



# CGR Disparities by Race Improve



# Male CGR Continues to Trail Female CGR... but difference is narrowing

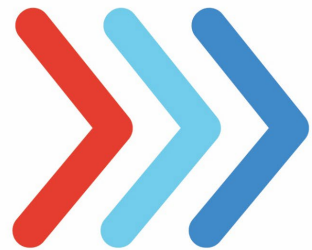




# Dual Enrollment Grants and College-Going

<b>HS Graduating Class</b>	<b>Dual Enrollment Grantees</b>	<b>DEG College-Going Rate</b>	<b>Full Cohort College-Going Rate</b>
2018	17,623 (27.6%)	85.2%	62.5%
2019	18,818 (29.4%)	82.6%	61.7%
2020	19,244 (30.3%)	79.4%	56.8%
2021	17,542 (28.2%)	78.1%	52.8%
2022	17,729 (28.1%)	78.4%	54.3%





**MOMENTUM YEAR 2023**

**EDUCATION VALUE IN TENNESSEE**

Sharing the value of education and building momentum to drive enrollment in education and training beyond high school in Tennessee.

# Momentum Year Big Goals

Increase the college-going rate for the high school class of 2023 to at least 60 percent.

Increase adult enrollment in higher education through Tennessee Reconnect participation.

Improve coordination and alignment in education and workforce training to ensure students have portable and stackable options for greater economic mobility.

## Tennessee Higher Education Commission Announces FAFSA Challenge to Kick-Start Momentum-Building Year for College Enrollment

*Education leaders across the state are encouraging students to complete the FAFSA by March 1 to take advantage of financial aid dollars being left on the table*

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 | 11:03am

## THEC Announces Increase in FAFSA-Filing Rates for Tennessee Promise Applicants: Ranks Number One in Nation

Friday, April 07, 2023 | 12:38pm

## THEC Announces Record-Breaking Year of Tennessee Promise Students

*2022 Report Released on Impact of State's Last-Dollar Scholarship Program Big Momentum Year for Class of 2023 Begins*

Monday, November 21, 2022 | 07:29am

## Countdown to College. Last Call for Fall

*Tennessee Higher Education Commission Encourages Students to Submit College Applications by March 31*

Monday, March 20, 2023 | 03:20pm

# Tennessee Promise Overview

- Funded in 2014
- First Statewide Last-Dollar (“Free College”) Program of Its Kind
- Last-dollar tuition-free scholarship for recent HS grads
- Community Colleges, Technical Colleges, Some Universities
- Funded by Lottery Reserves-turned-Endowment
- All Students are Required to:
  - Complete FAFSA
  - Participate in Mentorship
  - Complete Community Service Hours
- Eligible for 2.5 Semesters
- TN Reconnect (i.e. Promise for Independent Students) Introduced in 2018

