

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**THE PATH TO COLLEGE AND TECHNICAL TRAINING
JUST GOT EASIER IN TENNESSEE****THEC UNVEILS NEXT STEP FOR 'TN DIRECT ADMISSIONS' PILOT
45,000+ High School Seniors to Receive Automatic In-State College Acceptance Letters This
Week**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Wednesday, December 10, 2025 – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) marks a pivotal next step in the state's [TN Direct Admissions](#) pilot by sending more than 45,000 personalized college admission letters—signed by Governor Bill Lee—to eligible Tennessee high school seniors in the Class of 2026.

Eligible students can expect to receive their TN Direct Admissions letters this week in mailboxes across the state, giving them a clear picture of where they have automatically been admitted to college — with no traditional college application required.

[Announced](#) earlier this year, Tennessee's Direct Admissions pilot is partnering with randomly selected Tennessee high schools to connect eligible students directly to immediate enrollment opportunities at [participating](#) in-state colleges and universities.

Research [shows](#) that the complexity of college applications and financial aid often causes students to give up before finishing the process, with first-generation college applicants particularly at risk of falling through the cracks. The state's Direct Admissions pilot explores whether direct admissions can help more students confidently continue their education after high school.

“Roughly 45,000 Tennessee families will be receiving TN Direct Admissions letters this week, and we encourage students and families to check their mailboxes,” **said Dr. Steven Gentile, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission**. “These notifications give students an early look at their college options to help them plan their next steps with confidence, making the path to higher education in Tennessee clearer and easier than ever.”

Each of the 45,000 letters will include an individual and personalized QR code linking eligible seniors graduating in 2026 to a secure portal where they can review their TN Direct Admission college offers, select their preferred institutions, and immediately claim admission.

Once claimed, THEC will send the student's information directly to the college or TCAT, who will then follow up with the student to provide an official admission packet and guidance on next steps such as completing the FAFSA, campus orientation, and other enrollment requirements.

“The state with the workforce will win the future, and Tennessee is committed to ensuring every student can thrive no matter the path they choose,” **said Tennessee Governor Bill Lee**. “I'm

grateful to THEC for their partnership in making higher education more accessible and easier for students to navigate, and I look forward to equipping our next generation of Tennesseans with the skills, training, and education that will create greater opportunity for them to succeed.”

Tennessee’s Direct Admissions is designed to make college-planning and college-going more accessible, efficient, and affordable for Tennessee students and their families by eliminating application fees and providing a centralized menu of in-state college opportunities.

Tennessee families can expect to save time and steps in the admissions process, as students receive automatic college acceptance letters without the need to submit multiple applications or conduct college research.

The long-term goal is to expand TN Direct Admissions beyond the pilot year and ultimately offer direct admission to every high school senior statewide, creating a clearer, simpler path to college for all Tennessee students.

By removing traditional barriers, simplifying application steps, and providing upfront financial aid information, the pilot aims to make the transition from high school to college or technical training easier than ever.

General information about TN Direct Admissions is provided to participating [high schools](#) and made available through school counselors.

Additional resources, including webinars, videos, flyers, and posters, will also be provided and made accessible on [CollegeForTN.org](#) to support schools, students, and families.

More information is available on the TN Direct Admissions [FAQ](#) page.

THEC Media Contact

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About the Tennessee Higher Education Commission

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission was created in 1967 by the Tennessee General Assembly. The Commission develops, implements, evaluates postsecondary education policies and programs in Tennessee while coordinating the state’s systems of higher education, and is relentlessly focused on increasing the number of Tennesseans with a postsecondary credential. Have questions about TN Direct Admissions? Email direct.admissions@tn.gov.

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Tennessee Higher Education Commission

YOUR COLLEGE CHOICES

TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGES
You have been directly admitted to all community colleges and TCATs in TN!
 Here are the institutions closest to you:

TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY
Chattanooga, TN

COLUMBIA STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Columbia, TN

FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY
Cincinnati, TN

BETHEL UNIVERSITY
Memphis, TN

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
Chattanooga, TN

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

CHIMBERLAND UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

FISK UNIVERSITY
Knoxville, TN

FRED HARDENMAN UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

HONG UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

LAKE COLLEGE
Chattanooga, TN

LEE UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

LEMOYNE OWEN COLLEGE
Chattanooga, TN

MELLIHAN UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

TENNESSEE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

TRICULUM UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

UNION UNIVERSITY
Chattanooga, TN

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
Memphis, TN

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
Knoxville, TN

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
Knoxville, TN

TNDIRECT ADMISSIONS POWERED BY Tennessee Higher Education Commission

YOU'RE IN!

You have been admitted to college in Tennessee. Congratulations! Below, you will find information about your college admissions.

STEVEN'S COLLEGE CHOICES

The colleges on the next page have already admitted you through TN Direct Admissions! Keep in mind, you have been accepted to the college itself, not individual majors or programs which may have additional eligibility requirements. **Talk it over with a parent or guardian.** Research the schools listed and what skills and abilities could be gained from the programs they offer. **Which choice makes the most sense for your future?** When you're ready to claim your spot, scan the QR code.

EXPLORE COLLEGEFORTN.ORG

CollegeForTN.org is your one-stop resource for planning your future after high school. You can explore Tennessee's colleges, universities, community colleges, and TCATs and discover majors that match your interests. You'll also find tools to explore careers, learn what education or training each job requires, and see salary information for different fields. CollegeForTN.org offers step-by-step guides for applying to college, completing financial aid, and preparing for life on campus. Check it out today!

READY TO CLAIM YOUR SPOT?
Once you have reviewed your personalized list of colleges on the next page, simply

SCAN HERE

TNDIRECT ADMISSIONS
Tennessee Higher Education Commission
 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave. 9th Floor
 Nashville, TN 37243

COLLEGE ADMISSION LETTER ENCLOSED

Taylor Tennessee
 123 Poplar Street
 Anywhere, TN 54321