Tennessee Pathways Data Dashboard

Background

Tennessee Pathways promotes and facilitates alignment between K-12 school districts, postsecondary education, and employers so that students have clear and guided pathways to move seamlessly into college and career. Tennessee Pathways is made possible through an interagency agreement between the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) and the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR). Launched in 2018, Tennessee Pathways represents our state’s commitment to ensuring that every student can graduate high school with opportunities for postsecondary education and high-quality employment in their local community.

The Tennessee Pathways Certification, a designation for participating school districts and their partners, recognizes strong alignment between high school pathways, local or regional postsecondary programs, and high-quality employment opportunities across the state. The Certification sets clear expectations for alignment, advisement, and partnerships that define strong education-to-career pathways. Beyond establishing standards for program quality and design, the Certification elevates and celebrates innovative and exemplary pathways across the state. Since 2019, the Tennessee Pathways team has certified 281 pathways in every region of the state.

Through this dashboard, users can locate and access more specific information about Certified Tennessee Pathways across Tennessee. The dashboard highlights pathways available to high school students as well as K-12 districts’ industry and postsecondary partnerships and how they prepare students for college and career. The Tennessee Pathways Data Dashboard is updated regularly as new participants are engaged and new pathways earn the Certification.

Inside the Tennessee Pathways Data Dashboard

The dashboard includes data from districts that participate in the Tennessee Pathways Certification process. This is self-reported data from K-12 districts and their partners. Please note that the dashboard does not offer a comprehensive view of all high school pathways and their partners – only those who have participated in the Tennessee Pathways Certification process.

The primary visualization in the dashboard maps pathways by their city. The dashboard can be filtered by various criteria (e.g., region, postsecondary partner) for all pathways across the state. Additional tabs in the dashboard provide visuals that focus on various aspects of the Certification (industry credentials, early postsecondary opportunities (EPSO), and employer partnerships).
Key Findings

Through the development of the Tennessee Pathways Data Dashboard, our team identified several themes, trends, areas of strength, and opportunities for increased student equity and access to Certified Pathways:

- The top career clusters meeting the criteria for Certification in fall 2020 are consistent with statewide labor market needs: health science (43 pathways), advanced manufacturing (28 pathways), and STEM (13 pathways). A full breakdown of all career clusters with numbers and percentages of Certified Pathways is below.

- Dual enrollment is the primary EPSO type for districts participating in pathways, followed by local dual credit. Students in health science pathways account for 24.15% of EPSO courses reported; advanced manufacturing and STEM pathways tied at 13.07% having the second highest rate of EPSO course offerings.

- There are 73 unique industry credential opportunities reported across the state in participating districts. The top three career clusters aligned to industry credentials are advanced manufacturing (24.04%), health science (18.27%), and information technology (12.5%).

Utilizing the Data to Inform Pathway Development

Consider the following questions as you use the Tennessee Pathways Data Dashboard to inform your efforts to expand pathway opportunities to students:

- What regional variations can be observed in this data to inform strategic planning efforts?
- How can you use the Tennessee Pathways Data Dashboard to inform students and families and assist them in navigating college and career opportunities?
- What access gaps can be identified in pathway opportunities, such as employer partnerships and industry credential access?