



College and Post-Secondary Education Available for All Hamblen County Students

Hamblen County Schools is dedicated to helping all students become college and career ready. Post-secondary education at a university, community college, or technical school is more important than ever in the 21st century. Through the Hamblen County Board of Education forming strong bonds with other community institutions and organizations, all students can earn an associates degree from a community college or a certificate from the technology center at no cost to the student or family.

SpringBoard

All middle school students are taught using the College Board SpringBoard English Language Arts curriculum. This prepares student for challenging curriculum in high school Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

AP

Hamblen County Schools offer 17 AP courses, which is one of the largest offerings of any Tennessee school system. After completing the course, a student takes a national exam, which is scored on a scale of 1 to 5. Most colleges and universities give college credit for scores of 3 or higher. Some students have graduated with almost 40 semester hours of college credit through the AP program. The cost of each AP test is currently \$89. A grant adjusts the cost for students who receive free and reduced meals to \$10 per test. The Board of Education and the Alcoa Howmet Foundation through a grant have established a fund to reimburse all students who score 3 or higher on their AP test with 50% of the test cost. A secondary benefit of AP is that local data shows that students' ACT scores increase 0.7 points for every AP course taken.

Dual Enrollment

Our close proximity to Walters State Community College facilitates students taking college courses while still in high school and receiving both college and high school credit for successful work. The State of Tennessee provides a \$1500 scholarship for students to use while still in high school to take dual enrollment courses. This scholarship will pay \$300 toward tuition charges for five courses. In most cases, this still leaves a cost of approximately \$150 per course. A grant from the Alcoa Howmet Foundation and the Niswonger Foundation provides funds to cover the costs not paid by the Tennessee Dual Enrollment Scholarship. Through the Niswonger Foundation, Tusculum College offers a number of courses for the cost of the dual enrollment scholarship.

SAILS

The SAILS (Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support) program is a new program from the State Board of Regents. This program currently allows students in a special Advanced Algebra and Trig course and students enrolled in a special Greenhouse Management course to take a state test at the end of the course. Students who meet the state benchmarks on this test will be given college credit at no cost to the student.

tnAchieves

tnAchieves provides a last-dollar, post-secondary scholarship. This means tuition cost should no longer be an obstacle when a student is deciding to attend a community or technical college. While all public high school students are eligible for tnAchieves, the program focuses primarily on first generation, low-income students. However, ANY Hamblen County student may participate in this program!

To be a tnAchieves Scholar, you must do the following:

- Submit a completed application by the October 4, 2013 deadline
- Communicate with your mentor every 2 weeks.
- Attend a mandatory team meeting in January
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by February 1, 2014.
- Apply to one of the approved Community Colleges or Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology by February 15, 2014.
- Attend a mandatory team meeting in March.

- Complete the American College Test (ACT) by April 12, 2014.
- Register for classes at one of the approved community colleges by July 1, 2014.
- Carry a minimum of 12 credit hours (if you graduated before December 2012, you are only required to have 6 hours).
- Attend your assigned mandatory New Student Orientation in June or July.
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA.
- Attend a mandatory college meeting in September.
- Complete and submit one approved 8-hour community service project per semester.

ACT

The state of Tennessee provides a voucher to cover the cost of the ACT test. For a limited number of economically disadvantaged students, ACT provides a voucher to cover the cost of a second test. A grant from the HC*EXCELL also provides funds for second ACT tests. First priority is given to financial need and those who have completed an ACT prep class provided by the Board of Education. However, as needs arise, all students may apply for this funding for second ACT tests. The ACT Prep Class is provided twice a year after school and is led by certified math and English language arts teachers. While the cost of similar programs is up to \$1200, the program is offered at a cost of \$25. This fee is returned to students who attend all sessions.

Tennessee Hope Scholarship (Lottery Scholarship)

Students must meet the following requirements:

- Entering freshmen must have a minimum of a 21 ACT (980 SAT), exclusive of the essay and optional subject area battery tests OR
- Overall minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA) *weighted
- If a student ceases to be eligible for HOPE, except for GAMS and HOPE Access Grant, the student may regain HOPE, one-time only.
- ACT/SAT exams must be taken prior to the first day of college enrollment. The award amount is up to \$6,000 per year at an eligible four-year postsecondary institution or a two-year eligible postsecondary institution that offers on-campus housing and up to \$3,000 per year at an eligible two-year postsecondary institution. The award is divided equally between fall, spring and summer semesters. Awards to part-time enrolled students are prorated.

**Weighted grade point average means a grade point average on a 4.0 scale calculated with additional internal quality points awarded for advanced placement, honors or other similar courses according to the Uniform Grading Policy adopted by the State Board of Education.*

Wilder Naifeh Technical Grant

- Enroll in a certificate or diploma program at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology.
- Cannot be prior recipient of Tennessee HOPE Scholarship or Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant
- Available to all students enrolled at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology who are TN residents 1 year prior to the term school begins
- Award amount - \$2,000 (no more than cost of attendance)

Under certain circumstances, Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant recipients who complete their diploma from a Tennessee College of Applied Technology consisting of at least nine hundred (900) clock hours may be eligible to receive a HOPE Scholarship by enrolling at an eligible two-year or four-year postsecondary institution within three years of completing a diploma.

Bridge Math

Students must score a 19 on the ACT test to begin college work. For students who do not meet this standard in math, there is a requirement to do remedial work. If a Hamblen County student has not achieved this benchmark by his or her senior year, they can take Bridge Math as a fourth math course. If they are successful with the state test, this will meet the remedial coursework requirement for college entrance.