



## Tennessee's Path to College Events

Schools and education organizations are invited to participate in Tennessee's Path to College events.

Building off of the success of Tennessee's College App Week, the Path to College events are focused on continuing the momentum and excitement around the college-going process during a student's junior and senior year. Path to College events walk students and families through the steps necessary to pursue their best college option.

Path to College events serve as an additional platform to tell families about the Tennessee Promise scholarships and the events can be mechanism to ensure students meet all of the necessary requirements and deadlines.

The events are often hosted by high schools, college access organizations, and, more and more often, elementary and middle schools. Typically, a school counselor or similar staff member at a non-profit organization will register for each event. We ask that only one person per school register for each event.

All registered schools will receive a Path to College wall cling, an event-specific wall cling, a CollegeforTN.org poster, and a comprehensive resource and implementation guide for their event.

## COLLEGE APP WEEK

**Target Audience:** Focus on high school seniors, but events including students K-12 are encouraged

**Timeline:** 1 week in fall

College Application Week is a statewide event sponsored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and CollegeforTN.org. The goal of College App Week is to build excitement and enthusiasm around the college application process and provide every graduating senior with the opportunity to apply. Though there is a focus placed on first-generation students and students who may not otherwise apply to college, all students, from kindergarten to 12th grade, are encouraged to participate and start making their college plans.

In addition to Path to College marketing materials, registered schools will receive a College App Week Site Coordinator Handbook.

**To be added to the College App Week mailing list and be notified when registration opens? Contact Mary Laphen at [mary.laphen@tn.gov](mailto:mary.laphen@tn.gov) or 615-253-1155.**

252  
Schools and  
Organizations  
Statewide  
2015

# COLLEGE PLANNING NIGHT

**Target Audience:** High school juniors and parents/guardians

**Suggested Timeline:** March, April, or May

College Planning Night is a statewide event sponsored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The goal of College Planning Night is to jumpstart high school juniors' and their parents' college planning and application process. High schools are encouraged to host an after school event for high school juniors and their parents where information about the college search, college application process and financial aid are discussed. Students and their parents are expected to leave College Planning Night with a clear idea of how to continue their college search process over the summer and successfully complete the application and enrollment process the following year.

105  
Schools  
Statewide  
2016

In addition to Path to College marketing materials, registered schools will also receive a College Planning Night Slide Deck and College Planning Night Handbook.

**To be added to the College Planning Night mailing list and be notified when registration opens, contact Mary Laphen at [mary.laphen@tn.gov](mailto:mary.laphen@tn.gov) or 615-253-1155.**

# COLLEGE SIGNING DAY

**Target Audience:** Focus on high school seniors, but events including students K-12 are encouraged

**Suggested Timeline:** Around May 1st, which is National College Signing Day (individual schools may elect to hold their event in April or June if it better fits their school's calendar)

College Signing Day is a statewide event sponsored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. High schools are encouraged to devote one day in the spring to celebrate their seniors who are continuing on to postsecondary education. The highlight of this day is often a school-wide assembly or pep rally where each senior's college choice (college is defined as any type of formal postsecondary training) is announced and celebrated among the school community. The goal of the event is to celebrate and encourage the seniors who are pursuing postsecondary education, while also raising enthusiasm and awareness of college options and attendance among the entire student body.

132  
Schools  
Statewide  
2016

In addition to Path to College marketing materials, registered schools will receive a College Signing Day Handbook.

**To be added to the College Signing Day mailing list and be notified when registration opens, contact Mary Laphen at [mary.laphen@tn.gov](mailto:mary.laphen@tn.gov) or 615-253-1155.**

## Coming next fall: TN FAFSA Frenzy

In response to an earlier FAFSA filing deadline next fall, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Tennessee Department of Education, tnAchieves, REDI, and the Ayers Foundation are collaborating on a new initiative that will bring FAFSA best practices to schools statewide.