

RIGHT TRACK

Magazine

A Bigger, Brighter Future For Your Child

Hope, help and power to plan for your child's future



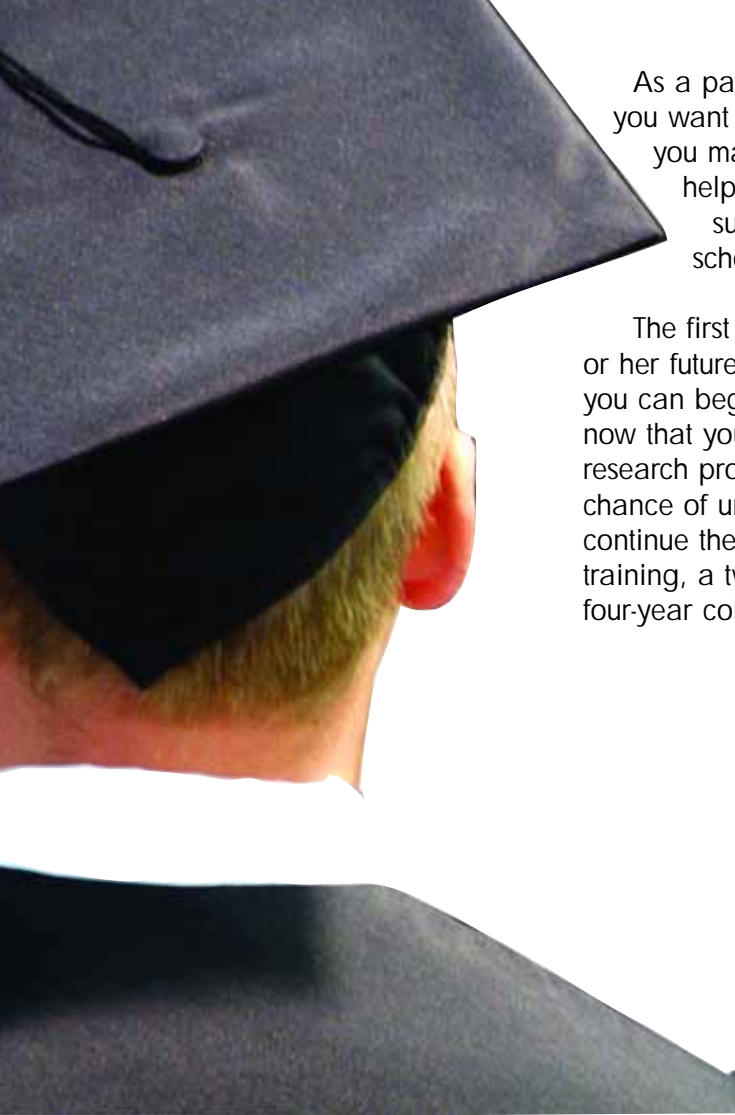
Inside:

Help for parents & caregivers

Help for students

Dropped out? Help for you!

Fall 2009



As a parent or caregiver of a middle or high school student, you want a bigger, better, and brighter future for your child. But you may not know how to make this happen. This book will help you understand the steps you can take now to make sure that your child is successful in middle school, high school, and beyond.

The first step you should take is to talk to your child about his or her future - help him or her develop a vision for the future so you can begin planning together now. It's important to decide now that your child will pursue education beyond high school -- research proves that it leads to better paying jobs and a lower chance of unemployment. There are many ways your child can continue their education after high school, including technical training, a two-year degree program at a community college, or a four-year college.

ATTENTION COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:
If you would like to be included in future updates of this handbook, please visit the Alignment Nashville website at www.alignmentnashville.org and click on the "Get Involved" link. You may also contact Melissa Jagers, Associate Director, at melissa.jagers@nashville.gov or 615.862.5004.

Did You Know That A High School Graduate....

1. is 70% more likely to get a job
2. earns \$717 more per month
3. has more self-confidence
4. earns \$360,000 more during their lifetime
5. has more choices for college and career

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Questions? Call the Parent Support Hotline at 615-810-9334 © 2009 Alignment Nashville	

If you are like many parents or caregivers, you might have concerns about whether your child should pursue education beyond high school. That's natural. But confront your concerns head on, and they will seem much more manageable.

"But I didn't go, and neither did anyone else in our family."

Our economy has changed quickly in just the past few decades. Job requirements or expectations for your generation may not be the same for your child's generation. Today, many of the best jobs require additional education beyond high school. Please go to page 18 for more information.

"But we just don't have the money."

You might be surprised at how many financial aid resources are available. Cost might be a hurdle, but it's not a roadblock.

