

What is the State Scholars initiative?

The State Scholars initiative is a business led rewards and incentives campaign that encourages students to take a more rigorous and challenging course of study in high school. The State Scholars curriculum provides an education that better prepares students to enter a university, community college, technical or vocational school, the military, or the workforce. A partnership between school districts, local Chambers of Commerce and the business community; the Tennessee Scholars initiative is endorsed by the Tennessee Department of Education, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Tennessee Business Roundtable, and many other education coalitions around the state.

What is TN/VA Scholars?

Formerly known as the AIM Scholars program, TN/VA Scholars is a program of the Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored by local businesses and industry. Participating schools include Kingsport City, Sullivan County, Hawkins County, and Scott County, VA. Primary program sponsors of this effort are Eastman Chemical Company and Charter Communications.

Who are TN/VA Scholars?

TN/VA Scholars are high school students who have completed the TN/VA Scholars Course of Study, a specific sequence of academic courses in math, science, language arts, and social studies. TN/VA Scholars initiative is based on data that proves that larger percentages of students who complete a more rigorous course of study in high school are more successful in college and the workforce.

How do students become TN/VA Scholars?

Students become TN/VA Scholars by completing the TN/VA Course of Study and the classes required for graduating high school.



Why become a TN/VA Scholar?

• Recognition

As TN/VA Scholars, students are recognized by teachers, parents, and community leaders as students who accept challenges and set high goals for success.

• Choices

After graduating as TN/VA Scholars, students are better prepared to enter the workforce or to attend a college, university or trade school. They have more choices available to them.

• Better Jobs

Employers prefer to hire individuals with strong academic backgrounds and sound decision-making and critical thinking skills to fill good, well-paying jobs.

• College

TN/VA Scholars are stronger candidates for certain types of financial aid and scholarships. They are also better prepared for college and are less likely to need costly remedial classes in college. Statistics show that Scholars graduates score higher on both the ACT and SAT and have a greater chance of being accepted to the college or university of their choice.

• Incentives

Businesses offer many incentives to scholars who stay on track during all four years of high school. Seniors are honored at graduation with special graduation recognition. TN/VA Scholars receive incentives at various stages of completion of the Scholars course of study.

What Role to parents play in the TN/VA Scholars initiative?

Parents are crucial to the student's success in the Scholars initiative. In the eighth grade, each student will prepare a state-recommended high school four-year plan with the help of his or her parents and counselors. Parents should work with the counselor to help their children meet TN/VA Scholars course requirements. Most importantly, a parent's encouragement and support are essential in helping a student succeed in this challenging academic program.

What part does the business community play?

The TN/VA Scholars initiative is a business-led partnership between businesses and the schools. Business people provide leadership and incentives for students who stay on track and who graduate on time as TN/VA Scholars.