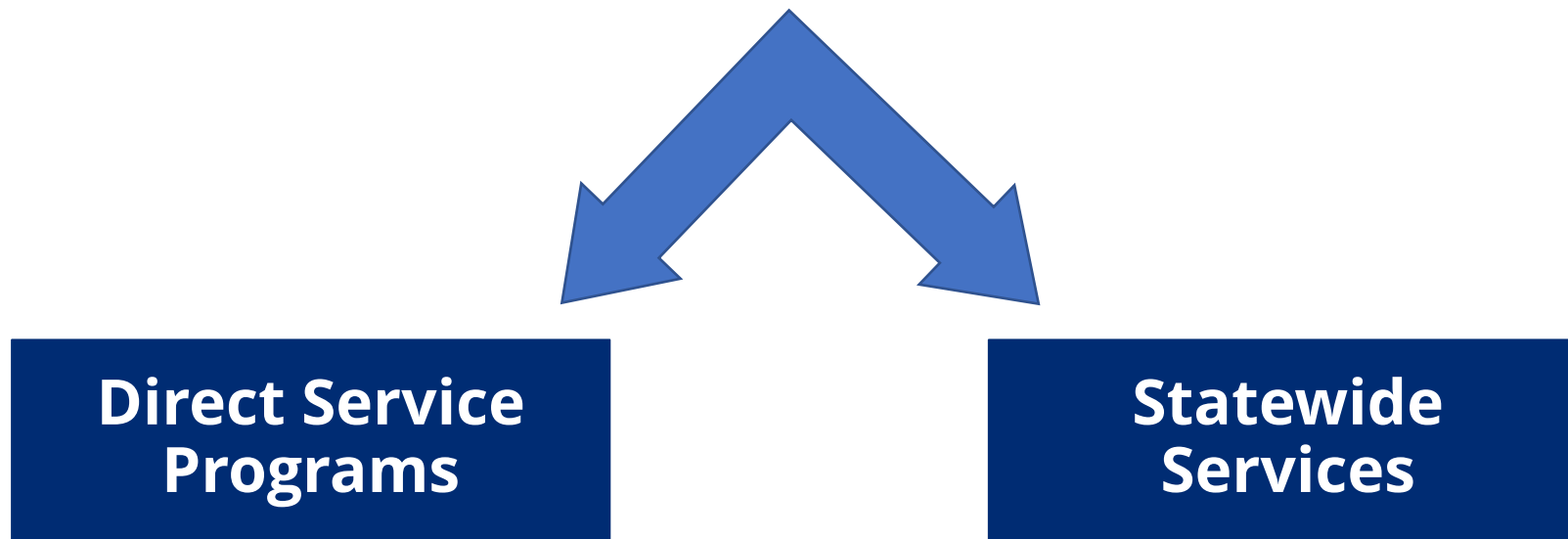
# Tennessee Promise by the Numbers

- 125,000+ students served by TN Promise
- 17,000+ students successfully transferred to a university
- ~40,000 awards and degrees granted
- TN Promise increased full-time, first-time enrollment at community colleges by at least 40%, corresponding with a 2% decline in enrollment at universities (Nguyen, 2020)
- TN Promise reduces number of students borrowing by 40% (8-10 percentage point decline) and the average loan by 32% (\$230-\$360) (Odle, Lee, & Gentile, 2021)

# College Access & Success Division

## Purpose

To create and implement resources and initiatives to significantly increase the number of Tennessee students who enroll and succeed in higher education.





**Funding:** \$2.1 million in state allocated funds

**Overview:** college access and capacity building program that assists students with transactional processes that lead to college enrollment

**Students:** 13,000 junior and senior students at 30 high schools across Tennessee served by full-time, trained college access professionals embedded in partner high schools

**Key Feature:** School partnership is the key to success.

- Advisors are placed in partner high schools that have articulated their strong commitment to building a college-going culture.
- Schools were selected through a competitive bid process.
- Services are rooted in research and best practices from TN and around the nation.



# Outcomes

**Advising:** In AY 2022-2023, Advise TN advisors held over *24,000 advising sessions* with *5,600 juniors and seniors*

**FAFSA:** *12 percentage point increase* in FAFSA filing as compared to pre-program baseline

**College enrollment:** Increase of *3.1 percentage points* from Class of 2021 to Class of 2022

- Double the rate of statewide growth during this time



# Schools & Counties Served by Advise TN



## High Schools

- Austin East High School • Brainerd High School • Cheatham County High School • Chuckey-Doak High School
  - Dickson County High School • Dyer County High School • East Hickman High School
- Franklin County High School • Fulton High School • Grundy County High School\* • Halls High School\* • Hancock County High School\*
- Hickman County High School • Humboldt Jr & Sr High School • Hunters Lane High School • Jefferson County High School
- Kenwood High School • Lake County High School\* • La Vergne High School • Lenoir City High School • Lincoln County High School
  - Mitchell High School • North Greene High School • Northwest High School • Overton High School • Sequoyah High School
  - Van Buren County High School • White County High School

\*These high schools are located in counties identified as economically distressed by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).



**Funding:** Competitive US Department of Education grant requiring a dollar-for-dollar state match

**Overview:** State-led, federally-funded initiative that aims to dramatically increase the number of Tennesseans who access and succeed in higher education

**Duration:** GEAR UP grants typically last seven years

**Key Features:** The federal grant funds college access grants to local communities across TN. Additionally, the grant supports much of the College Access and Success Division's work statewide.



# GEARUP TENNESSEE 2017-2024 Grant

**Current grant includes subgrants to 15 sites.**

**Schools:** 18 high schools and 31 middle schools

- at least 50% free or reduced-price lunch populations and college-going rate below the state average
- selected through a competitive bid process

**Students:** 6,000 annually - Class of 2023 cohort and high school seniors

**Staff:** Each site hires a site coordinator who dedicates 100% of their time and effort to coordinating grant implementation

**Gear UP TN 1.0**  
2005 - 2011

**\$21 million**

**Gear UP TN 2.0**  
2012-2019

**\$29.5 million**

**Gear UP TN 3.0**  
2017-2024

**\$24.5 million**

# Schools and Counties Served by GEAR UP TN



## High Schools

- Clinton High School • Bradley Central High School • Campbell County Comprehensive High School • Jellico High School
- Fayette-Ware High School • Haywood High School • Henry County High School • Jackson County High School • Johnson County High School • Fayetteville High School • Meigs County High School • Whites Creek High School • Livingston Academy • Copper Basin High School • Polk County High School • Springfield High School • Kingsbury High School



# Outcomes: Cohort Students

## GEAR UP TN 1.0 (2005 - 2011)

- **Students:** *6,164 students* from nine school districts
- **College Enrollment:** *10.7 percentage point increase* over baseline (cohort)