"But his grades aren't good enough."

A child whose grades haven't been the best can still go. If he still has a year or more before high school graduation, it's not too late to work on raising that GPA. Get involved at his school, offer your help and support and make your expectations clear to him. If he will be graduating soon consider community colleges, which can have more open admission policies. Trade and technical schools are other good options.

"But she has special needs."

Children with special needs, whether from a medical, mental, emotional or learning disability, can thrive in high school and beyond. Many colleges and technical schools provide assistance and services for students with special needs, and there are many resources in our community to support students with special needs and their families. Please go to page 15 for more information about these services.

The resources in this handbook are available to help you make sure your child succeeds now and in the future. You've taken the first step just by reading this handbook - now take the next step and call the organizations in this handbook for more information about how they can help prepare your child for a bigger, better, and brighter future!

I. Help for Parents and Caregivers

Many organizations in Nashville provide support for parents and caregivers, and they want to help you be the best parent you can be.

IMF/Peniel Initiative

IMF/Peniel Initiative staff is available to make sure parents quickly receive the help they need.

Available to all parents

No Fee

(615) 712-9763

www.penielinitiative.org

Homework Hotline

Free tutoring by phone to students are parents. Bilingual assistance available.

Available to all grades.

No Fee

(615) 298-6636 or toll free 1- (888) 868-5777

New Vision, Inc.

The Relative Caregiver Program provides services such as information and referral, support groups, respite, recreation, and financial assistance and family advocacy in order to prevent children from entering and/or re-entering state custody.

Available to relative caregivers who are caring for non-custodial children that require out of home care.

No Fee

(615) 445-8711

newvision08@gmail.com

Tennessee Parent Information and Resource Center

Workshops for parents and caregivers.

Available to all parents and relative caregivers.

No Fee

(615) 269-7751

www.tnvoices.org

mcausey@tnvoices.org

Exchange Club Family Center - Families In Action

This six-week class provides education and support to parents of pre-teens and includes discussion on challenging topics such as peer pressure, sexual activity and gang involvement.

Available to all parents and caregivers of children ages 10-15

\$50 per person / \$80 per couple

Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

(615) 333-2644

www.familycentertn.org

info@familycentertn.org



**STARS
(Students Taking A Right Stand)
Nashville**

If your young person is being bullied at school, if you are concerned your child is experimenting with drugs or alcohol, or if you feel your young person needs a safe grown up to talk to, our STARS Specialist is there to be of support and assistance. Whether your child needs one-on-one or small group counseling or a meaningful community service project, the STARS Specialist in your school is a valuable resource. We are working to help all students overcome social and emotional barriers to learning.

Available to all grades

No Fee

(615) 279-0058

www.starsnashville.org

stars@starsnashville.org

Centerstone

Centerstone offers School-based mental health services at several Davidson County schools. These services include Therapy, Case Management, and Alcohol and Drug services. The goal of this School-based program is to improve the emotional and behavioral health of students by providing mental health services.

Available to school aged children and adolescents

Cost varies; state as well as private insurance accepted. Some programs are grant funded and currently have no cost for participation.

(615) 460-4357

www.centerstone.org



**Mental Health Association of
Middle Tennessee**

The Mental Health Assistance Center offers information and resources to parents on a variety of topics, including where to go for mental health assistance for themselves or their children; information is available in English and Spanish. The Hispanic Outreach Program conducts support groups for Latina women struggling with family issues, domestic violence and other concerns. The Erasing the Stigma program provides classroom presentations to youth about mental health topics ranging from bullying, self-esteem, stress and others. The Tennessee Lives Count program conducts trainings to groups and organizations on prevention of teen suicide.

Available to children/youth and adults

No Fee

(615) 269-5355

www.ichope.com

info@mhmt.org

II. Parent-Child Communication

As a parent or caregiver, you may find it difficult to talk to your child about healthy sexual behavior. But since teen pregnancy is one of the leading causes of high school dropout, it's important to have these conversations. Here are a few tips:

- Always leave open the door of communication. It's very important for your child to know that they can come to you to discuss any concerns they may have.
- Don't worry about being "with it." Youth have their peers. From you, they want to know what you believe and how you feel. Remember, if your child is old enough to ask, she/he is old enough to hear the correct answer and learn the correct words.
- Keep in mind that you do need to set some limits. Your child may ask questions that are too personal; don't feel like you have to discuss these details with your child.

Hope Clinic For Women

Prevention includes std testing/treatment/education from nurse practitioner, education about STDs, pregnancy from male/female counselors on staff for both young adults and/or their parents. Pregnancy services include pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, connections for proper medical care, counseling, practical support, education classes, parenting and adoption education. Professional counseling offered to the young woman, her partner and parents.

