

Tennessee and The Southern Regional Education Board

This document details Tennessee's participation in SREB programs and services from June 2014 through May 2015. Each member state receives a number of general services, plus access to targeted programs funded by grants, contracts and fees. Appropriations from member states support SREB's core operations and general services. SREB leverages the long-standing commitment of member states to attract external funding for an array of targeted projects for educational improvement efforts in member states.

Leadership

SREB Board

Bill Haslam, Governor

Harry Ray Brooks, State Representative

Beth Cox, Member, Sumner County School Board

Krissy DeAlejandro, Executive Director, tnAchieves

L. Anthony Wise, President, Pellissippi State College, Knoxville

SREB Legislative Advisory Council

Harry Ray Brooks, State Representative, Knoxville

Reginald Tate, State Senator, Memphis

Mark White, State Representative, Memphis

Senator Tate is the 2015-16 Vice Chair of the Council.

Policy

Goals for education | Monitoring state policies

Monitoring, measuring and reporting through comparative and state-specific reports to assist education leaders and policymakers as they shape public policy in education. SREB tracks trends and analyzes the progress of all 16 SREB states in each area in the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education and provides Legislative Reports that detail legislative and budget actions in each state.

Tennessee information is included in all reports, as applicable, and several are targeted specifically for Tennessee. Reports published in 2014:

Tennessee: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

2014 State Progress Report on the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education

High School to College and Careers, 2014

The ACT and SAT: No Longer Just College Admission Tests

SREB States Transform School Accountability with NCLB Waivers, 2014

Workforce Development in SREB States: The Role of Two-Year Colleges in Preparing Students for Middle-Skill Jobs

Focus on Compulsory Attendance Policies: About Age or Intervention?

Notes on School Finance: Selected Information on Funding for Low-Income Students in SREB States

Legislative Reports and Legislative Briefing

More information: Joan.Lord@SREB.org or Jeff.Gagne@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

College and career readiness

Intensive work to help states implement essential components of SREB's recommendations for statewide college and career readiness.

1. Adopt statewide readiness standards for literacy and mathematics skills.
2. Assess high school juniors to determine their progress toward the standards.
3. Offer transitional readiness courses. Require juniors assessed as underprepared to take the courses in 11th or 12th grade.
4. Apply the standards in deciding whether students need learning support after admission to college.
5. Hold schools accountable for increasing postsecondary readiness.

Tennessee has made good progress in implementing all of the recommendations and is one of eight SREB states that have passed legislation supporting parts of the readiness agenda.

SREB is assisting Tennessee in its review of K-12 standards in literacy and mathematics.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Readiness

Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards

Tracks and reports state progress on how states are implementing college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB launched a new phase of benchmarking in February 2015. In this work, SREB tracks and will report on implementation of standards and related reforms in **all 16 SREB** states.

Publications

In January 2015, SREB published ***Benchmarking State Implementation of College-and Career-Readiness Standards, Aligned Assessments and Related Reforms***. Six reports make up the set covering 14 states: a cross-state findings report that describes trends across the states — plus five reports with detailed state profiles by topic.

The reports note Tennessee as a ***leading state*** for professional development and teacher and leader evaluation, and a ***strong state*** for aligned teaching resources.

Support for States

SREB convened leaders from eight SREB states — including staff from the **Tennessee Department of Education** — to share information about and resources for implementation of standards. National experts also attended the meeting in August 2014 in Atlanta.

SREB's benchmarking staff provided information and support to state leaders on the implementation of standards and related reforms during fall 2014 and winter 2015.

Benchmarking staff presented on implementation of college- and career-readiness standards to:

- SREB Board and Legislative Advisory Council members, including attendees from Tennessee, at SREB's 2014 Annual Meeting in June.
- Legislative and governors' staff, including attendees from Tennessee, in October 2014.

More information: Kim.Anderson@SREB.org | (404) 775-9366 | SREB.org/1600

English Learners

Conference on preparing English language learners for college and career, co-hosted in May 2014 by SREB, the National Council on La Raza and the Hunt Institute.

A **fact sheet for Tennessee** includes population trends; state and federal policies; and programs, standards and assessments for English learners.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1785

Educator effectiveness

Helps states create policies that support teacher effectiveness so students learn more in the classroom. SREB staff work with policymakers and state agencies in all member states to help them translate current research on what works into evaluation systems that create an environment where teaching improves.

SREB educator effectiveness staff provided expertise to representatives from the Tennessee Department of Education who attended the Evaluation Implementation Convening held by the Reform Support Network in April 2015.

SREB staff facilitated several breakout sessions during the March 2015 Advisory Meeting for the SREB Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards project.

Representatives from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia engaged with SREB staff during a webinar on equitable access to excellent teachers, sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Education laboratory in March 2015.

Representatives from the Tennessee Department of Education shared their experience building and implementing educator evaluation systems and networked with other SREB state representatives at **SREB's annual educator effectiveness convening** in Atlanta in February 2015.

The educator effectiveness team refreshed the **educator effectiveness Bill Tracker** in January 2015, which allows Tennessee policymakers to track bills across eight topics, including teacher preparation, evaluation and professional learning.

Staff presented on educator evaluation at SREB's Legislative Advisory Council meeting in December 2014.

Representatives from Tennessee attended the Meeting of Legislative and Governors' Staff in October 2014. Staff updated the 40 attendees on recent changes to **teacher evaluation systems** in SREB states.

SREB educator effectiveness staff provided expertise to state agency staff at an educator equity convening through the Reform Support Network in October 2014.

The team released the **Elements of Evaluation interactive database** in October 2014, which allows Tennessee policymakers to explore policies across 16 states on classroom observations, student growth measures and professional learning systems.

Throughout the year, staff provided technical assistance to **Tennessee Department of Education** staff who are leading the implementation of the state's new educator evaluation system.

More than 1,000 policymakers and practitioners across the 16 SREB states receive the bi-weekly educator effectiveness e-newsletter.

The SREB educator effectiveness team provided technical assistance, brokered expertise and provided policy and practice resources to Tennessee:

- SREB Board and LAC members
- State legislators and legislative staff
- Governor's staff
- State education agency staff
- District superintendents
- School principals
- Teachers

More information: Andy.Baxter@SREB.org | (704) 247-7497 | SREB.org/EE

Early childhood education

SREB Early Childhood Commission

Convenes leaders to recommend policies that will give more young children a solid start when they enter school. The Commission's focus is on access to high-quality programs and the importance of highly skilled teachers to young children's learning experiences. The Commission will present draft recommendations for the SREB Board to consider in summer 2015 and will publish its report later in 2015.

Tennessee members of the Commission:

Harry Brooks, State Representative

Dolores Gresham, State Senator

Mark White, State Representative

More information: Mark.Emblidge@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EarlyLearning

Career and technical education

SREB Commission on Career and Technical Education

SREB's Commission on Career and Technical Education explored career pathway programs to help more students acquire the academic and technical knowledge and skills to earn industry and postsecondary credentials and secure high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs.

The Commission's report, *Credentials for All: An Imperative for SREB States*, offers states policies and practices to build high-quality pathways that transform their educational systems and increase attainment of postsecondary credentials.

Tennessee members of the Commission:

Harry Ray Brooks, State Representative

Danielle Mezera, Assistant Commissioner, Career and Technical Education, Tennessee Department of Education

State Leaders' Forum

Convenes state education leaders and policymakers to consider policies for high-quality career and technical education. Co-sponsored with the State Consortium for Improving High School Career and Technical Studies.

Tennessee attendees at the November 2014 Forum: **2**

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

Postsecondary education

Two commissions carried SREB's completion initiative into the states in 2014 and 2015 with strong emphasis on readiness and pathways for community colleges and affordability for all students. Building on the success of 2011-14 regional working groups of legislators to vet issues and craft recommendations, both commissions included Board and Legislative Advisory Council members and other key policymakers in the states.

SREB Community College Commission

Charged with recommending statewide strategies to strengthen the role of community and technical colleges in raising educational attainment in Southern states.

Tennessee member of the Commission:

Yvonne Wood, Member, Women's Economic Council Foundation

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CommunityColleges

SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South

Charged with recommending postsecondary policies that lead with the need for affordability and adjust institutional appropriations, student aid and tuition policies accordingly.

Tennessee members of the Commission:

Harry Brooks, State Representative

Krissy DeAlejandro, Executive Director, tnAchieves

Russ Deaton, Interim Executive Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Richard Rhoda, Former Executive Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Affordability

State Services

Connects policymakers with custom information, presentations and assistance on education issues as they arise.

