Making Good on a Promise:
Student Success and Equity of Tennessee Promise

Russ Deaton, TBR
Amy Moreland, TBR

SHEEO Policy Conference
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Statewide mission to equip 55% of Tennesseans with a college credential by 2025.

Last dollar scholarship for recent high school graduates in associate degree or certificate programs.

13 community colleges and 27 technical colleges across Tennessee.

In 2015, 83% of Promise students were at TBR community colleges.
About Higher Education in Tennessee

• TBR--The College System of Tennessee
  ▪ 13 community colleges and 27 technical colleges
  ▪ 87,000+ community college students in fall 2017

• Statewide Financial Context
  ▪ Tennessee Higher Education Commission & Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation
  ▪ Funding for Tennessee Promise
  ▪ Fully mature program estimated to cost $35 million
Student Success & Equity of Tennessee Promise

- The Inaugural Promise Cohort
- Success after Five Semesters
- Equity in Participation
- Equity in Student Success
- Addressing Gaps in Success
The Inaugural Promise Cohort
Tennessee Promise: By the Numbers

- 13,287 Promise students enrolled at community colleges in fall 2015.
- $588 Average Promise award in fall 2015.
- 48% Percent of Promise students in fall 2015 who were also Pell grant recipients.

Data Source: TSAC & TBR Student Information System
Note: Includes first-time, full-time freshmen at community colleges.
Academic Profile of First-Time Freshmen

Note: Includes ACT composite scores for recent high school graduates enrolled as first-time, full-time freshmen.
Promise Students: Demographic Profile

Note: Includes students who graduated from high school within one year prior to enrollment as first-time freshmen.
Success after Five Semesters
Success after Five Semesters

Recent High School Grads 2014: 50.1%; 2015: 50.8%
Promise: 21.5% Graduated, 20.6% Still Enrolled, 10.1% Transferred, 12.5% Dropped Out
Non-Promise: 8.3% Graduated, 20.0% Still Enrolled, 12.5% Transferred, 59.2% Dropped Out

Note: Recent high school graduates are students who graduated from high school within one year prior to enrollment as first-time freshmen.
Number of Students

Distribution of Promise Awards in Fall 2015

Group A: 5,788 students
Group B: 3,715 students
Group C: 2,169 students

Promise Award in Fall 2015
## Success by Promise Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Average Promise Award</th>
<th>Average ACT Score</th>
<th>Overall Success Rate</th>
<th>Received Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>5,788</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3,715</td>
<td>$532</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>66.8%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2,169</td>
<td>$2,015</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Averages are based on Promise awards in fall 2015.*
52.2% overall success rate

- 2,857 students have earned a degree or certificate as of fall 2017.
- Includes 2,578 Associate degrees and 433 technical certificates.
Student Success & Equity of Tennessee Promise

Barriers to Promise Participation

Regional Differences

Income Gaps

Gaps in Academic Preparation

Demographic Differences
The statewide college going rate in fall 2015 was 64.3%, a 5.9 percentage point increase over fall 2014.

Data Source: THEC College Going Rate by County; numbers represent the percentage point change from fall 2014 to fall 2015.
The state’s 15 economically distressed counties had an average college going rate of 57% in fall 2015.

Data Source: THEC College Going Rate by County, TNECD County Economic Status; numbers represent the percentage point change from fall 2014 to fall 2015.
First-Time Freshmen & Regional Differences

Urban Counties:
- 2014 Recent HS Grads: 32.0%
- 2015 Recent HS Grads: 29.2%
- Appalachian Counties: 37.5%

Rural Counties:
- 2014 Recent HS Grads: 5.0%
- 2015 Recent HS Grads: 5.5%
- Appalachian Counties: 6.2%
- Promise (2015): 3.8%

Appalachian Counties:
- 2014 Recent HS Grads: 52.9%
- 2015 Recent HS Grads: 50.5%
- Appalachian Counties: 54.8%
- Promise (2015): 38.8%

Economically Distressed Counties:
- 2014 Recent HS Grads: 4.1%
- 2015 Recent HS Grads: 4.2%
- Appalachian Counties: 4.5%
- Promise (2015): 3.2%
Barriers to Promise Participation

1. Did Not Meet FAFSA Deadline (February 1, 2015) 10.7%
2. Did Not Attend Meetings (January-April 2015) 16.6%
3. Did Not Complete Community Service (August 1, 2015) 13.8%
4. Did Not Complete FAFSA Verification (August 1, 2015) 38.0%
Other Reasons for Ineligibility 20.9%

Note: Non-Promise students are recent high school graduates who enrolled as first-time, full-time freshmen but did not take part in Promise.
Equity in Student Success
Graduation after Five Semesters: By County

- All Students
  - 2014 Recent HS Grads: 13.8%
  - 2015 Recent HS Grads: 18.0%
  - Promise (2015): 21.5%
  - Non-Promise (2015): 8.3%

- Urban Counties
  - 2014 Recent HS Grads: 8.6%
  - 2015 Recent HS Grads: 12.6%
  - Promise (2015): 16.6%
  - Non-Promise (2015): 4.8%

- Rural Counties
  - 2014 Recent HS Grads: 17.2%
  - 2015 Recent HS Grads: 18.1%
  - Promise (2015): 19.7%
  - Non-Promise (2015): 11.0%

- Appalachian Counties
  - 2014 Recent HS Grads: 16.5%
  - 2015 Recent HS Grads: 20.6%
  - Promise (2015): 23.4%
  - Non-Promise (2015): 9.3%

- Economically Distressed Counties
  - 2014 Recent HS Grads: 15.5%
  - 2015 Recent HS Grads: 18.9%
  - Promise (2015): 20.9%
  - Non-Promise (2015): 11.1%
Graduation after Five Semesters: By ACT Score

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
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## Graduation After Five Semesters

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pell Recipients</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFC = $0</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Generation</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
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Addressing Equity Gaps
Addressing Gaps in Promise Success

• Ongoing Initiatives
  ▪ Relational Advising
  ▪ Achieving the Dream/AACC Pathways Project
  ▪ Corequisite Remediation
  ▪ Tennessee Transfer Pathways

• Work with State Partners
  ▪ Tennessee Higher Education Commission & TNAchieves
  ▪ Tennessee Promise Forward Grants
  ▪ High-Touch Interventions and Early Alert Systems
Looking Ahead to the 2016 Cohort

• Key Differences
  ▪ 4% increase in the size of the Promise cohort.
  ▪ 28% decrease in the number of non-Promise students.

• Promise versus Non-Promise Students
  ▪ Widening gap in retention rates.
  ▪ Narrowing demographic differences.
  ▪ Declining number affected by FAFSA verification.
• Increased College-Going Rate
• Accelerated Degree Production
  ▪ Overall Success Rate of 52.2%
• Equity Gaps
  ▪ Urban versus Rural Counties
  ▪ Need for further research about equity gaps based on socioeconomic status.
• Effects of Ongoing Interventions
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