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Superintendent;

Tennessee Scholars is a rewards and recognitions program, which utilizes business leaders to motivate all students to complete a rigorous course of study in high school, one that will give them a boost in college and their careers. Trained business leaders go into classrooms to talk with students about how they should view challenging academic courses as building blocks for their future. Since 2003, this program has grown from two school districts to eighty and over twenty-five thousand students have chosen to graduate as Tennessee Scholars. This has definitely started to improve the quality of the workforce, economy, and the success of the postsecondary student. Data collected from counselors and the ACT proves that students who take the Scholars course of study score higher on the ACT. Data collected from post secondary institutions that offer scholarships to Tennessee Scholars has shown that at 80% or higher of Tennessee Scholars test out of remedial courses and complete the courses with a higher grade and in shorter time. Because of the attendance and discipline requirements the numbers of students who attend school regularly increases as students choose to be a Tennessee Scholar. The discipline requirement increases discipline. Volunteer community service is known to increase academic achievement.

The Scholars Initiative is driving course completion for *all* students. Students in the top quarter of the class are already motivated to excel in college and careers; they are already taking a Scholars course of study or will do so with little prompting. It is the middle 50 percent of the class — students who do not yet identify with the goal of higher education or highly technical or skilled careers, kids who lack direction and take the path of least resistance, but who possess average or better capabilities — who are most likely to respond to guidance and incentives. By motivating them to stretch their academic muscles during high school, the Scholars Initiative ensures that they will have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful after graduation. This is where the Scholars program places its heaviest emphasis.

There is no cost to your school system. Students receive scholarships, rewards, incentives, and motivation. Extensive training for counselors, parents, teachers, and business presenters is provided. All this at no cost to your school district!

We must have your permission to implement this program in your school district. Without your approval, your students cannot take advantage of these scholarships and rewards. All you need to do to complete the following application and return to me as soon as possible, so we can make sure your students can take full advantage of this recognition. Please visit the website for more information and data.

I look forward to receiving your application soon.

Sincerely

Ruth Woodall  
Director, Tennessee Scholars

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## Tennessee Scholars School District Application

By signing this document, the \_\_\_\_\_ District agrees to the following:

1. To allow, trained business presenters to deliver the Tennessee Scholars presentation to students in middle and high school
2. To adhere the guidelines outlined in the Tennessee Scholars course requirements
3. To certify students as Tennessee Scholars
4. To offer the courses necessary for the students to meet the requirements
5. To collaborate with business leaders
6. To allow counselors and other educators to attend training as necessary to stay informed on new information related to Tennessee Scholars and other educational topics
7. You agree to place the Tennessee Scholars logo on your website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please list the names and contact information for your high schools below: