



T E N N E S S E E

Promise

Beginning with the Class of 2015, the Tennessee Promise will provide Tennessee high school graduates the opportunity to attend a community or technical college free of tuition and fees.

Overview

The Tennessee Promise is both a scholarship and mentoring program that will begin in the fall of 2015. It will provide students a last-dollar scholarship, meaning the scholarship will cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, or TSAA. While removing the financial burden is key, a critical component of Tennessee Promise is the individual guidance each participant will receive from a mentor who will provide guidance and assistance as the student enters higher education. In addition, students will be required to complete eight hours of community service per term enrolled, as well as maintain satisfactory academic progress (2.0 GPA).

Administration of Tennessee Promise

Tennessee Promise's scholarship component will be administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC), while the mentoring and community service pieces will be coordinated by local, non-profit partnering organizations. County mayors will select which organization will partner with their counties by July 9, 2014. Once a student applies to the Tennessee Promise program through www.tnpromise.gov, his or her respective partnering organization will be responsible for reaching out regarding program requirements and mentorship connections.

Program Requirements

In order for students to participate in the program, they must meet several requirements and deadlines:

- November 1, 2014 Apply to the Tennessee Promise program at www.tnpromise.gov.
- February 15, 2015 Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov
- By March 1, 2015 Attend first mandatory meeting coordinated by partnering organization
- By May 31, 2015 Attend second mandatory meeting coordinated by partnering organization
- June 30, 2015 Complete FAFSA verification
- Before start of term Apply to and enroll in a community or technical college (TCAT)
- Before start of term Complete 8 hours of community service by the first day of class

Once in the program, students must do the following to retain their scholarship:

- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (At a community college, that is the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA.)
- Complete 8 hours of community service per term enrolled, to be completed before the start of the term
- Complete the FAFSA by February 15 every year they are in the program

Community Engagement

Partnering organizations will work with community leaders and local stakeholders to establish Tennessee Promise advisory councils that will perform several key roles: assist in recruiting volunteer mentors, educate students and parents about the program, and advocate for postsecondary education in their communities.



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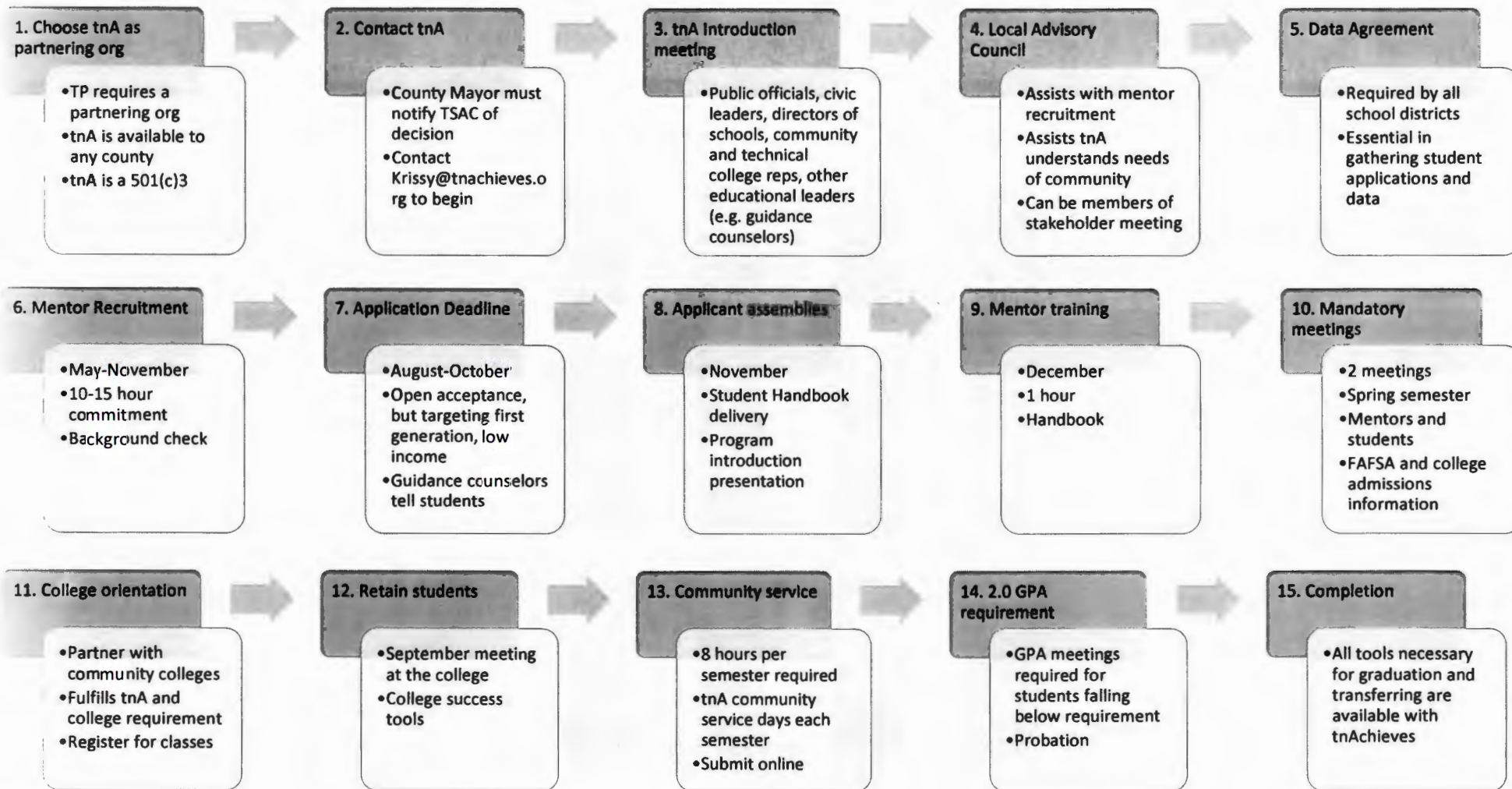
Marion County Statistics

