A recent poll of 600 registered Tennessee voters revealed important perspectives on the current state of higher education in Tennessee.

What priority level should Governor Bill Lee’s administration give to these issues?

- Access and affordability of college and technical training: 87%
  - 87% said having some form of education after high school is important.
  - 58% indicated this is a top priority.

- Student debt: 47%
  - 47% said they need more education for the job/career they want.
  - 50% indicated this is a top priority.

- Ability of graduates to succeed in the workplace: 63%

Most common obstacles keeping prospective students from earning a degree:

- Cost of a degree: 67%
- Job or work responsibilities: 65%
- Family responsibilities: 63%
- Student loans: 56%
Should Governor Lee’s administration change the amount of resources dedicated to higher education by the previous administration?

- 36% Allocate more resources
- 8% Allocate fewer resources
- 50% Keep about the same
- 6% Don’t know/Declined

81% agree with Gov. Lee’s focus on increasing higher education opportunities in rural areas.

- 68% agree that HOPE scholarships should be available to students enrolled in other state-approved online college programs.
- 63% said online college degree programs were as good as or better than traditional college programs.
- 61% said that the Tennessee state government should do more to ensure that public school students are prepared for college-level work.
- 48% think that the Tennessee state government should increase funding for college education.

Governor Haslam introduced the Drive to 55 initiative, which seeks to equip 55% of Tennesseans with a postsecondary certificate by 2025.

Should Governor Lee continue this initiative?

- Strengthen it 43%
- Keep it as is 30%
- Replace it with a new approach 12%
- End it entirely 6%
- Don’t know/Declined 9%