

Graduation Recognitions

Graduate with Honors

Tennessee graduates who earn at or above the college readiness benchmark scores on the ACT (or SAT equivalent scores) will graduate with Honors. The readiness scores are:

Subject	ACT Score
English	18
Mathematics	22
Reading	22
Science	23

Graduate with Distinction

Tennessee graduates who maintain a B average (GPA of 3.0 or higher) and complete an additional approved credential will graduate with Distinction. Approved credentials include:

- National and/or state recognized industry certification
- Tennessee Governor's School
- All-State musical organization
- Earn statewide recognition or award at a skill- or knowledge-based state tournament, convention, or competition hosted by a statewide student organization, and/or qualify for national recognition by a national student organization
- National Merit Finalist or Semi-Finalist
- A composite score of 31 or higher on the ACT
- A score of 3 or higher on two AP exams
- 12 or more semester hours of post-secondary credit

Tennessee Tri-Star Scholar

A student who earns a composite score of nineteen (19) or higher on the ACT, or an equivalent score on the SAT, and earns a capstone industry certification as promoted by the Department of Education, shall be recognized as a Tennessee Tri-Star Scholar upon graduation from high school.

Work Ethic Diploma

The Work Ethic Diploma originated as part of the Tennessee Labor Education Alignment Program (LEAP), a Tennessee initiative developed to ensure that the state is graduating skilled workers ready to take on the jobs offered by employers and industry. LEAP sought to create community-led partnerships which would align educational training and postsecondary credentials to meet the needs of regional industry employers; these partnerships were comprised of industry partners, postsecondary institutions, K-12 educators, and workforce development professionals. The initiative has received strong support from area industry. Currently forty employers recognize the Work Ethic Diploma and new industry partners are being added regularly. With industry support and robust participation in local school systems, the Work Ethic Diploma will help build a brighter economic future for all of Northeast Tennessee.

National Career Readiness Certificate (WorkKeys)

Students graduating with a gold or platinum medal on National Career Readiness Certificate (WorkKeys) shall be recognized at their graduation ceremony.

Tennessee Seal of Biliteracy

Students who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English will be awarded with the Tennessee Seal of Biliteracy. Students receiving this recognition shall meet the following criteria:

- Complete all English language arts (ELA) requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher in those classes; *and*
- Demonstrate English proficiency through one (1) of the following:
 - Score at the on-track or mastered level on each ELA end-of-course assessment taken;
 - Score three (3) or higher on an Advanced Placement English Language or English Literature exam;
 - Score 22 or higher on the ACT Reading subtest or 480 or higher on the SAT evidence-based reading and writing subtest; *or*
 - Score 4.5 or higher on the WIDA Access, if the student is an English learner; *and*
- Demonstrate proficiency in a world language through one (1) of the following:
 - Score Intermediate-Mid or higher in all three (3) communication modes (interpersonal, interpretive and presentational) on a world language proficiency assessment recognized by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) or comparable assessment; *or*
 - Score three (3) or higher on an Advanced Placement world language exam.

Community Service

Students who voluntarily complete at least ten (10) hours of community service each semester the student is in attendance at a public high school shall be recognized at their graduation ceremony.