

# Parent Guide TENNESSEE DIPLOMA AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OPTIONS

Diploma Option	Requirements/Details	Postsecondary Options
<b>Regular Education Diploma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earn the prescribed twenty-two (22) credit minimum</li> <li>Complete the ACT or SAT</li> <li>Satisfactory record of attendance and discipline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4-year colleges: Each school has its own admissions requirements.</li> <li>Community College</li> <li>Tennessee College of Applied Technology or Trade Schools</li> <li>College Support Programs (See list with contact information on back)</li> </ul>
<b>Special Education Diploma *</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful completion of an Individualized Education Program (IEP)</li> <li>Satisfactory record of attendance and conduct</li> <li>Students can continue receiving services through an IEP until they receive a regular education diploma or age 22 (21 inclusive)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment in job field most closely related to skills acquired.</li> <li>Tennessee College of Applied Technology: TCAT offers programs that both require a high school diploma and programs that <b>do not</b> require a high school diploma. <a href="https://www.tbr.edu/institutions/colleges-applied-technology">https://www.tbr.edu/institutions/colleges-applied-technology</a></li> </ul>
<b>Occupational Diploma *</b>	<p>In addition to the special education diploma requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students must have a strong vocational and career focus</li> <li>It is an IEP Team decision made on or after the conclusion of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade or 2 years prior to exiting high school</li> <li>Students must successfully complete the Skills, Knowledge, and Experience Mastery Assessment (SKEMA)</li> </ul> <p>This is <b>not</b> a regular education diploma but students may continue to work toward their regular high school diplomas while pursuing occupational diplomas or after receiving an occupational diploma.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TRC – TN Rehabilitation Center: Residential program designed to help participants gain independence and meaningful employment. Participants must be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services to participate. <a href="http://tn.gov/humanservices/topic/trc-smyrna">http://tn.gov/humanservices/topic/trc-smyrna</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Alternate Academic Diploma (AAD) *</b></p> <p>Implementation 2018-19 school year.</p> <p>Students who earn an AAD diploma within 4-years and a summer will be included in the graduation rate.</p>	<p>Designed to provide access to rigorous and meaningful instruction for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. It is aligned to the coursework and ACT requirements of the regular diploma.</p> <p>In order to earn the AAD, a student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have participated in the high school alternate state assessments;</li> <li>earned the prescribed 22 credit minimum;</li> <li>received special education services or supports and made satisfactory progress on an individualized education program (IEP);</li> <li>have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct; and</li> <li>completed a transition assessment(s) that measures, at a minimum, postsecondary education and training, employment, independent living, and community involvement</li> </ul> <p><i>Students can receive an Occupational Diploma as well as an Alternate Academic Diploma</i></p> <p>More info: TN Department of Education FAQ <a href="http://bit.ly/2uJNNrJ">bit.ly/2uJNNrJ</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP): Degree, certificate, or non-degree programs for students with intellectual disabilities. (See list with contact information on back).</li> </ul>

\*Students can continue receiving services through an IEP until they receive a regular education diploma or age 22 (21 inclusive).

## **MONEY FOR COLLEGE**

For more information visit <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college.html> and <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>

**TENNESSEE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP** <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs.html> Lottery revenue based and available only to Tennessee residents. For Non-Traditional students, see here: <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/tennessee-hope-scholarship---nontraditional.html>

**TENNESSEE PROMISE** <http://tennesseepromise.gov/> Provides students a last-dollar scholarship, meaning the scholarship will cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, or state student assistance funds. Students may use the scholarship at an eligible institution offering an associate's degree program, here: [http://tennesseepromise.gov/files/TNPromiseListofInstitutions\\_032217.pdf](http://tennesseepromise.gov/files/TNPromiseListofInstitutions_032217.pdf)

**TENNESSEE STEP UP SCHOLARSHIP** <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/money-for-college/state-of-tennessee-programs/tennessee-step-up-scholarship.html> Assists students with intellectual disabilities who have completed high school and enroll in an individualized program of study of up to four (4) years at an eligible postsecondary institution.

## **COLLEGE SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

- **Austin Peay State University (Clarksville) - Full Spectrum Learning**  
[www.apsu.edu/full-spectrum-learning](http://www.apsu.edu/full-spectrum-learning)
- **University of Tennessee (Chattanooga) - MoSAIC Program**  
[www.utc.edu/disability-resource-center/mosaic/](http://www.utc.edu/disability-resource-center/mosaic/)

## **COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION PROGRAMS**

- **David Lipscomb University (Nashville) - IDEAL Program**  
<https://www.lipscomb.edu/education/special-programs/ideal-program>
- **East Tennessee State University (ETSU) – Access ETSU Program**  
<https://www.etsu.edu/coe/access/>
- **Union University (Jackson) - EDGE Program**  
[www.uu.edu/programs/education/edge/](http://www.uu.edu/programs/education/edge/)
- **University of Memphis (Memphis) - Tiger Life**  
<https://www.memphis.edu/tigerlife/>
- **University of Tennessee (Knoxville) - FUTURE Program**  
<http://futureut.utk.edu/>
- **Vanderbilt University (Nashville) - Next Steps Program**  
<https://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/departments/nextsteps/index.php>

## **PARENT OR CAREGIVER'S ROLE**

*Parents and caregivers provide the foundational role of support, nurturance and guidance for their children. Like any parent of a child heading towards graduation, it is your responsibility to help support your child's future by researching and visiting potential schools, employers and living arrangements. Enjoy this time with your child while helping him or her find the right "fit" in their future plans.*