Custom information by request of Tennessee policymakers and staff:

Parent: Academic Common Market

Staff: higher education finance

Legislative staff: student assessment in Georgia

More information: Gale.Gaines@SREB.org | (404) 879-5582 | SREB.org/StateServices

Professional Development for Teachers, Principals and Counselors

Literacy Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students learn the literacy skills of college- and career-readiness standards such as the Common Core. Teachers learn to design assignments that engage students to learn subject content, while advancing reading and writing skills. SREB's innovative training starts with exemplary teachers, who then work with other teachers to help them adopt the strategies.

Tennessee's LDC participation in 2014-15:

Teacher experts trained by SREB: **107**

“I am learning to plan better lessons to incorporate more reading and writing for my students.”

— Joyce Hancock, Teacher, **Craigmont High School**

Mathematics Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students understand basic mathematics concepts, become fluent with mathematics procedures, and develop the reasoning to apply them to solve problems. MDC teachers use formative assessment lessons — a hybrid of assessment and instruction — to help students master college- and career-readiness standards. SREB’s innovative training builds the capacity of lead teachers to become trainers of other teachers.

Tennessee’s participation in 2014-15:

Teacher experts trained by SREB: **52**

“My students have become thinkers...more responsible for their own learning.”

— Lisa Choate, Mathematics Teacher, **Cannon County High School**

Three Tennessee schools are featured for Mathematics Design Collaboration implementation in a September 2014 SREB publication of vignettes, *Students Step Up When Teachers and Leaders Transform Classrooms*.

Cannon County High School, Woodbury

Gra-Mar Middle School, Nashville

Mt. Pleasant High School, Mt. Pleasant

More information: Dan.Mollette@SREB.org | (404) 962-9623 | SREB.org/LDCMDC

High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

Annual conference for thousands of school leaders, teachers and counselors from middle grades, high schools and technology centers across the country. The conference will be held in Atlanta in 2015.

Tennessee attendees at the July 2014 conference: **270**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/SummerConference

College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference

Conference on the proven strategies of the Literacy and Mathematics Design Collaborative frameworks. More than 1,200 teachers and leaders attend to collaborate and share effective instructional strategies. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta July 13-15.

Tennessee attendees at the July 2014 conference: **118**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/NetworkingConference

National Professional Development Workshops

Intensive two- to three-day workshops that address current priorities for school improvement. Attendees leave with a plan of action for their schools. During the 2014-15 school year, SREB offered the Aligning High Schools and Middle Grades With Emerging Priorities for College and Career Readiness workshop and the National Technology Centers That Work Leaders' Forum.

Tennessee teachers, counselors and leaders who participated: **3**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/PD

Teaching to Lead

SREB helps states redesign programs that prepare business professionals to become career and technical education (CTE) teachers through a nontraditional certification route. SREB's Teaching to Lead program provides new CTE teachers knowledge and skills to manage a classroom of diverse students; plan challenging, work-related assignments that will improve students' academic, technical and problem-solving skills; motivate students to complete assignments; and assess student progress.

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools began using this SREB professional development during the 2013-14 school year. School and district administrators were concerned about retaining licensed CTE teachers to sustain the Academies of Nashville. These experts in their fields had relevant and highly developed skills and experiences that could benefit students, but they lacked the skills to design, deliver and assess instruction and create a learning environment where students can achieve the highest levels of mastery.

More information: Nancy.Headrick@SREB.org | (573) 680-0476

Principals

Learning-Centered Leadership Program

Works with district, state and university partners to prepare aspiring principals and school leadership teams to lead school reform to ensure that students are ready for college and careers. This program offers training, guidance and technical assistance.

Tennessee attendees at 2015 Annual Leadership Forum: **5**

More information: Jon.Schmidt-Davis@SREB.org | (404) 879-5591 | SREB.org/Leadership

Counselors

College and Career Counseling Initiative

Training to improve the effectiveness of teachers, counselors and college access program staff to prepare students from low-income families for postsecondary education. A 2014 survey of more than 500 enrollees found that 92 percent are changing their practice as a result of the training; 93 percent are implementing action plans developed in the program; and 95 percent would recommend the training to colleagues.

