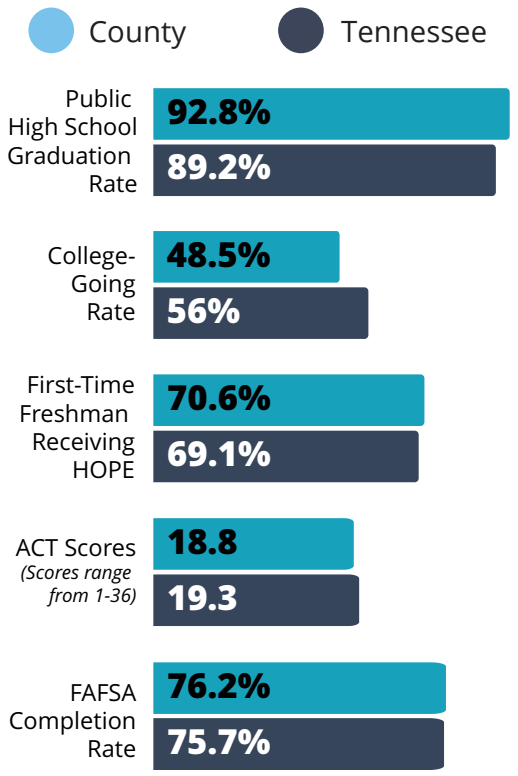
Tennessee Higher Education Commission

2026 Higher Education County Profile

Jefferson County

Education Attainment Rate (age 25-64)	County	TN
Adults with HS+	90.2%	90.6%
Adults with Some College, No Degree	21.1%	20%
Adults with Associate or higher	32.7%	40.4%
Adults with Bachelor's or higher	21.7%	32%

Socioeconomic Profile	County	TN
Labor Force Participation Rate	57.8%	60.5%
Share of Population in Poverty	11.5%	13.8%
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	2.9%
Population Ages 25-64	28,890	3,632,793
Rate of Population Growth (2023-2025)	2.3%	1.8%
Population Projections (2025-2035)	4.8%	6.9%
Median Household Income	$63,084	$67,097



Note: 2024 Federal Public High School Graduation Rate and 2024 Average ACT Scores provided by TDOE. 2024 College-Going Rate and HOPE Recipient Rate for Fall 2024 provided by THEC.

Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Recipients

Scholarship	Recipients
HOPE Scholarship	361
HOPE with GAMS	62
HOPE with Aspire	124
Dual Enrollment Grant	379
HOPE Foster Care Grant	<10
Non-Traditional Student Scholarship	<10
Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant	114
Total Amount Awarded	**$3,661,544**

Tennessee Student Assistance Award

821
TSAA-Eligible FAFSAs Filed

484
Awards

$1,032,169
Awarded

The TSAA is a state-funded grant program. This scholarship provides non-repayable need-based financial assistance to undergraduate students who are residents of Tennessee. TSAA Awardees must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment, at least part-time, at a public or an eligible non-public postsecondary institution in Tennessee and have a Student Aid Index below the eligibility threshold.

Top Colleges Selected by 2024 High School Graduates

1.	Walters State Community College	74
2.	East Tennessee State University; University of Tennessee, Knoxville	27
3.	TN Private 4-Year Institution	22
4.	TCAT Morristown	17
5.	University of Tennessee, Chattanooga	<10

Top 5 In-Demand Occupations by Projected Annual Openings and Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) *- Entry-Level Hourly Wage*

1.	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$18.67
2.	Nursing Assistants	$13.89
3.	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	$15.48
4.	Medical Assistants	$15.13
5.	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	$18.28

*Note: 2025 Top Occupations are identified annually in the **THEC Supply and Demand Report**, using data provided by TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development and TN Department of Economic and Community Development. This list represents the top five occupations ordered by the highest number of projected annual openings from 2020-2030. Entry-level wage data is presented with each occupation.*

Additional in-demand occupations in the LWDA can be found on THEC's website.

TENNESSEE PROMISE
POWERED BY THEC

527

public high school seniors applied for Tennessee Promise in the 2023-24 school year. **25.0%** of those applicants enrolled as part of the Tennessee Promise program in the 2024-25 school year.

TENNESSEE RECONNECT
POWERED BY THEC

143

grant applications for Tennessee Reconnect were received for the 2024-25 school year. A total of **57** Reconnectors were served by Tennessee Reconnect Communities.

THEC VETERANS EDUCATION

2

designated VETS Campus(es) serve the county: Carson-Newman University, Walters State Community College.

THEC TN ELECTRONIC TRANSCRIPT EXCHANGE

1

school participated in the Electronic Transcript Exchange, which allows schools to submit transcript data to colleges for admissions and to TSAC for scholarship purposes.

THEC OUTREACH

11

financial aid outreach hours spent in 2024-25 with **415** attendees. **764** students received multiple communications about state aid webinars and FAFSA resources.

THEC TN PATH TO COLLEGE

9

schools participated in Path to College, which provides resources and information to students, building a college-going culture in their schools.

Outreach Specialist

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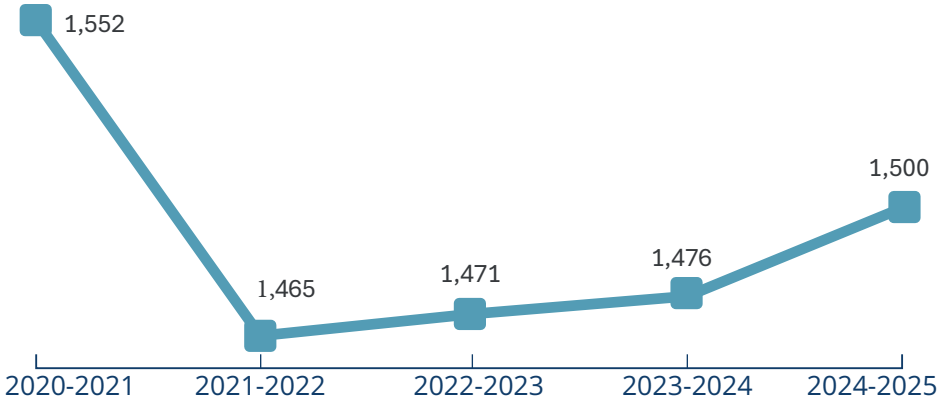
Undergraduate Enrollment