



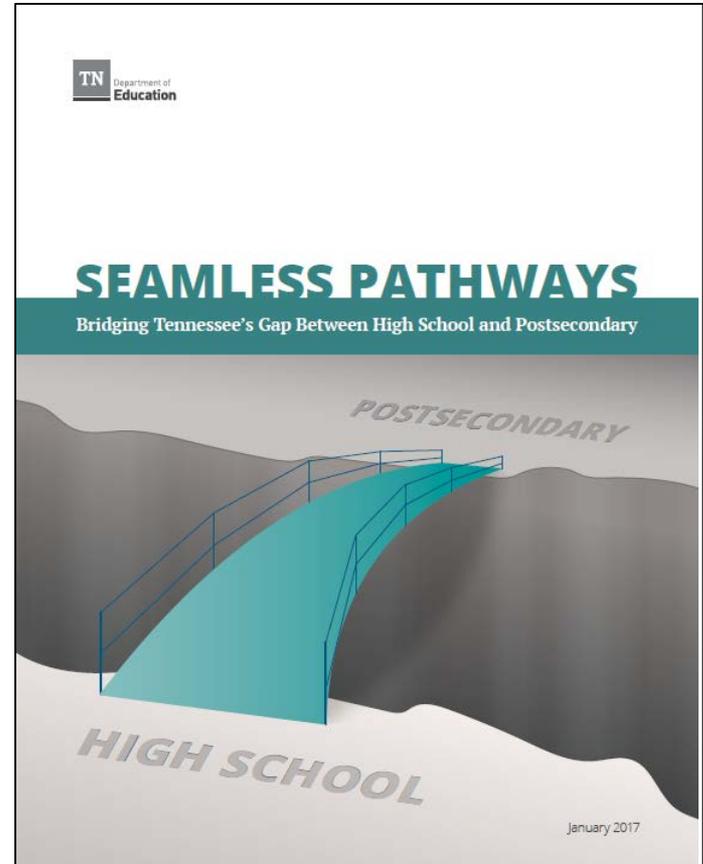
# Seamless Pathways: Bridging the Gap between High School & Postsecondary

Jan 26, 2017

# Tennessee is poised to become a national leader in preparing students for the changing demands of our workforce.

## State Initiatives

- Drive to 55
  - Tennessee Promise
  - AdviseTN
- Tennessee Succeeds
  - Accountability metrics based on college and career readiness
  - Coordination with technical and community colleges
  - Focus on early postsecondary

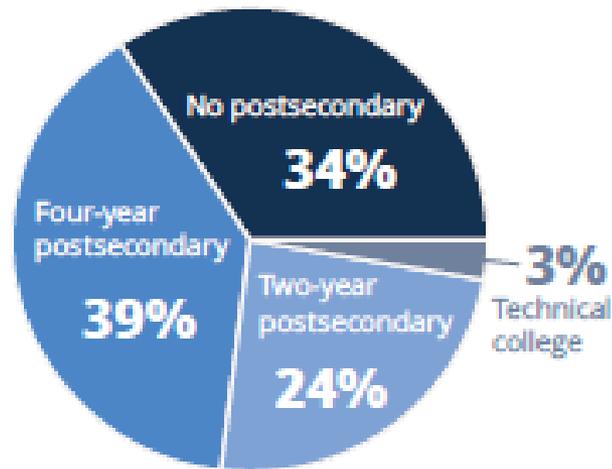


# But we still have a long way to go.

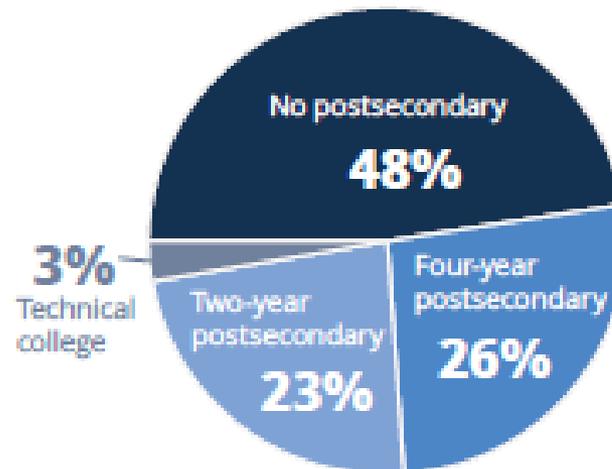
## 2013-14 Tennessee High School Graduates

This figure focuses on the 87 percent of students who graduated high school. We used 2013-14 graduates for this figure in order to draw on the most recent salary and postsecondary information available.

### ALL GRADUATES



### ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

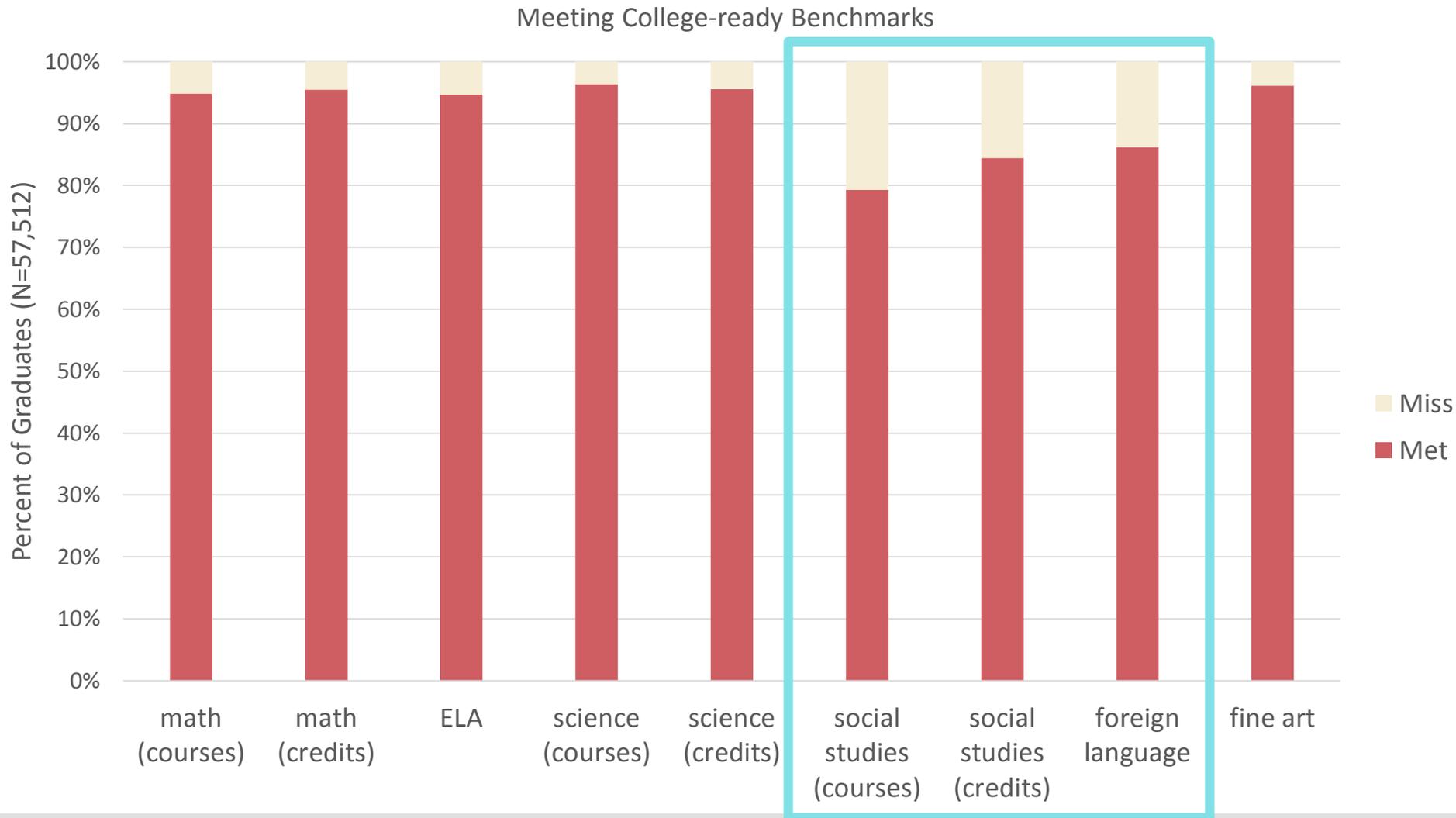


Students who graduated from high school and entered the workforce earned an **average salary of \$10,880 annually**, far below the poverty line.

# The Challenges

1. Too many students say they are not receiving the resources or guidance to set them on a pathway toward postsecondary.
2. Given their heavy caseloads and numerous responsibilities, school counselors cannot be the sole source of postsecondary and career information.
3. One-third of high school graduates are not completing all course requirements.
4. Less than one-quarter of high school graduates earn early postsecondary credit.
5. High school teachers mistakenly believe that students are receiving proper postsecondary guidance.

# Graduates most commonly failed to meet social studies and foreign language requirements.



# Recommendations for bridging the gap



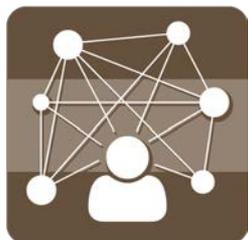
1. Foster collective responsibility among middle and high school faculty and staff for the postsecondary preparedness of their students.



2. Ensure that all students have equitable access to course opportunities to increase postsecondary readiness and success.



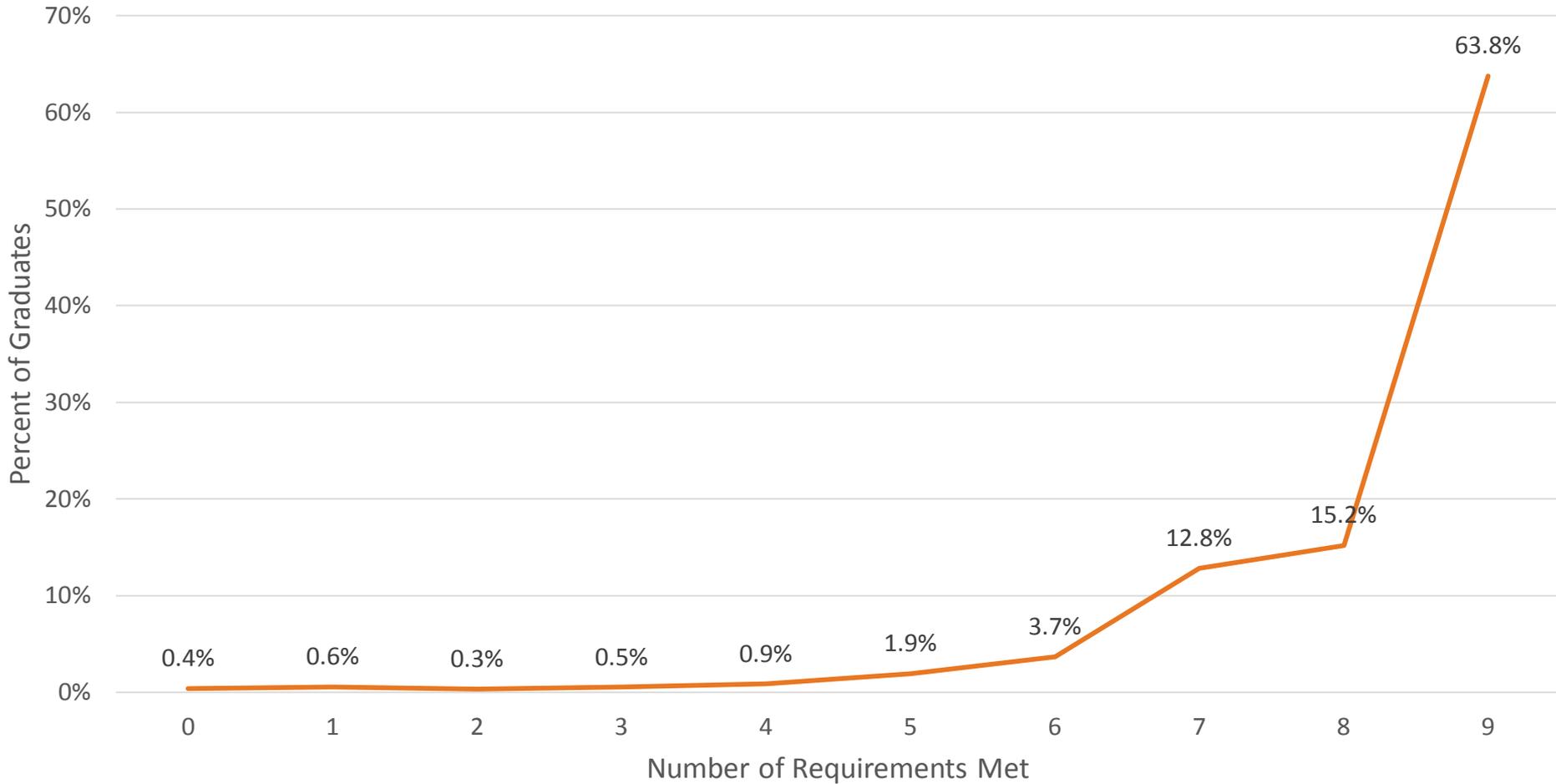
3. Communicate with students about their postsecondary and career options early and often.



4. Leverage external partnerships and resources for added capacity, expertise, and influence.

# The majority of students who failed to meet all nine college-ready benchmarks were missing one or two requirements.

High School Graduates (N=57,436)



# What we know...

- We believe up to 50% are data related.
- Issues with “decisions” being made:
  - Misunderstandings related to requirements
  - SBE has updated information regarding social studies and explicitly stating course requirements
  - TDOE provided FAQ
- Two subjects with the most misses:
  - Social studies ex. History and government
    - This is likely an error due to misunderstanding and poor data quality
  - Foreign language
    - This is likely to teacher shortages
- Teacher shortages:
  - Foreign language

# What we're doing...

- TDOE updating “approved course list” policy.
  - Explicit substitutions for what courses substitute what classes
  - Example:  
*Advanced Placement English Language & Composition (7.2) and Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition (7.3) may substitute for English III or English IV.*
- Addition to master course correlations document to specify “high school graduation requirement”.
- CCTE is working with:
  - Credit Recovery working group to better demonstrate and understand process and guidelines
  - Master Scheduling advisory group to develop best practices

# Next Steps

- TDOE will explore improved data quality with SIS vendors.
- TDOE will pursue an update of foreign language waiver; Will likely bring language to the April SBE meeting.



Department of  
**Education**

*Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.*

**Excellence | Optimism | Judgment | Courage | Teamwork**