



**For Immediate Release**

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**Media Contact**

Jessie Greene, Coordinator of College Access Communications

[Jessie.Greene@tn.gov](mailto:Jessie.Greene@tn.gov)

615-741-1318

**THEC Announces Increase in FAFSA-Filing Rates for Tennessee Promise Applicants: Ranks Number One in Nation**

**NASHVILLE, TN** – April 7, 2023 – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) released data today showing an increase in FAFSA-filing rates among Tennessee Promise applicants over last year. Tennessee is currently the number one state for FAFSA completion in the nation.

The FAFSA completion rate for Class of 2023 TN Promise applicants attending public high schools surpassed the prior year on March 1, the FAFSA-filing deadline for TN Promise eligibility. The completion rate for the Class of 2023 is 74.1%, increasing from 72.8% in 2022. This increase represents approximately 1,600 additional students who completed this crucial step in maintaining eligibility for the state's last-dollar scholarship program this year.

Tennessee currently ranks number one in the nation for FAFSA completion, according to the Form Your Future National FAFSA Tracker sponsored by the National College Attainment Network (NCAN). Tennessee also leads the nation in the amount of financial aid awarded per student, awarding over \$500 million annually in financial aid to Tennessee students according to the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO).

This year also saw a record-breaking number of Tennessee Promise applicants, with 64,612 high school seniors applying for the program by the November 1 deadline. This is the largest applicant pool in the history of the program.

Research shows that students who complete the FAFSA are far more likely to enroll in higher education or technical training after high school. Filing a FAFSA is the first step

students must take to apply for most state and federal financial aid for college. To learn more about college, careers, and financial aid available for students, visit [CollegeforTN.org](http://CollegeforTN.org).

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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.