Prevention available to young men/women 11-25

Pregnancy services are free; std testing free for 18 and under, \$15/20 for over 18. Long term professional counseling done on a sliding scale from \$20-\$80 a session. (This also includes pregnancy loss counseling.)

(615) 321-0005

www.hopeclinicforwomen.org

Contact for young men and parents: agarner@hopeclinicforwomen.org Contact for young women : kmarshall@hopeclinicforwomen.org

Planned Parenthood of Middle Tennessee

Being An Askable Parent provides training and one-on-one consultations for parents on talking with children and teens about sexuality issues, including topics such as: Teaching your values, Helping youth resist peer pressure, Media awareness, Answering difficult questions regarding sex and sexuality, and Being an 'askable' adult.

Available to parents

Fees negotiable

(615) 345-0952

www.ppmet.org

kaycem@ppmet.org

Metro Public Health Department Advisory Board

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) provides service-learning, volunteer and for-credit opportunities for high school students interested in health/public health careers.

Available to high school 9th-12th grade

No cost; some stipends are available for YAB members

(615) 340-2175

www.health.nashville.gov

dyuann.allen@nashville.gov

Oasis Center Teen Outreach Program (TOP) and International Teen Outreach Program (ITOP)

Oasis Center's Teen Outreach Program (TOP) focuses on helping young people develop life skills and make healthy choices by offering after school service learning projects that promote leadership, generosity and community connections.

Available at: Hillsboro High, Glenclyff High, Bailey Middle, John Early Middle Cameron Middle, McCann Alternative and Ewing Park Middle. Students are referred by faculty and administration.

There is no cost

(615) 327-4455

www.oasiscenter.org

jjlaidlaw@oasiscenter.org

jfreudenthal@oasiscenter.org

III. Help for Middle School Students

Middle school is the best time to start preparing your child for his or her future. They need to be exposed to new opportunities and experiences that will help them decide what they want to do in life.

There are many after school and summer programs in Nashville that provide great opportunities and experiences for your child; many of these offer a sliding fee scale and scholarships.

Boys & Girls Clubs

Boys & Girls Clubs offer a safe place to learn, grow and succeed.

Available to ages 6-18

Fees vary; contact individual club for more information about scholarship and sliding fee scales.

North Nashville: Andrew Jackson Boys & Girls Club
 (615) 320-5106
www.bgcmt.org
jdarnell@bgmt.org

West Nashville: Preston Taylor Boys & Girls Club/ YMCA Center (McKissack Middle School)
 (615) 341-0101
www.bgcmt.org
dmcwilliams@ymcamidtn.org

South Nashville: Thompson Lane Boys & Girls Club (Housed at Antioch Middle School)
 (615) 686-8100
jhamilton@bgcmt.org

Girl Scouts

After-school troops, summer residential camps, and programs in financial literacy, leadership, arts, healthy living and science, technology, engineering, environmental and math.

Available to girls ages 5-18

Fees vary

(615) 383-4090

www.gsmidtn.org

Martha O'Bryan Center

RAP (Reading Achievement Program) provides reading and math tutoring and homework help.

Available to all grades

No fee

(615) 254-1791 ext. 236

www.marthaobryan.org

mmoody@marthaobryan.org

Boy Scouts

After-school troops, summer camps and other programs.

Available to boys ages 11-18

Fees vary

(615) 383-9724

www.mtcbsa.org

boyscout@mtcbsa.org

Y-CAP YMCA Smart Kids

Provides youth/teens in east Nashville with the motivation and guidance they need to succeed in school, discover their gifts and develop other critical skills needed in today's fast changing world.

Available to 5th-8th grade students

No fee

(615) 226-5577

rfoik@ymcamidten.org

Urban Services YMCA Youth Development Center

Lil' Sisters/Buffalo Soldiers

This program focuses on prevention and increasing healthy lifestyle choices.

Available to 5th-9th grades

No fee

(615) 255-9622 ext. 4

www.ymcamidtn.org

aturnipseed@ymcamidtn.org

The Bridge

This program is a summer academic enrichment program and school-year tutorial program.

Available to rising 7th - 9th graders who are academically advanced and/or have good leadership potential.

No fee

(615) 255-9622

www.ymcamidtn.org

aturnipseed@ymcamidtn.org

Time To Rise

This program is an academically based year-round program that is designed to help at-risk youth increase their life chances through academic excellence, the development of sound character and cultural exposure.

