



Frequently Asked Questions about ***The Future Ready Institutes of Hamilton County***

Who can apply for an institute?

Currently In Hamilton County Schools: Any zoned system eighth-grade student who is scheduled to be a freshman in 2018-2019 can apply.

Out of Hamilton County Schools: Any student currently not living in the Hamilton County Schools zone but is in the process of moving and will be living in the system zone and enroll as a freshman for the 2018-2019 school year. Documentation will be required stating the intent to move into the Hamilton County Schools zone for the 2018-2019 school year.

Are the institutes for college preparation only?

No. The institutes support career preparation for those entering the job market after graduation, as well as, those planning to attend college for additional training before entering a career. Combining academics with career preparation experiences within each institute will foster the critical thinking skills necessary for future success.

What benefits do students receive when joining an institute?

Students enrolling in a Future Ready Institute will have the opportunity to jumpstart their career path and enrich their lives after high school. Institutes will provide unique learning experiences including learning supported by hands-on project development, guest speakers from business and industry, job shadowing, internships, workforce certifications, college credits, and so much more. A Future Ready Institute also incorporates the small learning community approach. Smaller learning communities allow students to grow in their collaboration with each other, gives teachers the chance to build deeper, positive relationships with students and allows teachers to gain a clearer understanding of what individual student's need for success.

If a student is currently homeschooled or attending a charter, magnet or private school in Hamilton County, can he or she apply to a Future Ready Institute?

A student who is not currently enrolled in a Hamilton County Schools or enrolled in a district charter, magnet school, or private school and resides in Hamilton County may apply to an institute for the 2018-2019 school year. System registration forms are required to complete registration.

How can I learn more about institute locations and programs?

You will get valuable information about the program attending an institute Parent Information Night.

District-wide middle school information session:

Where: Unum - 500 Walnut Street, Chattanooga TN
Parking at the Intersection of 5th Street and Walnut Street
When: April 17, 2018, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Individual school information nights are planned for school sites as well. To find out more information regarding these dates, go to www.hcde.org/futureready, visit the individual school website, or call the school directly.

How does a student apply for an institute?

Beginning April 2, 2018, applications will be available electronically at www.hcde.org/futureready. Paper applications will be available at the institute Parent Information Night as well as the school counseling offices of all Hamilton County middle and high schools.

Applicants must turn in applications to their middle school counselor or submit applications online by May 4, 2018.

What is the application criterion for Future Ready Institutes?

The application criterion for an institute is based solely on student interest and enrollment at the school offering institute.

Once a student has applied, what is the selection process?

A school's capacity determines the number of students accepted into an institute. At least 25% of the school institute's enrollment is designated for students living outside of a school's zone. A lottery will be held to determine the selection of students if interest is greater than the allotted institute positions. Students and parents will receive notification of their selection status between May 16, and May 22, 2018. Notification will be provided to parents outlining the individual institute school's processes procedures for a student starting the 2018-2019 school year.

Will students not selected for an institute still have a chance to attend?

Each institute will maintain a waiting list until at least July 31, 2018. If other students who were selected choose not to register, the institute will contact students on the waiting list.

What is the withdrawal policy if a student changes his or her mind about attending the institute?

It is critical that a student who applies for an institute does so based on his or her interest in the college and career theme of the institute. If a student withdraws from an institute, he or she must return to his or her zoned high school. Although a student may withdraw at any point in the school year, it is important to note this could affect a student's ability to complete a career and technical education (CTE) pathway. Parents and students should consult with the school administration and guidance counselor before withdrawal.

What if a student admitted to an institute decides no longer to take the institute pathway classes?

If attending the institute out of zone, the student must be enrolled in the institute classes to remain at the school of choice. If the student, at the end of a school year, decides to enroll in classes that are not aligned with the institute pathway, he or she will be withdrawn from the institute and asked to return to his or her zoned high school.

If a freshman student enrolls in a new school in the middle of the 2018-2019 school year, can he or she enroll in the school's institute?

Pending availability, a student who has transferred as a freshman in the middle of the 2018-2019 school year can be enrolled in the school's Institute.

If a student decides to withdraw from an institute, will that affect his or her ability to compete in sports?

Once a student has been accepted to an institute, he or she is now considered a member of that school. If a student withdraws from the institute, he or she must return to their zoned high school. If a student chooses to practice or play on a school sports team and then leave the institute, the student should speak with the athletic director about eligibility rules for transfer students before withdrawing, as he or she must follow the existing transfer or hardship policies established by the TSSAA. See the TSSAA website <http://www.tssaa.org> for further clarification.

What transportation options are available if a student chooses an institute not offered at his/her zoned school?

Parents are responsible for transportation to the institute if it is located outside of the student's zoned school. To provide limited, sustainable transportation options, Hamilton County Schools will establish bus transportation partnerships to be shared by mid-April in advance of parent informational meetings. If interested in the partnered bus transportation option, a parent or guardian will need to complete a transportation form during institute orientation/registration process with the individual school.