Number of High Schools	5
High School Grads	269
College Going Rate	58%
College Attainment	21%
Expected Applicants	135
Expected Enrollees	67
Mentors Needed	27
Total Mentors	4



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Establishing tnAchieves in Your County as a Partnering Organization to Tennessee Promise





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1. tnAchieves will serve as a partnering organization to any Tennessee county and agrees to work with all eligible students in that county. As required by Tennessee Promise rules, tnAchieves will serve as the administrative component to this last-dollar funding source. Should a county choose tnAchieves, there will be no need for the county to establish a separate 501(c)3 organization.
2. Contact tnAchieves regarding your interest in launching the program in your county. It is important to note that according to Tennessee Promise rules the county mayor will need to notify the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation of your intention to utilize tnAchieves as the required partnering organization. Please email Krissy DeAlejandro at krissy@tnachieves.org for more information.
3. Schedule a meeting with pertinent county stakeholders. This should include your public officials, civic leaders, directors of schools, community and technical college representatives, and other educational leaders (e.g. school counselors). tnAchieves will facilitate this meeting which will discuss implementation of the program in your high schools.
4. This particular group can serve as a local advisory council for tnAchieves. The local advisory council will assist tnAchieves with volunteer mentor recruitment as well as ensure the program fully understands the needs of your county's students.
5. Upon agreement that tnAchieves will serve as the partnering organization in your county, the program will enter into a data agreement with your local education agenc(ies). This allows tnAchieves to work effectively when collecting student applications as well as to notify school counselors of student rosters.
6. During the summer and into the fall, tnAchieves will visit the county to recruit and train volunteer mentors. Every student will be assigned a volunteer mentor to assist with the transition from high school to college. tnAchieves mentors spend 10-15 hours annually ensuring the student understands the admissions and financial aid processes as well as encouraging the student to reach his/her potential.
7. After August and prior to the Tennessee Promise application deadline, tnAchieves will visit the high schools to promote the program. tnAchieves will ensure that students are aware of all deadlines and requirements as well as understand the last dollar

component and the eligible post-secondary institutions. It is important to note that while all students will be eligible for tnAchieves, and therefore Tennessee Promise funding, the program will work with school counselors as we seek to target first generation students who would not otherwise be pursuing a post-secondary education.

8. Following the Tennessee Promise application deadline, tnAchieves will work with the high schools to hold student assemblies. Here, students will receive their student handbooks and be introduced to the program.
9. Prior to December, tnAchieves will train the volunteer mentors and provide them with a mentor handbook. It is important to note that tnAchieves will continue to support the mentors throughout their experience with their tnAchieves mentees.
10. During the students' second semester of their senior year, tnAchieves will host two meetings that will serve as the official interface between mentors and students. The meetings will have very specific purposes including understanding of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), admission to a community or technical college, and assigning a college orientation.
11. In partnership with the community and technical colleges, tnAchieves will facilitate new student orientations for students. These sessions familiarize the students with their chosen post-secondary institution as well as ensure students have completed all admissions requirements.
12. Although it is important to increase the number of students who enter the post-secondary pipeline, it is more important that they complete. For tnAchieves, college retention and completion are the metric by which we judge our success. Once the student enters college, we host mandatory meetings the first two months to ensure students have all the tools necessary for college success.
13. Beginning in the summer and throughout the fall and spring semesters, tnAchieves identifies community service opportunities for students. Tennessee Promise requires the student to complete at least 8 hours each semester of college.
14. tnAchieves communicates directly with the colleges to determine a student's academic progress. Each semester tnAchieves will receive student grade reports. Should a student fall below the 2.0 requirement, tnAchieves will require the student to attend a meeting to facilitate improvement the following semesters.
15. tnAchieves will continue to work with its students in an effort to ensure students have all tools for degree completion.



