The Pipeline to Community and Technical Colleges: Using Data Tools to Identify Gaps in Access and Equity

We All Rise
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Using Data to Identify Gaps in Access and Equity

• The Changing High School Pipeline
• Dual Enrollment Access and Equity
• Pathways for Reconnecting Adult Students
The Changing High School Pipeline

Students at Motlow State Community College in 2019
Overall enrollment at TBR community colleges has decreased 4% from 2009 to 2019.

According to Boyd Center Population Projections, the population of TN is expected to grow slightly overall, but 27 rural counties will experience population decreases by 2040.

High school class sizes plateaued nationwide in 2013, and the nation is expected to produce fewer high school graduates through 2027 (WICHE, Knocking at the College Door).
Equity in the High School Pipeline

Sample Questions:

• How many students in my service area will graduate high school each year, by gender and race/ethnicity?

• How does the composition of a certain high school graduating class compare to the composition of students enrolling as first-time-freshmen?

• Are students of color from my service area enrolling at another TBR community college?

Interactive dashboards to plan for incoming classes.

Data from TBR and TDOE about current students & historical trends.

Breaks down the pipeline by service area and students’ demographic characteristics.
Key Takeaways

Tennessee’s high school graduating cohorts are expected to decline in size after 2026. However, not all colleges follow this trend.
TCAT Pipeline Dashboard
Coming Soon
Dual Enrollment Access & Equity
Background

• Dual enrollment has seen **consistent growth** over the last decade
  • Over 20,000 dual enrolled students in 2019-20; under 12,000 in 2010-11
  • 19% of all Tennessee community college enrollments in 2019-20; 9% in 2010-11

• Dual enrollment potentially fulfills several roles
  • **Early exposure** to college level coursework
  • **Familiarity** with college systems to smooth transitions
  • **Reduced time** to post-secondary credential

• How do we **foster the most success** among dual enrollees?
Mapping Dual Enrollment Instruction Sites

Note:
New level of granularity starting in Fall 2019 offers easy access to course location data.
Bubbles show instruction site location, course enrollments, and institutions.
Can be filtered to identify patterns and explore variation across the state.
Deeper Dive into Course Data

Sample Questions
Where are there gaps in access to dual enrollment?
How do course locations and site types vary for students?
Which courses do students take and how are they delivered?
How does the role of dual enrollment differ for student subgroups?

Note:
Pathways for Reconnecting Adults
Background

• Since 2011, over 11.5 million net new jobs were available for workers with postsecondary education, but only 80,000 jobs were available for those with a high school diploma or less (Lumina Foundation, 2017)

• In Tennessee, the number of adult students enrolled per term decreased overtime. Compared to Fall 2010, the number of adult students enrolled in Fall 2019 decreased by 13,106 students.

• The majority adult students are white females between 25 – 30 years of age.
According to US Census Data, 21% of adults in Tennessee have some college but no degree.

Shelby County has the most people with Some College, No Degree (117,000+ adults)

Davidson County has the second highest number of adults with Some College, No Degree (74,000+ adults)
The Adult Learner Pipeline

Interactive dashboards to contextualize Adult Learners’ enrollment

Breaks down Adult Learner Pipeline by service area, demographic characteristics, and enrollment type

Sample Questions:

• Overtime, how many adults - who received a Pell grant - were enrolled at my college?

• What programs of study do the majority of adult students of color enroll in at my college?

• What percentage of adults complete fully online courses at my college?
Key Takeaways

• High school class sizes are expected to plateau nationwide, and Tennessee is expected to produce fewer high school graduates over the next decade. **Data about the high school pipeline** can help us plan for strategic enrollment management.

• Many students first encounter college first through dual enrollment, which has doubled in size over the past decade at Tennessee community colleges. **Data about dual enrollment coursetaking** can help us identify gaps in equitable access to dual enrollment across the state.

• One in five Tennessean adults has some college but no degree. **Data on adult learners** can help us understand which adults return to college and are successful.
How to Access These Data Tools

Visit the TBR Research Library or click on the dashboards to the right.