## GEAR UP TN 2.0 (2012 - 2019)

- **Students:** *51,887 students* participated in 2,887,007 hours of direct services
- **College Enrollment:** *10 percentage point increase* over baseline (cohort)
- **FAFSA:** *17 percentage point increase* over the grant comparison group
- **College Retention:** *70% fall-to-fall retention rate*, an eight percentage point increase over the grant comparison group



# Outcomes: Cohort Students

## GEAR UP TN 3.0 (2017 - 2024)

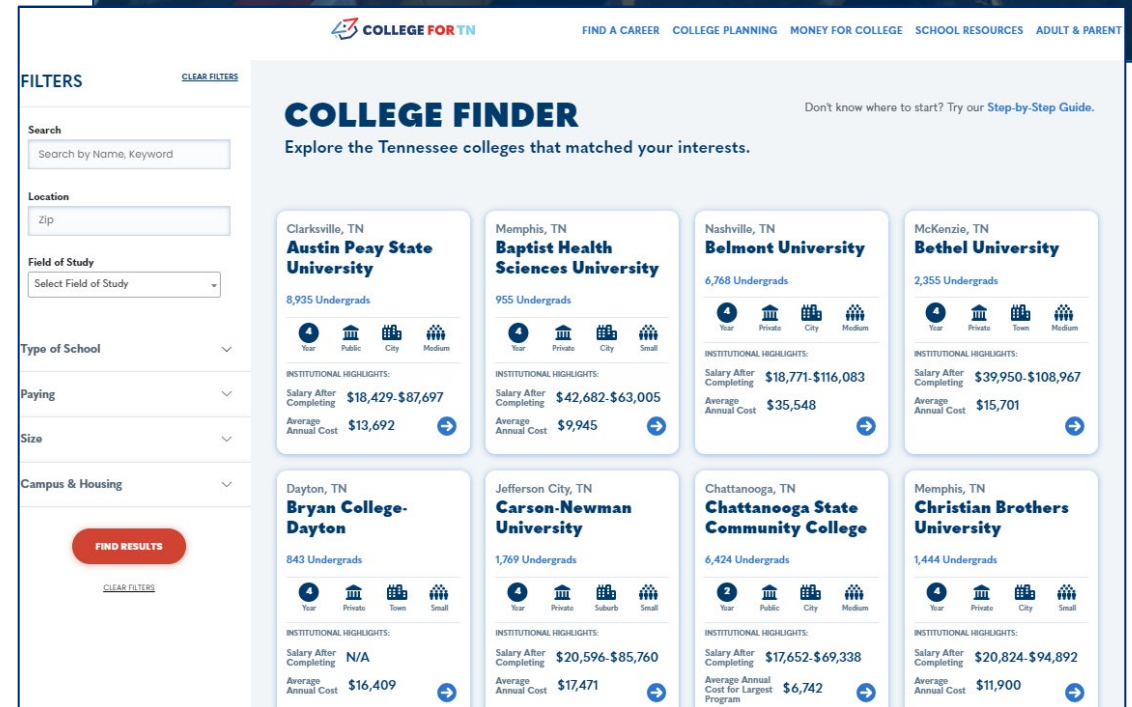
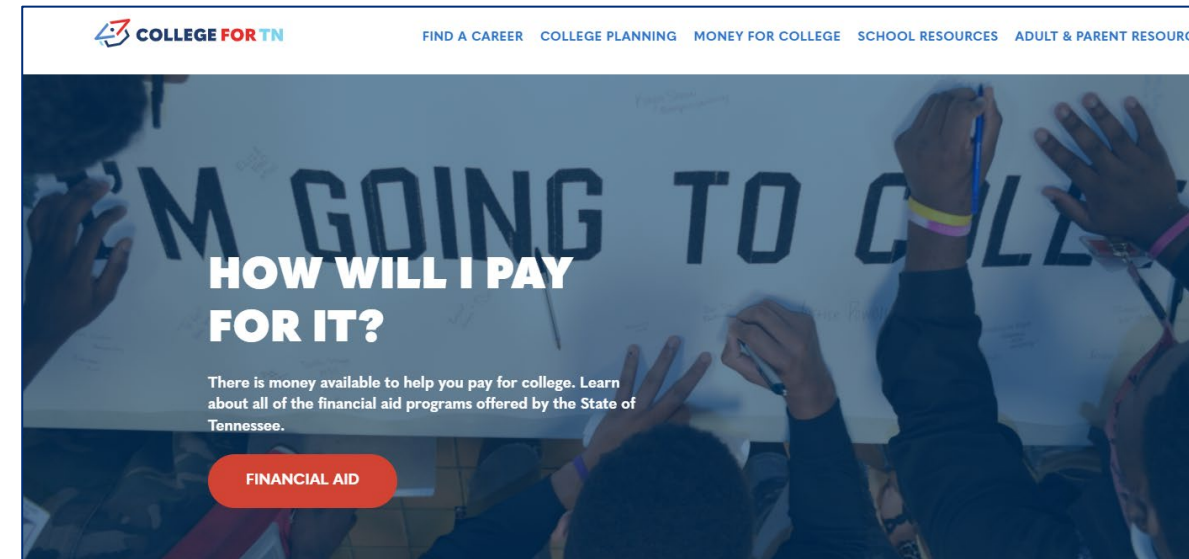
- The current grant's cohort will graduate in May 2023.
- **Financial Aid:** On average, at least *90 percent* of seniors complete the Tennessee Promise application each year, with *90 percent* of Tennessee Promise applicants also filing a FAFSA by the deadline.
- **Services:** Last year (2022-23), the cohort students received over 90,000 hours of services in their senior year

