

# P-16

**Definition** P-16 is the shorthand term for a student-focused, comprehensive and integrated system that links all education levels from preschool (P) through post-secondary. It is a powerful framework for citizens and policymakers to use to improve teaching and learning and thus better prepare students for living, learning, and working in a changing world.

**State P-16 Council**  
 A public/private partnership, evolved from the Tennessee Commission on Higher education in March of 2003, to focus on key education improvement initiatives including promotion of the link between public awareness and an educated citizenry and a healthy economy. The work of the Tennessee P-16 Council will improve student achievement by getting children off to a good start raising academic standards, conducting appropriate assessments, improving teacher quality, and smoothing student transitions.

**Regional P-16 Council**  
 Tennessee Community Colleges were asked to coordinate and develop regional councils for their service areas to help implement the state's education improvement initiatives. Walters State Community College developed the Mid-East Regional P-16 council which became the state's first recognized regional council in November 2004 and includes Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Sevier, and Union counties.

**Local P-16 Council**  
 HC\*EXCELL asked the state and regional developing council for permission to facilitate development of a local P-16 to impact and raise the education bar in Hamblen County in May 2004. Through a community partnership effort The Hamblen County P-16 Council was formed as Tennessee's first local P-16 Council in November 2004 and held its first council meeting in January 2005. Purpose to look at tough issues facing education and promote collaboration, commitment and trust to advocate educational excellence.

## State P-16 Council Goals

Improve student learning at all levels and strengthen the connections between Pre K-12 and higher education.  
 Ensure that all students have access to competent, caring and qualified teachers, and  
 Increase public awareness of the link between an educated citizenry and a healthy economy

## Mid-East Regional P-16 Council Goals

Increase public awareness of the link between an educated citizenry and a healthy economy  
 Strengthen connections and smooth transitions between Pre K-12 and higher education to improve student learning at all levels  
 Promote access to competent, caring and qualified teachers in grades P-16.

## Hamblen County P-16 Goals

Make education the number one priority in Hamblen County  
 Recruit, retain and develop qualified educators  
 Ensure continuity and consistency of quality education throughout P-16

## Hamblen County P-16 Council

### *The link between an educated citizenry and a healthy economy*

#### Vision

The Hamblen County P-16 Council will create a strong and sustainable school and community partnership to coordinate and/or provide a comprehensive set of programs and supports for preschool through grade 16 students.

#### Mission

The Hamblen County P-16 Council will bring together stakeholders from the private and public sector to promote and develop competent, caring, and qualified educators in grades P-16; strengthen connections, communications and smooth transitions to improve student learning, parent knowledge and community commitment/involvement at all levels; and increase public involvement and awareness of the link between an educated citizenry and a healthy economy.

#### Participants

**Educators** - Will help identify and impact key issues affecting the quality of education in Hamblen County and will promote smooth transitions and eliminate barriers between different grades levels, institutions and community organizations.

**Students** – Will have input into what constitutes quality education in Hamblen County

**Community** – Leaders and citizens will have an opportunity to identify and impact key areas affecting the quality of education and the workforce of Hamblen County.

**Social Services** – Will have the opportunity to identify educational issues impacting at-risk populations in Hamblen County.

**Government** – Can use input from participants to positively impact public policy and funding decisions.

#### Organization

The Hamblen County P-16 Council divided its work into four focus committees to sustain momentum, develop support, and define and target activities to promote interaction and involvement of community, education and government.

Strategic Sustainment      Community/Collaboration      Educators      Students

#### Structure

**Leadership** – Hamblen County P-16 Council is governed by five co-leaders and a part-time coordinator

**Meetings** – Three Council meetings are held per year with additional committee and co-leaders meetings as needed

**Format** – Lunch meetings with participants divided into focus groups. Each member must choose to work on at least one committee. Committees identify work which can be council focus or committee focus

#### Strategies

Fund and facilitate educational efforts that encourages dialogue among County Commissioners, school board and administration officials, and the community

- Formation of community collaboration committee
- Revival of Hamblen County Commission education committee
- Gathering and disseminate of education information to county commission and community
- Development of educational measures of success