Tennessee is one of 14 participating states and one of the original six states to form the collaborative.

More information: AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org | (404) 8795601 | SREB.org/1663

High School and Middle Grades Improvement

SREB Readiness Courses Math Ready and Literacy Ready

Ready for postsecondary study

SREB courses that teach the reading, writing and mathematics skills young adults must have to succeed in college study and the workplace after high school — how to think independently, read for information and solve problems. Developed by teams of educators and faculty from partner states around the nation, they are being field tested in several states and are available at no cost.

Tennessee was one of the five original members of the consortium of states established to develop the SREB Readiness Courses, contributing a team of talented writers from K-12 and higher education.

Community colleges in the Tennessee Board of Regents system have worked with local high schools to implement the state's own readiness courses in mathematics through the SAILS (Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support) program, which is being expanded to include the state's literacy courses in 2015-16.

Ready for high school

SREB is now working with states to develop courses for the transition from middle grades to high school. The courses will be available for underprepared eighth- and ninth-grade students starting in 2016-17.

Middle school and high school teachers from Tennessee are participating in the development of the new courses.

More information: John.Squires@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Ready

High Schools That Work

Helps states transform public high schools into places where all students learn at high levels and complete at higher rates. Reforms create career pathway roadmaps for college and career readiness to meet regional and state workforce needs. HSTW serves more than 1,350 schools in 30 states. Schools receive services through membership in the HSTW state network or through contracts for intensive, customized support.

Fred J. Page High School in **Franklin** and **Blackman High School** in **Murfreesboro** are featured in case studies at SREB.org/HSTW for successfully implementing the High Schools That Work model to raise expectations and improve student achievement. **Mount Pleasant High School** in **Maury County** received special recognition from the United States Department of Education and from SREB for model efforts to turn around the school.

SREB is working with high schools in **Maury County** and **Shelby County** to develop career pathway programs of study.

HSTW State Network

Member states select schools to receive services. The fee for state membership in the consortium covers several services and visits.

Tennessee is a member of the High Schools That Work state network, in which **56 schools** were active in 2014-15.

SREB trainers conducted an HSTW data workshop in 2014, and a Technical Assistance Visit and professional development to individual schools in 2015.

Danielle Mezera, Assistant Commissioner for Career and Technical Education, Tennessee Department of Education, serves on the HSTW Board.

Grace Palmer is the Tennessee HSTW State Coordinator.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Contracts for Direct Support

Schools, districts and states contract with SREB for targeted school improvement services such as on-site coaching, technical assistance and professional development.

In Tennessee in 2014-15, **four high schools** contracted with HSTW for direct services. SREB delivered **42 days** of on-site coaching and **14 days** of on-site staff development.

In 2015, **10 high schools in Shelby County** will receive leadership support to develop a culture of learning and a high school focus on literacy.

More information: Cindy.VanBuren@SREB.org | (803) 984-5986 | SREB.org/HSTW

HSTW Assessment

Subject tests, along with student and teacher surveys to establish baseline data, track progress and identify areas for improvement.

In Tennessee, **24 schools** participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment.

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Special Board Meeting

SREB's High Schools That Work initiative held a special board meeting in March devoted to strengthening the HSTW instructional design to build college and career pathways that link high schools, workplace learning, and community and technical colleges. The goal is to increase the percentage of young people who earn a credible credential by age 25.

2014 Award-Winning Schools

HSTW Platinum High Achievement Schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment and had at least 85 percent of students meet at least one readiness goal, one or more parts of the recommended curriculum, and at least one recommended concentration. Schools are classified as a high implementation site and met state AYP or had a graduation rate of at least 85 percent. The following schools earned the award in 2014:

Franklin High School, Franklin

Blackman High School (2012 and 2014), Murfreesboro

Fred J. Page High School (2012 and 2014), Franklin

HSTW Gold Achievement Schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment and had at least 50 percent of students earn the HSTW Award of Educational Achievement and at least 40 percent of career and technical students experience a rigorous career and technical education. Schools also met AYP or had a graduation rate of at least 85 percent. The following school earned the award in 2014:

DeKalb County High School, Smithville

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 879-5611

Making Middle Grades Work

Engages state, district and school leaders in partnerships with teachers, students, parents and the community to raise student achievement in the middle grades. The network includes 663 schools in 20 states.

