

**DATE:** April 26, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Status of P-16 Activity

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Information

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Governor Bredesen has added Tennessee to Achieve’s American Diploma Project (ADP) Network of 29 states ([www.achieve.org](http://www.achieve.org)). American Diploma Project partner organizations are Achieve, Inc., created by the nation’s governors and business leaders as a not-for profit entity to help states raise academic standards; The Education Trust, an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to closing achievement gaps for at-risk groups; and the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, a foundation supporting higher academic standards and accountability.

The purpose of the ADP is to support states in their establishment of rigorous high school academic standards to improve readiness for college and work. Tennessee’s participation in the ADP is jointly directed by the State Department of Education and the Governor’s Planning Office, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the two systems of higher education, and business and community.

A seven-member Tennessee team attended Achieve’s ADP Alignment Institute (March 26-28) with similar groups from Hawaii, New Mexico, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Arizona, also new participants in the project. Representatives from North Carolina and Arkansas (states that have fully adopted the ADP standards) provided overviews on effective processes for implementation.

Tennessee is moving forward on an accelerated calendar to complete outreach to postsecondary and business to define expectations and mathematics and language arts K-13 curricula alignment for these college- and work-ready standards. The goals of the ADP are directly consonant with current Tennessee standard reform initiatives, such as High School Redesign and the State P-16 Math Curricula Alignment focus.

ADP Network states have committed to addressing these four policy priorities:

- align high school standards and assessments with the knowledge and skills required for success after high school;
- require all graduates to take rigorous courses, aligned with state standards that prepare them for life after high school;
- streamline the assessment system so that the tests students take in high school can also serve as placement tests for college; and
- hold high schools accountable for graduating students who are ready for college or careers and hold postsecondary institutions accountable for students’ success once enrolled.