Develop and launch comprehensive marketing campaign in support of public education

- 12 week awareness marketing campaign of P-16
- Quality education value marketing campaign
- Citizens guide to question to link education to a healthy economy

Recruit, Retain and develop qualified educators

- Incentives for quality educator recruitment
- Professional development
- National Board Professional Teacher Standards
- Inclusion of Hamblen County educators in collaborative committee
- Grow our own educators video
- Publicize highly qualified teacher credentials

Ensure continuity and consistency of quality education throughout P-16

- Collaborative efforts and consistent communication with regional P-16 council
- Hamblen County school individual brochures
- Parent advisory council
- Student advisory council
- Newsletter
- Dual enrollment between high schools, Technology Center, WSCC, City Council
- High School Leadership class
- Imagination Library collaborative effort
- Imagination Library “Ms. Eva the Reading Engineer” television. Show on local community access
- List of what HC P-16 members bring to the table
- Financial support

**2006 Strategic Plan**

Make education the number one issue of the 2006 elections

Education Forum

12 week education value marketing campaign

Develop and disseminate education material and value building tools

IML Bookmobile

Artmobile

Solicit regional and state financial and technical support

# Steps to P-16 Council Development

**Identify Convener:** Identify community organization that is willing to assume the role of convener.

**Identify Facilitator:** Secure neutral party with experience in developing collaborative partnerships. (Volunteer or paid position)

**Identify Leadership:** Identify key stakeholders, expectations, and timeline for a Steering Committee.

**Invitation:** Contact key stakeholders personally to discuss P-16 concept. Mail letters of invitation and agreement to key stakeholders to review, sign, and return. Agreement needs to advise stakeholders of their responsibilities and that two participants per organization are required to ensure continuity.

**Organization:** Convener and facilitator set site, date and time for initial meeting. Welcome letter is sent to participants introducing facilitator. Facilitator follows up with a phone call and an e-mail soliciting stakeholder input prior to initial steering committee meeting. Convener and facilitator develop agenda and notebook for initial meeting.

**Initial Meeting:** Convener welcomes committee members, outlines state and regional guidelines and purpose for P-16 effort. Facilitator shares input from stakeholders and conducts meeting. Collectively group creates a meeting schedule and a timeline for development of vision, mission, goals and timed objectives to align with those of the state and region. Between meetings facilitator continues to solicit input from stakeholders through personal interviews, e-mails and phone calls.

**Local P-16 development process:** The vision, mission, goals and timed objectives, for initial process are developed through a consensus building process directed by the facilitator. In addition, a financial plan, a potential membership list, P-16 Council meeting schedule, committee structure and participant responsibilities need to be created. Once process is completed the steering committee can apply for recognition by the State Council. Having an organizational and financial support system in place for the first year will assist in building a more organized and effective effort.

**P-16 Recognition:** Upon state recognition, letters of invitation and agreement are extended to potential participants. Invitations are followed by phone calls to potential participants to illicit support and commitment. Steering committee sets time, place and agenda for initial Local P-16 meeting.

**Initial Local P-16 Council Meeting:** The local vision, mission and goals developed by the Steering Committee are presented at the initial meeting. Co-leaders present initial organizational structure and outline committees' purposes and areas of work. (Areas of work could include: students, educators, strategic sustainment and community collaboration committees.) Council participants select areas of work that their organization will support through active committee membership and vote on meeting schedule for year. Structure, sustainment and flexibility of organization are discussed. Input of members is vital to continuation of process.

## **Responsibilities:**

### *Convener and co-leaders*

- Funds could possibly be raised or committed to hire a coordinator to assist leadership in scheduling committee meetings, tracking details, taking and sending out meeting minutes, surveys, reminders and communicating on a regular basis with all P-16 Council members.
- Strategic Plan: The facilitator and Convener assist co-leaders in developing a strategic plan for first year operations and future development.
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### *Local P-16 Council Members:*

- Attendance: Must meet attendance requirement for Council and committee meetings.
- Organization: Be involved in growth and support of organization.