



FutureReadyTN

WHERE EDUCATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY

FutureReady TN

Deborah Knoll, Assistant Commissioner

Tennessee Department of Education



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In one word, describe what the phrase "Future Ready" means to you.

FutureReady TN

- **FutureReadyTN** is a **unifying framework**.
- It is a way to **centralize** and **focus** the statewide conversation around what it truly means to Tennessee students to be “future ready.”
- This initiative is designed to **align** and **elevate shared goals** across all stakeholders from **educators** and **employers** to **postsecondary** and **military partners**. So that every **conversation, program** and **policy** decision **contributes to preparing** students for success in **postsecondary, workforce and life**.





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Purpose & Vision

The high school experience in Tennessee will be transformed to ensure access to high-quality, post-secondary credentials of value so students are prepared to achieve their success through strong academic and workforce readiness.

All students deserve to know and understand their postsecondary, workforce, and military options through individualized support, personalized guidance, and a variety of experiences that allow them, in collaboration with the adults in their lives, to make informed decisions leading to high-skill and in-demand career opportunities.

- Commissioner Lizzette Reynolds

Four Pillars



Credentials of Value

The Credentials of Value pillar ensures industry credentials (ICs) are standardized, aligned across education and workforce systems, and responsive to labor market needs, providing students with relevant and valuable career opportunities.



Seamless Transitions

The Seamless Transitions pillar improves planning tools, enhances data integration, expands early postsecondary opportunities (EPSOs), and optimizes state funding for high-impact dual enrollment (DE).



Individualized Advising

The Individualized Advising pillar ensures all students receive high-quality, ongoing advising from 8th grade through two years postsecondary by developing a network of career coaches, providing professional development, and ensuring consistent, impactful advising experiences statewide.



Work-Based Learning (WBL)

The WBL pillar measures WBL experiences by impact, explores new placement models to improve access, and recognizes high-performing industry partners, enhancing student outcomes and workforce readiness.



Credentials of Value



Key Actions & Milestones:

- Finalize and standardize IC terminology across education and workforce systems
- Develop and implement a skills assessment crosswalk for ICs
- Establish a statewide IC list recognized across agencies, maintained in a data-driven and responsive manner to align with labor market needs
- Foster cross-agency collaboration to ensure credential alignment with labor market demands



Individualized Advising



Key Actions & Milestones:

- Build and expand the statewide network of career coaches across districts
- Provide professional development and certification opportunities for career coaches
- Standardize High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) advising practices to ensure high-quality support from 8th grade through two years postsecondary
- Ensure consistent and continuous advising experiences across all districts



Seamless Transitions

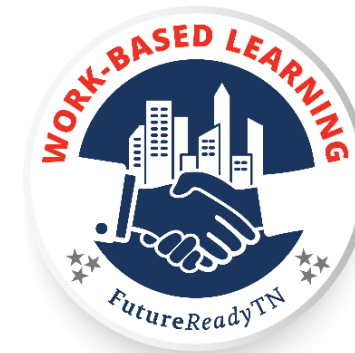


Key Actions & Milestones:

- Streamline and align postsecondary admissions processes to facilitate smoother transitions
- Enhance data integration across agencies to support secondary-to-postsecondary pathways
- Evaluate and recommend strategies to optimize state funding for high-impact DE program
- Assess and propose solutions to improve intentional course-taking and completion in DE pathways



Work-Based Learning



Key Actions & Milestones:

- Develop and implement a tiered system to categorize WBL experiences based on impact
- Pilot new WBL models and expand existing WBL pilot projects, such as work-based courses, to enhance student access to meaningful WBL experiences
- Expand recognition opportunities for high-impact industry partners
- Create an incentive system to encourage industry partners to strengthen education and workforce collaborations



Bringing it All Together



A Unified Platform
connecting education,
workforce, and military
pathways, integrating
Transforming Tennessee
High Schools and TN Works



Builds on Four Key Pillars
to support students,
educators, and
workforce leaders



Provides Tools
to navigate education
and career options

...to drive informed decisions and foster a competitive workforce for Tennessee's economic growth.

FutureReadyTN

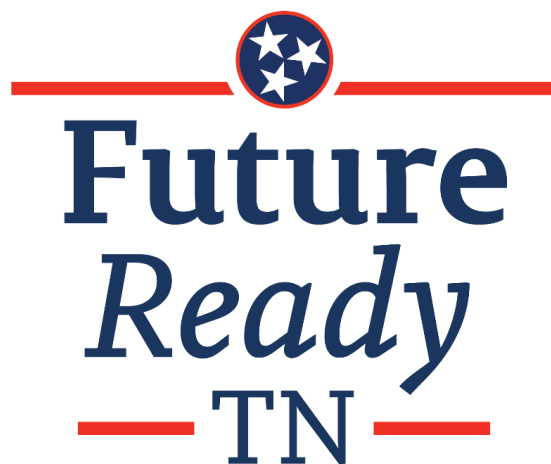
Key Features

- **Unified System:** Integrates education, workforce, and military pathways to guide students, educators, and workforce leaders.
- **Interactive Pathway Maps:** Students explore personalized high school, postsecondary, and career options, with real-time updates.
- **Student Portfolio:** Tracks academic, extracurricular, and WBL experiences for streamlined admissions and funding opportunities
- **School Counselor Interface:** Supports counselors in tracking graduation progress, EPSO credits, and postsecondary planning.
- **State Agency Collaboration:** Centralizes data across all state agencies to align educational offerings with workforce needs.
- **Predictive Analytics:** Provides workforce trends and supports decision-making for education and economic development.



Vision for the **FUTURE** **Workforce in Tennessee**

The **FutureReady TN** initiative envisions a robust, skilled workforce poised for high-wage, high-skill job opportunities. By aligning education with workforce needs and providing clear pathways, Tennessee aims to cultivate a competitive advantage in the global economy.





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— **Questions?**



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Thank You!

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