



SCHOLARS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED.

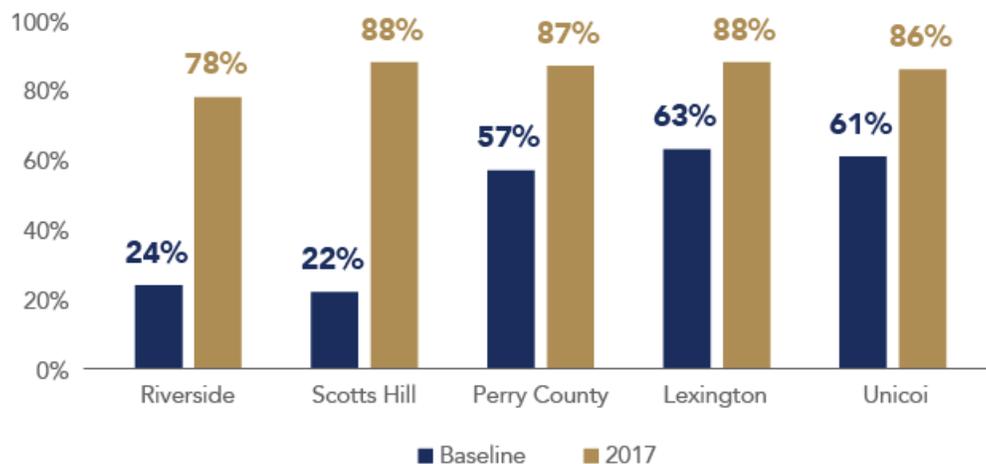
About The Ayers Foundation

The Ayers Foundation was created in 1999 to significantly improve the quality of life in Tennessee, with a concentration on improving post-secondary education opportunities for high school students in rural counties.

The Ayers Foundation Scholars Program is the flagship initiative. The program funds and trains guidance counselors in high schools in Decatur, Henderson, Perry and Unicoi counties to work with students and parents. The counselors begin working with students in eighth grade with more extensive coaching starting during junior and senior years. Services provided during high school include: assistance with the FAFSA, help finding scholarships and grants, college campus visits, application assistance, and many other activities focusing on removing any barrier for students enrolling and completing college. College access counselors follow each student through postsecondary completion, providing a host of services including coordinating financial aid, navigation of class schedules and reviewing grades and discussing tutoring opportunities if needed.

100 percent of students enrolled at participating high schools receive services from AFSP.

The college-going rate for participating high schools has soared. At Scotts Hill High School, for example, 88% of graduates go on to college. And retention for Ayers Scholars for the class of 2015 has been independently verified by the University of Tennessee at Martin at 83%.



The Ayers Foundation strives to remove all barriers and boundaries for Ayers Scholars. Students have enrolled at more than 99 colleges and university across 25 states, including Dartmouth, Yale and Vanderbilt. A key piece of The Ayers Foundation model is finding the best fit institution for every student.



Jim and Janet Ayers

Jim Ayers grew up in rural West Tennessee in the town of Parsons, and early on he was introduced by his parents to the rewards of an honest day of hard work. As he went on to become one of the state's most successful and admired businessmen and a leading philanthropist, he never forgot the lessons he learned as a young boy.

In 1999, he established The Ayers Foundation, which supports a wide range of programs and institutions with an emphasis on education in Decatur, Henderson, Perry and Unicoi counties.

Janet Ayers grew up in rural East Tennessee in Jonesborough. Janet is a recognized business leader and philanthropist throughout Tennessee, and she has more than 20 years of service in health care administration. She has served as president of The Ayers Foundation since 2007.

In addition to their business interests, both Jim and Janet are active in a number of civic, educational and charitable organizations. Janet and Jim were the recipients of the Association of Fundraising Professionals' 2007 Philanthropist of the Year Award and the 2015 Jack Massey Leadership Award.

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