In Tennessee during 2014-15, **21 schools** were served through the MMGW network. SREB delivered **seven days** of on-site coaching and **94 days** of on-site staff development. **Six schools** participated in 2014 MMGW Student and Teacher Surveys.

In 2014-15, SREB is providing direct support to **nine middle grades schools**. Schools in Nashville (4), Knoxville (1) and Chattanooga (1) will each receive intensive support through school improvement grants.

More information: Deborah.Bass@SREB.org | (404) 788-1235 | SREB.org/MMGW

Counseling for Careers

Helps students align career pathway programs of study to career goals, postsecondary studies and employment. SREB works with districts and schools so teachers, counselors, administrators, parents and community partners can advise students on career opportunities in the state and region, career pathway programs of study, work-based learning experiences, postsecondary education and training opportunities.

SREB is providing Counseling for Careers support to all counselors in middle grades and high schools in **Maury County**. To date, **57 counselors** have received professional development.

More information: Lynn.Anderson@SREB.org | (404) 879-5610

Higher Education Programs and Services

Tuition savings, access to uncommon degrees

Academic Common Market

Provides in-state tuition access to degree programs not available in a student's home state. Approximately 2,500 new students participate each year in 1,900 programs at 150 institutions.

Participating Tennessee students, calendar year 2014: **174**

Tennessee ACM Representative:

Herbert Brown, Academic Common Market Coordinator, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Electronic Campus

Partners with colleges and universities to give students access to almost 37,000 online courses and more than 3,400 online degree programs.

Programs provided by Tennessee institutions as of April 2015: **221**

Tennessee EC Representatives:

Betty Dandridge-Johnson, Associate Executive Director for Academic Affairs, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Patrick Wilson, Associate Vice Chancellor, Tennessee Board of Regents

Regional Contract Program

Gives students the opportunity to earn a professional health degree from participating institutions in other states through in-state tuition rates at public institutions or reduced tuition at private institutions. SREB is fiscal agent and handles administrative duties without additional fees to the state, institutions or students. More than 700 students participate each year.

Other SREB states contract with Tennessee institutions (**Meharry Medical College, Southern College of Optometry** and the **University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center**, Memphis). Tennessee institutions received **more than \$3 million** over the past two years for providing Regional Contract Program slots.

SREB Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement

*Allows institutions to be authorized by their home state to eliminate the need for individual approvals in SREB states where they serve students online. SREB states opt in to SECRRRA. A new, nationwide system of reciprocity — **SARA**, or the **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement** — will open more high-quality online offerings for students and ease regulatory burdens on institutions.*

Tennessee participates in SECRRRA.

More information: Mary.Larson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1083

Comparative data

SREB-State Data Exchange

Collects, compiles and publishes data and descriptive statistics on postsecondary education. Data are updated annually on a wide range of policy topics: degree and certificate completion, student persistence and progression, time- and credits-to-degree, student credit hours (including those taken in high school), tuition and fee levels and policies, and faculty salaries. Postsecondary agencies in each SREB state participate and appoint coordinators.

Participating agency and its Data Exchange Coordinator for 2015-16:

Crystal Collins, Director of Fiscal Policy and Facilities Analysis, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

SREB Fact Book on Higher Education

One of the nation's most comprehensive collections of comparative data. The Fact Book keeps policymakers informed with trend data for all 50 states on the population and the economy, college enrollment, degrees awarded, tuition and fees, student financial aid and cost of attendance, faculty and administrators, as well as revenue and expenditures, including state appropriations. Fact Book tables are updated regularly at SREB.org/Data.

Tennessee leaders receive the annual ***SREB-State Data Exchange Indicators Report***, the ***SREB Fact Book on Higher Education***, as well as ***Tennessee: Featured Facts from the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education***, ***Fact Book Bulletins*** and special reports.

More information: Susan.Lounsbury@SREB.org | (404) 879-5546 | SREB.org/Data

Nursing education

Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

Helps expand and strengthen schools of nursing to reduce the critical shortage of nurse educators needed to educate the nation's registered nurses. The Council surveys institutions for nursing education trends and shares online graduate nursing courses.

In Tennessee, **10 institutions** participate in the Council.

Representatives from each institution, with leadership positions on the Council:

Aquinas College: Ignatious Perkins, Dean; Nursing Council: Bylaws Committee

Belmont University: Martha Buckner, Dean

Cleveland State Community College: Nancy LaBine, Dean and Director

Cumberland University: Carol A. Bach, Director

East Tennessee State University: Wendy Nehring, Dean, Chair; Nursing Council: Board Member

Middle Tennessee State University: Karen Ward, Director

Southern Adventist University: Barbara James, Dean

Southwest Tennessee Community College: Sharon Livisay, Chair

University of Memphis: Linn Zhan, Dean

Walters State Community College: Cheryl McCall, Director

More information: Eula.Aiken@SREB.org | (404) 879-5567 | SREB.org/Nursing

Minority Ph.D. scholars

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

Supports minority students to help them earn their Ph.D.s and seek employment that helps colleges and universities diversify their faculties. The Doctoral Scholars Program hosts the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars — with more than 1,200 attendees.

Scholars funded by Tennessee in 2014-15: **15**

2014 Institute attendees from Tennessee: **49**

Scholars Tennessee has supported since joining in 1993: **102**

Graduates since 1993: **63**

Graduates currently employed: **50**

Percent employed in education: **88**

Tennessee-supported students have attended these institutions since 1993:

East Tennessee State University

University of Memphis

Georgia State University

University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Meharry Medical College

University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Tennessee State University

Vanderbilt University

Tennessee Technological University

Doctoral Scholars Program Regional Advisory Committee Representatives:

Wendy Thompson, Vice Chancellor, Office of Organizational Effectiveness and Strategic Initiatives,
Tennessee Board of Regents

Betty Dandridge Johnson, Assistant Executive Director for Academic Affairs, Tennessee Higher
Education Commission

More information: Ansley.Abraham@SREB.org | (404) 879-5573 | SREB.org/DoctoralScholars

Interstate Cooperatives

Educational Technology Cooperative

Membership group of state K-12 and higher education coordinating and governing boards representing more than 800 colleges and universities and 3,100 school districts in SREB states. The ETC focuses member agencies and state policymakers on using technology wisely, reports on educational technology topics and connects members.

Tennessee member agency and representative for the membership year 2014-15:

Patrick Wilson, Executive Director of Programs, Regents Online Campus Collaborative, Tennessee Board of Regents

Tennessee's ETC representative helped determine SREB's **10 Critical Issues in Educational Technology**.

More information: Wanda.Barker@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EdTech

Technology Purchasing Savings

Schools, universities and agencies in SREB states saved 3 percent to 18 percent on \$17 million in technology purchases during fiscal year 2014 through SREB's participation in MHECtech discount agreements. Organizations in each of the 16 SREB states participated.

Tennessee technology purchases, FY 2014: **\$762,200**

More information: Camille.Martin@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1697

Go Alliance

An interstate cooperative to increase high school graduation rates, access to education beyond high school, and postsecondary degree completion — particularly for those who would be the first in their families to enroll. Go Alliance research, services and professional development focus on college access policy and communications strategies to motivate students to plan for and apply to college.

Tennessee participates in Go Alliance through the annual meeting and workshops that highlight best practices and aid in the replication of successful programs.

Go Alliance Representative: Troy Grant, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

“We frequently look to Go Alliance as a source of guidance, expertise and inspiration, and we’ve gained significant value through the sharing and learning of best practices. We consider Go Alliance to be an important resource in the work that we do to increase college attainment in Tennessee.”

— Troy Grant, **Tennessee Higher Education Commission**

More information: AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org | (404) 879-5601 | SREB.org/GoAlliance

SREB Meetings Hosted in Tennessee

College- and Career-Readiness Networking Conference

1,200 educators

Nashville, July 2014

28th Annual High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

Nashville’s Opryland Hotel was the site of the conference in July 2014. Nashville has hosted the conference several times since 2000.

2000: 8,112 attendees

2008: 7,579 attendees

2003: 6,822 attendees

2011: 5,440 attendees

2005: 7,970 attendees

2014: 5,500 attendees

The Southern Regional Education Board was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators who recognized the link between education and economic vitality. To this day, the organization maintains its focus on critical issues that hold the promise of improving quality of life by advancing public education. The region’s track record shows that setting goals and maintaining the commitment to work toward them make a difference.