Available to rising 4th - 6th graders who demonstrate academic potential, maintain good school attendance and live in at-risk communities.

No fee

(615) 255-9622

www.ymcamidtn.org

tcross@ymcamidtn.org

Seal Team (Students Educating Active Leaders)

This program is a peer education program utilizing the performing arts to help urban youth make wise decisions about their health and future while educating them about the dangers of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Available to ages 14-18

(615) 255-9622

www.ymcamidtn.org

Black Achievers

This program is a mentoring program where African American role models provide comprehensive college preparation and career planning assistance to youth.

Available to 7th - 12th graders

\$25 registration fee

(615) 242-6559

www.ymcamidtn.org

tcross@ymcamidtn.org

Hispanic Achievers

This program meets with local middle and high school students to mentor them on the importance of higher education; maintaining their cultural identity, with help from Latino mentors.

Available to 5th - 12th graders

(615) 743-6206

www.ymcamidtn.org

jvandegriek@ymcamidtn.org

**Preston Taylor Boys & Girls Club/
YMCA Youth Development Center**

After-school program that provides academic and life skills development (located at McKissack Middle School)

Available to all ages

Fees vary, contact club for information about scholarships and sliding fee scales

(615) 341-0101

www.ymcamidtn.org

dmcwilliams@ymcamidtn.org

Youth Life Learning Center

After-school programs for at-risk children, focusing on academics, character development, and life-skills training.

All ages

No fee

(615) 333-7672

www.yllc.org

info@yllc.org

West Nashville: Village West Apartments
(615) 385-3881

East Nashville: Kirkpatrick Center and Riverchase Complex
(615) 262-0080 or (615) 259-9005

South Nashville: Easley Community Center and Hillside
(615) 255-5818 or (615) 259-9491



Jobs for Tennessee Graduates (PENCIL Foundation)

Middle School Career Exploration Program at Cameron and Wright Middle Schools in an after school setting. Students take part in service-learning projects, internships, job shadowing as well as a week-long summer camp at Glenciff High School.

Available to 7th - 8th graders

No fee

(615) 242-3167

www.pencilfd.org/tennessee_graduates

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Middle TN

One-to-one mentoring that helps youth develop life-skills and positive developmental assets, such as self-confidence, decision-making skills, and a positive attitude toward school.

Available to ages 6-16

No fee

(615) 329-9191

www.bbbsmt.org

anne.gallo@bbbs.org

khayree.williams@bbbs.org

Alternatives Unlimited

Free tutoring services in language or math (Supplemental Educational Services provider)

Available to all ages

No fee

(615) 243-0599

kgoddard@alt-unlimited.com

Youth Speaks Nashville

Through the literary and performing arts, Youth Speaks Nashville offers creative solutions for youth to build literacy and presentation skills, reconnect to their education and to their lives, and act as leaders in the improvement of their communities.

Available to 5th - 8th grades

No fee

(615) 686-5456

www.youthspeaksnashville.org

info@youthspeaksnashville.org

YMCA Fun Company

YMCA Fun Company Out of School Time's before and after school programs are designed to foster opportunities for young people to build skills, exercise leadership and form relationships with caring adults and their communities, using this approach it creates environments in which young people thrive. Youth are actively engaged in their own development.

Available to K - 8th graders

Before school only: \$29 After school only: \$44

Before and After school: \$49

Financial assistance available; DHS certificates accepted

(615) 259-3418

www.ymcafunco.org

cgale@ymcamidtn.org

Rocketown

Rocketown offers summer and after-school sessions allows teens to explore, refine, and deepen their passions within film, dance, skate boarding, music, religion and the arts.

Available to 5th - 12th graders

After-school sessions:

Students are able to take part in as many classes as they like for one low fee of \$10 per month.

Summer sessions:

\$175 per session per week.

Scholarships are available.

(615) 843-4001 ext. 223

www.rocketown.org

kent@rocketown.org

IV. Help for High School Students

It's not too late to help your child prepare for success after high school. There are many community programs that provide help and support to make sure your child graduates from high school and is ready for college, career, and life.

Jobs for TN Graduates (PENCIL Foundation)

JTG provides school-to-career and dropout prevention services to high school students.

Available to 9th - 12th graders at Antioch, Glenciff, Hunters Lane, Maplewood, McGavock, Pearl-Cohn, Stratford, and Whites Creek High Schools

(615) 242-3167 ext. 227

www.pencilfd.org

csparkman@pencilfd.org

Youth Speaks Nashville

Through the literary and performing arts, Youth Speaks Nashville offers creative solutions for youth to build literacy and presentation skills, reconnect to their education and to their lives, and act as leaders in the improvement of their communities.