THE TENNESSEE
Promise

Marketing tnAchieves and The Tennessee Promise in Your Community

Mentoring/General Awareness

- tnAchieves will provide "Push Cards" to any stakeholder with information on how to become a tnAchieves mentor and tnAchieves Scholar
 - Electronic and hard copy
- tnAchieves will assist in writing press releases
 - Members of advisory council distribute for release

Student Awareness

- tnAchieves educates guidance counselors on the program and its target student and counselors decide on the best way to promote the program in their school
 - One on one senior meetings
 - Announcements
 - Assemblies
 - Home room information sessions
- tnAchieves provides high schools with "Push Cards" for distribution as requested
- tnAchieves attends parents nights, senior assemblies, and other school events upon request and availability of staff



Mentor Recruitment Best Practices

tnAchieves visits with local stakeholders and organizations that are invested in education and active in the community to recruit volunteers to serve as tnAchieves mentors. Each community is different in regards to the organizations that are the best to approach and that is why we need your help in identifying the target groups. The tnAchieves staff is willing to visit with any group in an attempt to recruit the volunteers needed for your county. We are prepared to offer a 5 – 10 minute overview or a full keynote to interested groups. tnAchieves would also like to identify and train local volunteers to assist with mentor recruitment activities when the staff is unable to attend an event. tnAchieves will be present at as many events as possible, but will need assistance at times when schedules are previously booked. The goal of any recruitment activity is to register at least 10 new mentors or gain access to new organizations of active community members.

1. Civic Clubs
 - a. Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Civitan, Retired Teachers , etc.
2. Chamber of Commerce
 - a. Present to the Board of Directors and ask members if you can present to their employees
 - b. Send to Chamber membership directory
 - c. Column in newsletter
3. Business
 - a. Conduct Lunch and Learns
 - b. Present at staff meeting
 - c. Send a company-wide email blast
 - d. Post push cards in visible areas
4. Schools
 - a. Present at in-service or any teacher or staff seminars
 - b. Email from the principals or DOS
5. Colleges
 - a. Present to staff and faculty
 - b. Email to staff and faculty
6. Local College or University Graduate Programs
 - a. Present information
 - b. Send an email blast
7. Education Foundation
 - a. Present to Board of Directors
 - b. Email blast to membership
 - c. Column in newsletter
8. Leadership Class
 - a. Present on education or community involvement days
 - b. Present to Board of Directors
 - c. Column in newsletter
9. Young Professional and Trade Associations
 - a. Request a program
 - b. Column in newsletters

*If a business recruits a large number, we can offer a special training at their office



10427 PetSafe Way – Knoxville, TN 37932 – 865.621.9223
www.tnAchieves.org

tnACHIEVES MENTOR APPLICATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Male: ___ Female: ___ Social Security #: _____

Birthday: _____ Email: _____

Home Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Employer: _____ Work Number: _____

High School of Choice: #1 _____ #2 _____

Educational Attainment: HS ___ Some College ___ Associate's ___ Bachelor's ___
Advanced Degree ___

Post-secondary Institution Attended: _____

Number of Students Willing to Mentor: 5 6 7 8 9 10

My signature indicates that the information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to allow the program to confirm all information listed and to conduct a criminal records check. I have read and understood the program's responsibilities for assuming my role as a tnAchieves mentor and agree to commit to the following: a one hour mentor training in the fall of 2014, a one hour team meeting in January, a one hour team meeting in March, to assist the students with any college related questions or concerns, and to provide encouragement to ensure the students reach their full potential.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MENTOR REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete a mentor application prior to the November 1, 2014 deadline. To ensure you receive the school of your choice, tnAchieves strongly encourages applying early.
2. Attend one of the mentor training sessions. These will last approximately one hour and cover all information needed to be an effective mentor.
3. Make initial contact with the student(s) in December. This should be a call to the student's home. tnAchieves urges you to introduce yourself to parents prior to speaking with the student(s).
4. Meet with the students and their families at the first team meeting. This meeting will be held in January. The first meeting familiarizes the families with tnAchieves and its requirements. This is your opportunity to introduce yourself to the students as well as the parents/guardians.
5. Although tnAchieves understands busy schedules, we strongly encourage you to attend all team meetings. Each school will have a January and a March meeting. This will further the relationship between the mentor and the student as well as ensure the student is meeting other critical deadlines (e.g. ACT registration, college application deadlines).
6. Remind students the importance of filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to the February 1, 2015 deadline.
7. Check in with your students on a bi-weekly basis. This may require a one-on-one session with the students but can be as simple as a reminder text message of upcoming events and/or deadlines. tnAchieves will periodically ask you to update us on your students' progress.
8. Keep in touch with your students over the summer as tnAchieves requires an early class registration deadline. Many of the students will need to complete confirmation tests prior to class registration.
9. Encourage your students in the weeks leading up to their first day of college. This is an intimidating time for the students and often for their families as well. Be there to lessen the uncertainty and direct them to the appropriate person to answer their questions and/or concerns.
10. Relay information on community service opportunities. The student must complete their first eight (8) hours of community service prior to the end of the first semester. The student must report this information to tnAchieves including dates, times, location, organization, etc.

* Keep in mind, each student is different with regard to motivation, sense of urgency, work ethic, ability to meet deadlines, and other important characteristics associated with college access success. Some students will require much more time than others. tnAchieves anticipates an average time commitment of 15 hours from December 2014 through December 2015.