Tennessee Pathways Certification Application

Section 1: Equity, Access, and High-Quality Advising

All students deserve access to high-quality careers with opportunities for advancement. For all students to be successful in pursuing their postsecondary goals, high schools and their partners should ensure that pathways continually improve and prepare students for life after high school by:

- Providing equitable access to student experiences and pathways and seeking to remove persistent barriers to student participation and engagement
- Utilizing data to inform strategies to improve student outcomes
- Advising students on postsecondary education and career opportunities starting in early grades
- Offering professional development and training to educators focused on industry credentials and degrees that are aligned to the pathway, labor market analysis, and equity and access

Section 1 Uploads

Upload #1: Upload a data snapshot of school demographics and student groups that participate in this pathway. **Note:** This data can be similar to Perkins data (e.g., gender, race, socioeconomic status).

Upload #2: Provide two examples of student recruitment and retention strategies. Strategies can include (but are not limited to) info sessions for rising ninth graders and their families, policies for waiving course fees, tutoring or other academic supports, celebrations of student achievement, etc.

Upload #3: Upload up to three documents from professional development sessions or other training/credentialing opportunities offered to educators.

Application Questions

1.1 Discuss how you track progress towards equitable access, participation, and retention in the pathway by analyzing the data snapshot provided in Upload #1.

1.2 Describe accommodation strategies and student support services designed to ensure the ongoing success of diverse populations of learners in the pathway.

1.3 Describe how and when students are advised prior to and during high school. Consider the following as you develop your narrative:

   - Recruitment and retention of diverse student populations in the pathway,
   - Development of a four- or six-year postsecondary plan,
   - How the postsecondary plan is reviewed and revised throughout high school, and
   - How career exploration and aptitude assessments are administered to and interpreted with students.

1.4 Explain how your high school and/or district plans and implements continuing education and professional development opportunities for teachers and staff. Consider the following examples of professional development or training in your response:

   - Opportunities for teachers and staff to earn high-quality and in-demand industry credentials aligned to this pathway
   - Opportunities for teachers and staff to earn additional clock or credit hours to serve as postsecondary adjunct faculty
   - Teacher training to access and utilize local, regional, and/or state labor market information
   - Student-centered professional development (e.g., increasing equity and access, college and career advising strategies)
Section 2: Early College and Career Experiences

For students to be prepared for life after high school, they deserve access to rigorous early postsecondary coursework and a spectrum of work-based learning experiences throughout their K-12 experience. High-quality pathways show an intentional effort to build a logical progression of coursework and work-based learning experiences for students and should include:

- At least three (3) aligned high school courses, including at least two (2) early postsecondary opportunities (EPSOs)
- Industry credentials
- Robust work-based learning experiences ranging from Exploration to Experience

Section 2 Uploads

Upload #4: Data snapshot for three years that includes EPSO participation, ACT/SAT scores, industry credential pass rates, and/or seamless postsecondary enrollment (data sources can include Ready Graduate files, Perkins V CIP – 2S1, 2S2, 2S3, etc.). Note: Depending on data availability, these data points may not reflect the same three-year period. Please indicate the period tracked for each.

Upload #5: With the assistance of your Tennessee Pathways Regional Coordinator, complete the Curriculum Chart. You will use this chart to list the high school course sequence for this pathway, EPSOs offered to students and the partnering institution that offers these courses, and industry credentials.

Upload #6: With the assistance of your Tennessee Pathways Regional Coordinator, complete the Work-Based Learning Snapshot to detail the work-based learning experiences available to students in this pathway at each grade level. Note: While some activities on this spreadsheet are similar to those in the Employer Engagement Snapshot you will complete in the next section, this tool is specifically meant to capture the student experience through work-based learning.

Application Questions

2.1 Describe how your district uses data shared in upload #4 to inform how you ensure student progress to their individual postsecondary and career goals.

2.2 Describe your reasoning for offering specific EPSOs in this pathway (e.g., general education EPSO appears in an aligned Tennessee Transfer Pathway) and the role that your postsecondary partners play in ensuring that EPSO credit articulates towards attaining a postsecondary credential or degree.
Section 3: Cross-Sector Partnerships

Certified Tennessee Pathways require intentional and collaborative relationships between high schools and their postsecondary, employer, and other community partners. Partners should work together to:

- Offer high-quality experiences directly to students to prepare them for life after high school
- Utilize labor market information to inform curriculum, workplace experiences, and industry credential options
- Establish clear roles, responsibilities, and commitments.

Section 3 Uploads

Upload #7: Up to three artifacts that demonstrate intentional collaboration to transition students to postsecondary education and training. These can include formal MOUs or letters of support with postsecondary institutions, documentation describing academic supports for students enrolled in EPSOs, college success classes, district-postsecondary partner events, FAFSA completion workshops, signing days, etc.

Upload #8: Two artifacts showing employer, workforce intermediary, and/or community partner (e.g., chamber of commerce) engagement in the pathway that detail outreach and engagement activities that expose students to the world of work. These artifacts can include letters of support, formal MOUs and/or agreements, work-based learning experiences for students, event participation, curriculum feedback, etc.

Upload #9: With the assistance of your Tennessee Pathways Regional Coordinator, complete the Employer Engagement Snapshot to enter up to 10 employers you want to highlight in this pathway, whether you have a written agreement in place or not. Note: While some activities on this spreadsheet are similar to those in the Work-Based Learning Snapshot you completed in the previous section, this tool is specifically meant to capture how specific employers engage in the pathway. Please limit your entries to only those employers who are most involved in this pathway.

Application Questions

3.1 Describe how partners collaborate with educators and families to reduce barriers to EPSO participation and/or student enrollment in postsecondary upon high school graduation (e.g., postsecondary financial, social, administrative tasks).

3.2 Describe how your employer and workforce intermediary partnerships are developed and sustained. Provide details on how these partners engage with this pathway, including co-designing curriculum, advising students, offering work-based learning experiences, etc.

3.3 Describe the internal and external partnerships that are involved in leveraging services to improve outcomes for special populations (e.g., partnerships to offer services through WIOA, Vocational Rehabilitation, etc.).

End of application