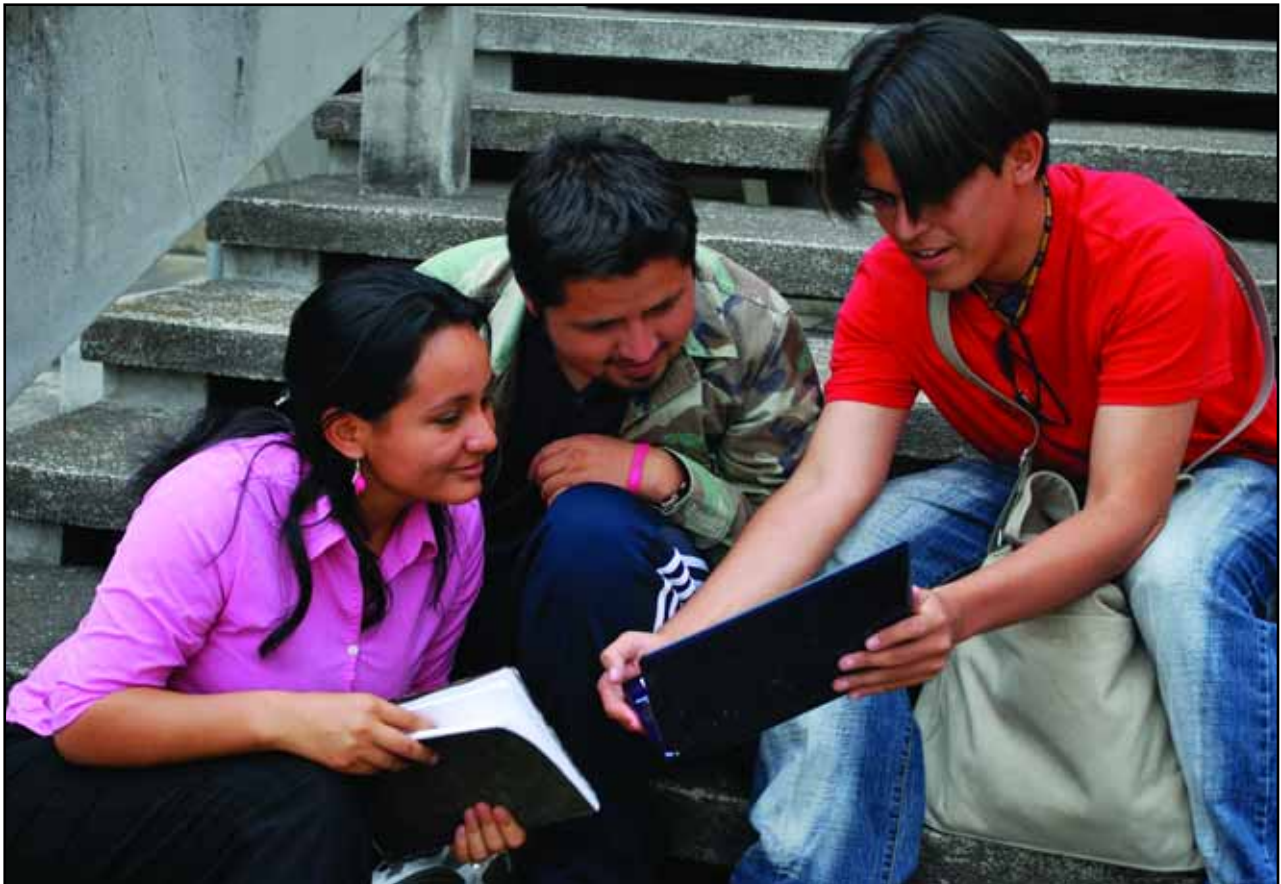
Available to 5th - 8th grades

No fee

(615) 686-5456

www.youthspeaksnashville.org

info@youthspeaksnashville.org



Saint Thomas Science Scholars

High school students explore the many exciting and challenging options in the healthcare professions through a series of Saturday morning sessions at the hospital.

Available to 10th graders interested in healthcare careers.

No fee

(615) 242-2671

www.pencilfd.org

Nashville College Connection

Providing college admissions and financial aid resources to assist students with enrolling in college.

Available to Middle School and High School students

No fee

(615) 983-6867

www.nashvillecollegeconnection.org

jdotts@oasiscenter.org

Martha O'Bryan Center

RAP (Reading Achievement Program) provides reading and math tutoring and homework help.

Available to all grades.

