

# Ayers Scholars Program Expansion Proposal Response

The Ayers Foundation Trust Expansion proposal has four components: County and School District Information, Terms of Partnership, Short Answers, and Letters of Support. Specific details of each of those sections are as follows.

## Section 1: County and School District Information

Provide the information below for the applying county.

1. County: \_\_\_\_\_
2. School District: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Director of Schools Name: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Director of Schools Email: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Director of Schools Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Proposal Contact Name (if different than the director of schools): \_\_\_\_\_
7. Proposal Contact Email (if different than the director of schools): \_\_\_\_\_
8. Proposal Contact Phone Number (if different than the director of schools): \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are there multiple school districts within the county?      Yes      No

If yes, please use the space below to include the names of all districts and the name, email, and phone number of directors of schools within your county. All high schools within the county – regardless of whether they belong to different districts – must apply together to be considered for this opportunity.

School District	Director of Schools Name	Email	Phone



11. Are there other college access programs operating in the district and/or community?

Yes      No

If the answer to Question 11 is yes, please briefly respond to the following questions: What is the name of the program(s)? What would the interaction be between this program and the ASP? What is this program's day-to-day presence in the district/community? How many students from the district engage with this program? How are these students selected?

## Section 2: Terms of Partnership

Please indicate a commitment to the ASP terms of partnership by indicating yes or no to each item below.

Commitments	Yes	No
Commit to designate a school liaison (typically an administrator or school counselor) who will serve as the primary point of contact for the ASP college access counselor(s) and student success coordinator.		
Commit to partnering with ASP staff in arranging and allowing students to attend college visits and other college and career readiness activities.		
Allow for the implementation of college knowledge and informational workshops and activities for students and families as agreed upon by both ASP staff and partner school staff. Examples include TN FAFSA Frenzy, TN College Application Month, Signing Day, College Summits, etc.		
Allow for the implementation of a student messaging platform (i.e., text messaging, Remind, etc.) provided by ASP to notify students and families of key college-going milestones.		
Commit to participating in the necessary memorandum of understanding and data agreements.		
Provide school-based ASP staff access to the student information system used by participating schools (i.e., Skyward, PowerSchool, Aspen, etc.).		
Commit to allowing ASP staff to assimilate into the school culture, including attendance at faculty meetings and other functions as appropriate. Allow ASP staff to share information about ASP in annual in-service before the start of school each year.		
Commit to allowing ASP staff to share a brief update on program implementation at one school board meeting each year.		
Commit to completing the necessary paperwork with the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation to designate Ayers Foundation Trust as the county's Tennessee Promise Partnering Organization of record. Note: Ayers Foundation Trust staff will help facilitate the completion of this task.		
Commit to an annual check-in with ASP leadership to discuss initiative progress and continued partnership.		

## Section 3: Short Answers

Please respond to the following questions. Please limit written responses to no more than 500 words per question. There are no “right” answers. These questions aim to understand better your community and your interest in partnering with the Ayers Foundation Trust.

1. **Commitment to Improving College-Going Outcomes.** A school-wide commitment to the belief that all students have the potential to attain a postsecondary credential is key to improving student college-going outcomes. Please provide a brief narrative that outlines your county’s commitment to increasing the number of students who access and succeed in postsecondary education. In addition, responses should address the following:
  - a. How does partnership with the ASP address the particular needs of your community?
  - b. What existing student-level services or interventions are currently in place and focus on increasing the number of students accessing postsecondary education? Who provides these services? School staff? Outside partners? How can these initiatives be aligned with ASP? Please share any growth opportunities.
  - c. How will the entire school community, including school administrators, school counselors, and other faculty, support efforts to improve college-going rates? How might other staff members partner with the college access counselor and support college access and success initiatives (i.e., provision of data, completion of FAFSA nights, etc.)?
2. **Commitment to Student Access.** The ASP program model requires time during the school day for students to have individual one-on-one meetings with ASP college access counselors to discuss postsecondary planning. Additionally, ASP staff will coordinate college visits and workshops for students to explore their post-high school options. Provide a brief narrative articulating how these requirements will be accommodated within the current class schedule and structure. For instance, can the school provide time for postsecondary planning sessions during Response to Intervention time or a particular class period? Please articulate the school’s commitment to allowing students to participate in ASP activities.
3. **Commitment to Physical Space.** Describe the type and adequacy of space in each high school (locations, amount of space available, other resources available on-site) for the ASP college access counselor(s) and coordinator. At a minimum, the college access counselor(s) should have a designated location to accommodate private one-on-one meetings with students throughout the calendar year. This space should be highly visible and readily accessible. For planning purposes, applicants should plan for spaces accommodating one counselor for every 100 high school seniors. Additionally, each school will be assigned a student success coordinator. The final number of counselors and coordinators assigned to each school may vary and will be determined at the time of school selection.

## **Short Answer Responses**

1. **Commitment to Improving College-Going Outcomes.**

## 2. **Commitment to Student Access.**

### 3. **Commitment to Physical Space.**



## Section 4: Letters of Support

**Applicants must provide a letter of support from the county mayor, director(s) of school(s), high school principal(s), and at least one counselor working with high school seniors at each participating high school.** Applicants are encouraged to elicit additional letters of support from community partners and other key staff who will participate in building a school college-going culture. **The letter from the county mayor must include a commitment to complete the paperwork required to designate the Ayers Foundation Trust as the county's designated Tennessee Promise partnering organization.**