

## **Tennessee Business Roundtable Resolution**

**A RESOLUTION** to endorse the Tennessee Diploma Project and the revision of high school graduation requirements.

**WHEREAS**, according to ACT's 2006 report, College and Workforce Training Readiness, “We should be educating all high school students according to a common academic expectation, one that prepares them for both postsecondary education and the workforce. Only then . . . will they be ready for life after high school.”; and

**WHEREAS**, ACT's report also “provide(s) empirical evidence that, whether planning to enter college or workforce training programs after graduation, high school students need to be educated to a comparable level of readiness in reading and mathematics.”; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, an individual with a bachelor's degree will earn an average of \$2.1 million over a lifetime—nearly twice as much as a worker with only a high school diploma; and

**WHEREAS**, in a study of the educational system in Tennessee, the National Center of Higher Education Management Systems created what is commonly known as the “student pipeline” for Tennessee and found that of One Hundred (100) Ninth-Graders, only sixty-three (63) will graduate high school on time, thirty-nine (39) will enter college, only twenty-seven (27) will be enrolled at the start of their sophomore year, and only seventeen (17) will graduate within One Hundred-Fifty percent (150%) of the normal time it takes to complete the degree; and

**WHEREAS**, over half of first time freshman at Tennessee Board of Regents universities and community colleges require developmental coursework; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2007 ACT report, only Eighteen percent (18%) of Tennessee high school students met all of ACT's college readiness benchmarks; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, only Thirty-Three percent (33%) of Tennessee students met the ACT benchmark in mathematics and only Twenty-three percent (23%) met the ACT benchmark in science; now, therefore;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KNOXVILLE AREA CHAMBER PARTNERSHIP** that the Board does hereby support and encourage Governor Bredesen and the State Board of Education in revising high school graduation requirements and the curriculum standards as part of the American Diploma Project in an effort to prepare all students to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, in a manner that:

1. Ensures that students entering high school are ready for rigorous and relevant coursework.
2. Requires all school systems to develop challenging meaningful course work that will prepare high school students for life after high school, including at least four years of mathematics, and require all high school students to take these courses.
3. Aligns high school standards and assessments with the knowledge and skills required for success after high school.
4. Streamlines the assessment system so that the tests students take in high school also serve as readiness tests for college and work.
5. Increases the number of students meeting the ACT benchmarks that indicate readiness for college or workplace training.
6. Reduces the number of students requiring developmental coursework in Tennessee's post-secondary institutions.
7. Holds schools accountable for graduating students who are ready for college or careers, and holds postsecondary institutions accountable for students' success once enrolled.

I hereby certify that this resolution of The Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership was duly and lawfully adopted by its board of Directors on October 25, 2007, at a meeting at which a quorum was acting throughout, and I furthermore certify that such resolution has not been amended or modified in any respect.

The Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary