Tennessee Can Lead on Using Data Access to Improve Opportunities

Individual Tennesseans and those closest to them need reliable information to successfully navigate their paths to higher education, careers, and beyond. In Tennessee, state agencies have secure access to linked student-level data through the statewide longitudinal data system, P20 Connect TN. Researchers and state officials can use this information to explore long-term student outcomes and understand what students need to achieve their education and workforce goals. Yet opaque approval processes and access procedures effectively put this information out of reach for postsecondary administrators, district leaders, and other student-serving organizations across the state. By prioritizing transparency and expanding safe access to linked data, Tennessee can help connect every person to the information and support they need to achieve their goals.

Linked Data Exists in Tennessee Through the P20 Connect TN Data System

Districts, postsecondary institutions, and other organizations need longitudinal data to help individuals succeed. This data exists in P20 Connect TN—yet practical barriers put it out of reach for those outside of state agencies. Tennessee must take action to ensure that partners at every level have safe and meaningful access to P20 Connect TN data. Meaningful access includes:

- **Public-facing resources**
- **Transparent policies + procedures**
- **User-friendly systems**
- **Outreach + capacity building**

Tennesseans need access to this information, but they don’t have it yet.

When this changes, people will have the information they need to:

- Enable continuous improvement
- Inform policymaking
- Support individual students
- Drive local partnerships
- Connect students and families to critical information

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