# CollegeForTN.org

Relaunched in Fall 2021

## Website Includes:

- Profiles for 77 Tennessee colleges
- 926 career field profiles
- FAFSA filing information and assistance
- Information about all Tennessee financial aid programs
- Student budgeting tools
- Resources for schools and parents



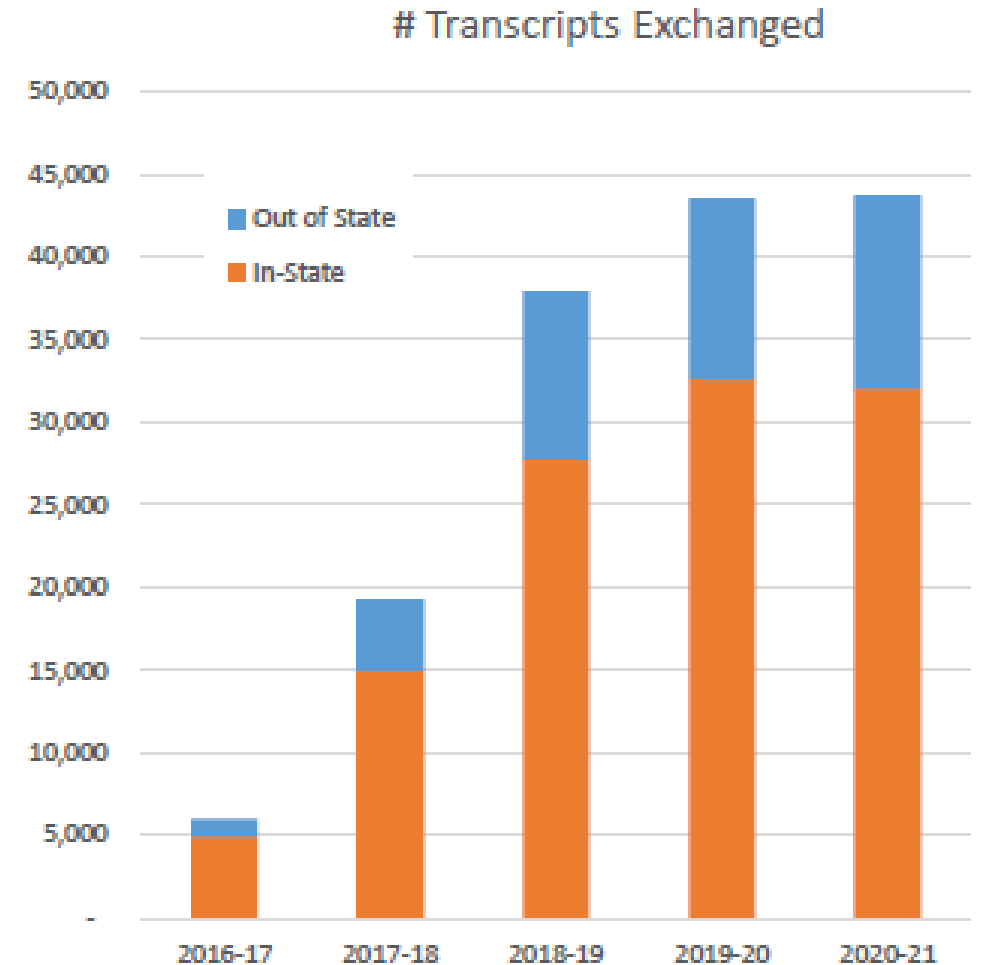
# TN Electronic Transcript Exchange

## Free electronic transcript services for high schools and colleges

In 2020-2021, Tennessee students sent *43,719 transcripts* using the Exchange.

Over *172 participating high schools* have registered to send transcripts using the Exchange.

**Participation:** *47 higher education institutions*, representing 79 percent of the students enrolled in postsecondary institutions





# Questions?

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