



BEST FOR ALL
#TNBestforAll

ACADEMICS: All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

Early Literacy Supports

Invest in a proven, coherent statewide literacy program that includes high-quality materials, implementation coaching, and shared diagnostics for data review.

High-Quality Instructional Materials

Invest in high-quality materials, a tool for standards alignment training, and implementation support to districts.

Innovative Assessments

Build free, curriculum-aligned interim and formative assessments for districts to use.

Career Exploration

Ensure every student has career exploration in middle school and a high school pathway that aligns to their interests and strengths.

WHOLE CHILD: Tennessee public schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all kids.

Whole Child Supports

Build off the incredible work of Coordinated School Health to further ensure that schools and districts are able to quickly and appropriately respond to students in need through stronger resource mapping, online tools, statewide partnerships, and in-school resources.

Character Education

Develop a Tennessee-specific character and citizenship education program that prepares students to make successful contributions to society.

Exceptionalities

Develop regional hubs with the expertise in special education that districts need and create a statewide network that effectively supports students with disabilities through an online tool for families and educators to help identify and navigate resources.

EDUCATORS: Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.

Grow Your Own

Strive to think beyond traditional routes to teaching that increase access to and success in the profession.

Educator and Leader Preparation Innovation

Shift from theory-based to practice-based preparation, with a focus on innovative and residency-based models for prospective teachers and leaders.

School Leader Supports

Establish working groups for school leaders to help design and implement a clear, coherent strategy for school leader development.

We will set all students on a path to success.



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Academics

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EARLY LITERACY

A critical foundation for life-long learning, early literacy must be a top priority for Tennessee. Early literacy supports will focus on **rapidly increasing** the percentage of students who are able to read proficiently at grade level.

All K-2 teachers in Tennessee must have access to and use a **foundational skills curriculum**, and will participate in **statewide training** to build and strengthen their knowledge in teaching children how to read. Elementary schools will have the opportunity to participate in **regional implementation networks** to support educators in literacy instruction.

HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

After the teacher in the classroom, the instructional materials a teacher uses become the next most impactful part of a child's education. High-quality instructional materials provide teachers with the necessary tools and resources they need to **prepare and deliver strong lessons** that align to high academic standards and boost student outcomes.

The Department approves a suite of **high-quality textbooks and instructional materials** to empower districts across the state to select materials that will best address the needs of their local students, and advances the effective implementation and utilization of these materials in schools and classrooms every day. An **online portal** will provide educators access to a suite of resources that will help facilitate ongoing learning at the local level.

INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Tennessee's work to create and adhere to **high academic standards that lead to increases in student achievement** and outcomes. However, student assessments based on these standards are being developed by districts with their own resources, and a majority are not yet fully aligned to state standards.

Tennessee will develop and deploy a **suite of free, curriculum-aligned assessment resources** and provide direct, easy access to these resources to educators, school leaders, and districts.

CAREER EXPLORATION

Over the next year, the Department will research **national career programs** and visit elementary, middle, and high schools with "exemplar" career awareness, exploration, and advising programs to determine best practices and strategies, to identify ways to scale and improve career exploration in Tennessee.

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Whole Child

Tennessee public schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all kids.

WHOLE CHILD SUPPORTS

Whole Child Supports promote access to the foundational resources necessary to ensure students are able to academically prosper. Building upon the incredible work of Coordinated School Health, we will improve each child's cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development to ensure that students across the state have the support they need to succeed.

Supporting the whole child begins with **eliminating barriers to critical health and well-being resources**. New resource mapping tools, community partnerships and in-school resources will provide insight to the resources and services available locally throughout the state to help ensure children in need receive immediate support.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

For students to be life- and workforce-ready, **additional development beyond academic content** is necessary. Tennessee-specific programs that focus on helping students develop strong personal characteristics, financial literacy, and a solid understanding of citizenship and civics help to prepare students to make lifelong contributions to our society.

An aligned, PK-12 **Tennessee-specific character education curricula** will equip districts and schools with high-quality instructional materials while ensuring teachers are equipped to share with their classrooms.

EXCEPTIONALITIES

Students with exceptionalities have **learning needs beyond the supports provided in the general core curriculum**.

Students with disabilities, English learners, highly mobile youth, and students who need additional interventions due to academic or behavioral challenges, as well as educators of these students, need additional supports for academic achievement.

The state will create an infrastructure that effectively supports children with exceptionalities, providing **tools for families and educators** to help navigate the system, and creating **regional hubs** to spur deeper collaboration and sharing of expertise most needed by districts.

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Educators

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.

GROW YOUR OWN

All Tennessee students deserve access to a high-quality education and an **effective teacher in every classroom**. Declining enrollment in traditional educator preparation programs (EPPs) poses challenges to this goal.

The Department will strive to think beyond traditional routes to teaching to support the development of “Grow Your Own” programs that increase access to and success in the profession. The Department approved in 2019 its first Grow Your Own partnerships with higher education institutions to help incentivize and ensure aspiring educators are well supported during their postsecondary education.

EPP/LPP INNOVATION

Student achievement and outcomes are tied to the effectiveness of the teachers in their classrooms and their school leaders. **Developing effective teachers and school leaders** relies on the quality of their field experiences in EPPs and leader preparation programs (LPPs).

The Department will support a shift from theory-based to practice-based preparation, with a focus on **innovative and residency-based models** for prospective teachers and leaders. Learning from innovative, research-based EPP and LPP programs already happening across the state and nation, the Department can help define high-quality field experiences and residency models and implement support systems that maximize the amount of time EPP and LPP students have for classroom- and school-based experience under the tutelage of veteran educators.

SCHOOL LEADER SUPPORTS

Leveraging the collaboration of school leaders participating in groups such as the **Principal Supervisor Network, Aspiring Assistant Principal Network, and Rural Principal Network**, the state will identify and create opportunities to develop career pathways for educators who aspire to school leadership.

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