



SCHOLARS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED.

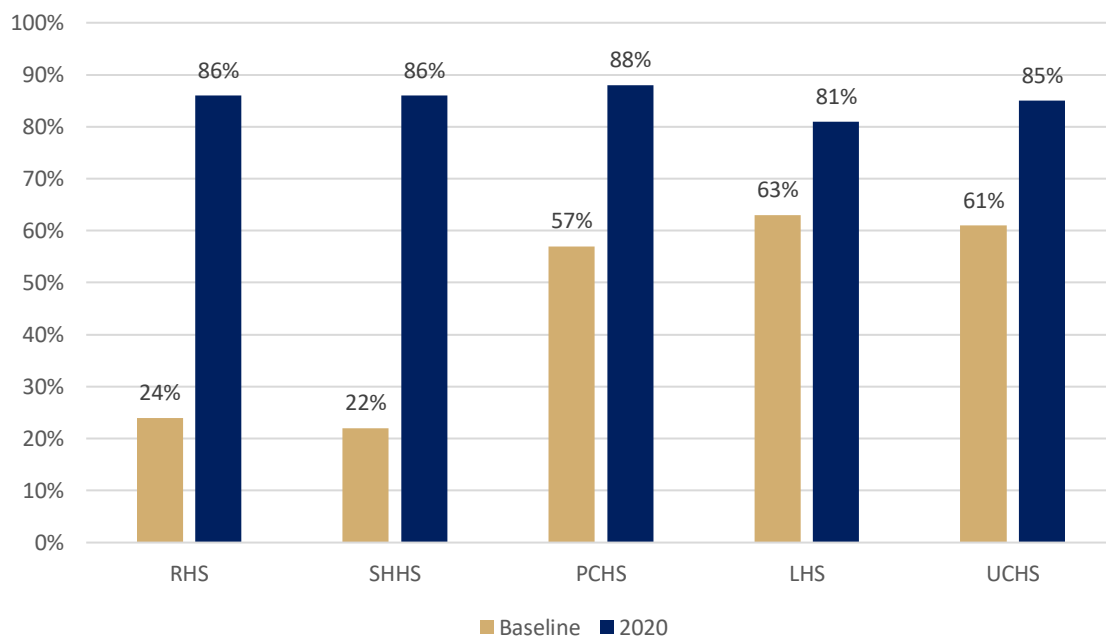
About The Ayers Foundation

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.

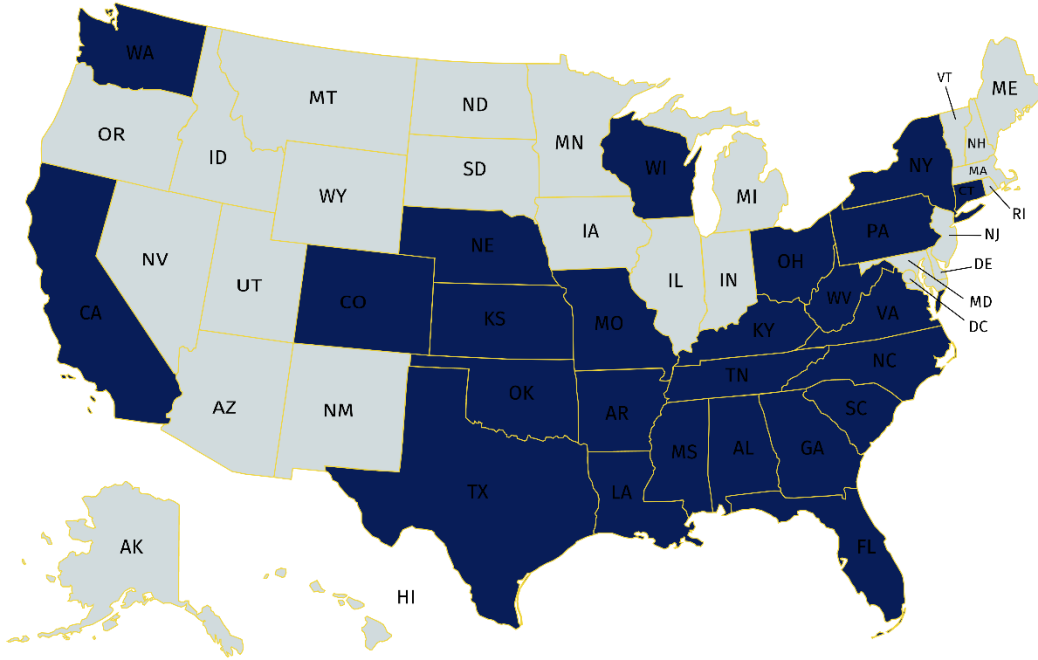
The Ayers Foundation Scholars Program is the flagship initiative. The program funds and trains college and career counselors in nine high schools in Decatur, Henderson, Perry and Unicoi counties to work with students and parents. The Foundation has expanded its reach in recent years to two high schools in Missouri and three high schools in Tennessee through a partnership with rootED Alliance, a collaborative philanthropic effort to address the most challenging obstacles to college and career success for students in rural America.

100% of students enrolled at participating high schools receive services from AFSP. Since inception, **every student has had access to higher education** provided by an individualized plan with a college access counselor. The Scholars program is more than college access; it prepares and works with each student to provide resources so they are prepared to be **college eligible, successful, and in the end, work-force ready**.

The college-going rate for participating high schools has soared. The class of 2015 has been independently verified by the University of Tennessee at Martin and the average College Going Rate is 85%, one-year retention is 80%, and a graduation rate of 75%.



The Ayers Foundation strives to remove all barriers and boundaries for Ayers Scholars. Students have enrolled at more than 104 colleges and universities across 25 states, including Stanford, 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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