No Fee

(615) 254-1791 ext. 236

www.marthaobryan.org

mmoody@marthaobryan.org

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

One-to-one mentoring that helps youth develop life skills and positive developmental assets, such as self-confidence, decision-making skills, and a positive attitude toward school.

Available for ages 6-16

No fee

(615) 329-9191

www.bbbsmt.org

anne.gallo@bbbs.org

khayree.williams@bbbs.org

Adventure Science Center

TWISTER (Tn Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Research) a one-day workshop gives girls a sneak peek of careers and provides mentoring opportunities for the girls with women in the science professions.

Available for 9th - 12 grade girls

\$12, includes workshop and lunch

(615) 862-5160

www.adventuresci.com

Community Nashville

AnyTown, MiniTown and UniTown are student programs that fight bias, bigotry and racism through advocacy and education.

Available for 9th - 12 grades

No fee

(615) 327-1755

www.communitynashville.org

ajohnson@communitynashville.org

Alignment Nashville/MNPS - Developing Community Leaders

DCL is a school-based program that offers academic and hands-on leadership development.

Available for 10th - 12th grade students at participating high schools; students must be nominated by a counselor or teacher.

No fee Contact your high school counselor for information and availability

One Step Ahead

Dual enrollment scholarships offered to allow high school students to earn college credit.

Available for 10th - 12th grade

No fee

Contact your high school counselor for information and availability

YMCA

Hispanic Achievers program meets with local middle and high school students and families both during and after school to mentor them on the process of higher education, the importance of maintaining their culture identity, and providing Latino mentors.

Available for 5th - 12th graders
No fee

(615) 743-6206

www.ymcamidtn.org
jvandergriek@ymcamidtn.org

SEAL TEAM (Students Educating Active Leaders) is a peer education program utilizing the performing arts to help urban youth make wise decisions about their health and future while educating them about the dangers of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

Available for ages 12-18

(615) 255-9622 www.ymcamidtn.org

Black Achievers is a mentoring program where African American role models provide comprehensive college preparation and career planning assistance to youth.

Boys & Girls Clubs

Boys & Girls Clubs offer a safe place to learn, grow and succeed.

Available for ages 6-18

Fees vary, contact individual club for information about scholarships and sliding fee scales.

See Section III for Club locations and contact information.

Tennessee Scholars

Tennessee Scholars is a business-led program that uses rewards and incentives to motivate students to take more rigorous courses, stay in school, out of trouble, and do community service so they will be better prepared for the greatest number of options when they graduate.

Available for high school students

No fee

(615) 256-5141

www.tennesseescholars.org

ruth.woodall@tnchamber.org

Alternatives Unlimited

Free tutoring services in language arts or math (Supplemental Educational Services provider)

Available for all grades

No fee

(615) 243-0599

kgoddard@alt-unlimited.com

Earning College Credit During High School

Dual enrollment and dual credit programs allow a high school student to earn college credit while still in high school. Students can earn high school credits toward high school graduation requirements AND college credit hours that can be used toward a college degree after high school graduation. Scholarships are available to pay for some of these classes; call the Parent Support Hotline at 615-810-9334 for more information.

Non-Traditional High Schools

If you feel that your child will not succeed in a traditional high school setting, you may want to consider applying for one of the MNPS non-traditional high schools for students with different needs and learning styles.

● **Nashville Diploma Plus High School** offers a rigorous and authentic environment that connects academics to the real world. Students best suited for Diploma Plus include those that have been disengaged from the traditional system, are over-aged and under-credited, and demonstrate a wealth of creativity. Diploma Plus offers students a unique high school setting through which they can earn a regular high school diploma "plus" college credits that will give them an advantage after high school.

● **Middle College High School (MCHS)** is located on the campus of Nashville State Community College and is for 10th-12th grade students who want to earn college credit hours while attending high school.

● **Nashville Big Picture High School (NBPHS)** offers a rigorous, highly personalized curriculum that combines academic work with real-world experiences and project-based learning. NBPHS is for students who are independent, creative thinkers who thrive in more project-based learning environments.

● **The Academy at Old Cockrill and The Academy at Opry Mills** are two new adult high schools for students who are just shy the credits they need to graduate. These academies offer courses in the morning, afternoon and evening to accommodate students, ages 17-21, who may have to work full-time or have families.

For more information about these schools, contact the MNPS Customer Service Center at 259-INFO (4636) or go to www.mnps.org.

V. Help for Special Populations

Some students and families need extra support, and many community organizations offer services to make sure you have the information and resources you need.

Students with Disabilities

Exceptional education programs are specially designed programs in public schools offered at no cost to families of children with disabilities. All schools must offer exceptional educational services to eligible 3-21 year old individuals with special needs.

Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) offers the following Special Education services:

- Speech/Language Services
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Physical Therapy Services
- Hearing Impaired Services
- Visual Impaired Services
- Resource Services
- Enhanced Resource Services
- Moderate Intervention Services
- Life Skills Services/Communication-Behavior Intervention Program Services
- Community Based Transition Services
- Early Childhood Services
- Educational Evaluations

The MNPS Exceptional Education Department also serves students considered academically gifted and talented. These students, grades K-6, are eligible to participate in Encore, a program designed to challenge gifted students and push them to a heightened level of excellence.

For more information about MNPS Exceptional Education services, please call 615-259-8698 or contact your child's school.

Students with special needs can continue their education after high school, and as a parent, you need to be aware of the resources that are available to help your child. Many colleges and universities provide support services for students with disabilities to help them succeed.

For more information about useful disability resources and services, the Tennessee Disability Pathfinder is here to help in English and en Espanola.

Toll-free number **(800) 640-4636** or
Nashville area **(615) 322-8529**,
TTY users dial 711 for free relay service
www.familypathfinder.org
tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu

English Language Learners

Students and families with limited English proficiency also need extra help from the schools and the community. Contact your child's school or call 615-259-8608 for more information.

Los estudiantes y familias con limitada de Inglés también necesitan ayuda adicional de las escuelas y la comunidad. En contacto con la escuela de su hijo o llame al 615-259-8608 para más información.

Other resources available include:

- "Parents as Partners" or "Padres como Lideres y Companeros" is a parental engagement program for Latino parents with children in middle and high school. This nine week program aims to forge a working partnership with Latino parents and schools, teaching parents the skills and knowledge necessary to become more involved in their child's education. Conexion Americas offers the program at Antioch High School, Glenclyff High School, and Overton High School. All classes are held in Spanish. Childcare, materials, and refreshments provided and there is no cost to participants. Contact Virginia Pirkle at 615-320-5152 x234 or at virginia@conamericas.com. En Espanol: Sitio web: www.conexionamericas.org. Si desea participar en el programa o aprender mas, por favor contacte a Virginia Pirkle, Coordinadora del programa, al 615-320-5152 x234 o virginia@conamericas.com. Hablo Espanol.
- Homework Hotline provides free tutoring by phone to students and parents. Bilingual assistance is available in seven languages: English, Arabic, Kurdish, Spanish, Somalian, Swahili, and Turkmani. Homework Hotline is available Monday - Thursday, 4:00 - 8:00 pm. Call 298-6636 or toll free 1-888-868 5777.
- "Los padres actuan como maestros" (Parents as Teachers) is a Spanish language video interviewing Latino families on their role in their child's academic success and goal of graduation. The video is available at no charge by contacting Monica Causey (615-269-7751) or mcausey@invoices.org.



VI. Help for Students Who Dropped Out Before Graduating

If your child dropped out of school before getting a high school diploma, there are plenty of options available. MNPS has partnered with community organizations to develop multiple pathways for students who need to finish their diploma.

Many students who drop out of school choose to pursue a GED, or General Education Development degree. However, many students could just as easily earn their high school diploma.

MNPS adult high schools

MNPS now has two new adult high schools:

The Academy at Old Cockrill & The Academy at Opry Mills

These schools are for students ages 17-21, and they offer a high school diploma and flexible hours to accommodate student schedules. Students can attend classes in the morning, afternoon or evening. In addition, MNPS still offers programs for adult learners at the Cohn Adult High School. For more information about the Academies, contact the MNPS Customer Service Center at 259-INFO (4636) or go to www.academy.mnps.org.

Cohn Adult High School

MNPS also offers students a chance to return to high school to receive a regular diploma through Cohn Adult High School. Programs at Cohn Adult are for persons 22 years and older; for more information, call the MNPS Customer Service Center at 259-INFO (4636) or go to www.mnps.org.

Community Programs

YouthBuild helps out-of-school youth obtain their diplomas or GEDs while providing training in the construction industry. YouthBuild is open to men and women ages 18-24; those interested in applying can contact Tim Queener at 615-372-9489 or tqueener@ymcamidtn.org.

GED Preparation Programs

The GED is a test that measures what you would be expected to know after four years in high school. GED Preparation classes are available to help you prepare for the GED test. You don't have to attend a certain number of classes or participate for a certain number of months. You can also stay as long as you need to stay to prepare to pass the GED test.

GED preparation classes are offered free of charge throughout Davidson County. Locations include:

- Christian Women's Job Corp. of Middle Tennessee: www.cwjcnashville.org, 615-350-7893
- Martha O'Bryan Center: www.marthaobryan.org, 615-254-1791
- Metro Action Commission: www.nashville.gov/mac/comm_progs.htm, 615-862-8860
- Opportunities Industrialization Center Inc.: www.oicnashville.org, 615-248-2906
- Project Return Inc.: www.projectreturninc.org, 615-327-9654
- St. Luke's Community Center: www.stlukescommunityhouse.org, 615-350-7893
- Youth Connections: www.tnyouthconnections.net, 615-664-1509
- YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee: www.ywcanashville.com, 615-269-9922, ext. 252
- Salvation Army: 615-242-0411

VII. Education Beyond High School

Do you know your child's options after high school?

There are many pathways to a successful career - here is some information about ways your child can continue his or her education after high school.

Technology Centers can provide the most up-to-date, comprehensive technical training available that prepares your child for a technical career. Financial aid is available. In Nashville, there is only one public Technology Center:

Tennessee Technology Center at Nashville

100 White Bridge Road Nashville, TN. 37209

Phone - (615) 425-5500

info@ttcnashville.edu; www.ttcnashville.edu

Community Colleges offer two-year Associates degrees and technical certificates. Because general education classes taken at an in-state community college transfer to public four-year colleges in Tennessee, many students choose this option to save money and take advantage of smaller class sizes. Financial aid is available for students that qualify. In the Nashville area, there are two public community colleges:

Nashville State Community College

120 White Bridge Road

Nashville, TN 37209

615-353-3215

www.nsc.edu

Volunteer State Community College

1480 Nashville Pike

Gallatin, TN 37066

615-452-8600

www.volstate.edu

Four-Year Public Universities/Colleges offer Bachelor's degrees and graduate degree programs. Four-year public institutions usually have more rigorous admissions requirements than a community college or technology center. Financial aid is available for students that qualify. There are several four-year public universities in the Nashville area; a list of these institutions, as well as private and for-profit institutions (see below) can be found at <http://www.nashvillechamber.com/education/area-colleges.html>.

For-Profit Schools/Institutes are schools that are run by private, profit-seeking companies or organizations. For-profit schools offer a variety of degrees, including Associates, Bachelors, and Masters. On average, a for-profit institution may cost up to \$7,904 per semester (estimated). Financial aid is available for students that qualify. However, it is very important to make sure that credits are transferable to other academic institutions. Please visit <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/> in order to determine if the institution is accredited.

It is highly recommended that parents and students compare programs and tuition costs of for-profit schools with comparable public colleges and technology centers before signing any agreements at a for-profit school.

Applying for education after high school

If your child is ready to apply to college, there are community organizations ready to help you through the process. It's easier than you think - but the first step is to call!

- The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) has a toll free number -- 800.342.1663 -- to help students, parents, and school personnel with the financial aid process. Their website, www.tn.gov/collegepays, has important information about financial aid programs administered by the state, including the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program and Tennessee Student Assistance Award. TSAC also encourages all students and parents to visit www.collegefortn.org, which provides advice on how to plan, prepare, apply, and learn how to pay for college. Finally, parents and students are encouraged to attend College Goal Sunday, usually held each February, where parents/ students receive assistance with completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). For more information about College Goal Sunday, please call TSAC at 800-342-1663 or the Nashville Parent Support Hotline at 615-810-9334.
- Nashville College Connection provides free, one-on-one support and workshops for parents and students. They have experts in financial aid/scholarships, applications, and admissions on staff to help you. For more information, call (615) 983-6867 or go to www.nashvillecollegeconnection.org.
- Rocketown offers College Prep, a program to help high school seniors apply and become accepted to college. Call 615/843-4001, X223 or email kent@rocketown.org for more information.
- YMCA Hispanic Achievers staff members are available to meet with Latino youth and their families to provide one-on-one support to families as they begin the process of applying to college. Call 615-743-6206 or email jvandegriek@ymcamidtn.org for more information.
- Collegeboard.com is a free tool and is the most widely searched website in the US for students and parents researching college. It offers free tools on Paying for College, Planning for College, Finding a College and Applying to College, as well as a parent website to help guide their students in planning and paying for college.



If you have questions
or need help,
please call the

PARENT SUPPORT HOTLINE

615-810-9334

This Magazine was developed by the Alignment Nashville Pathways to Postsecondary Education Committee. Members include:

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*Nashville State Community College
MF/Peniel Initiative
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IMF/Peniel Initiative
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Metro Nashville Public Schools
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