



TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

REGULAR CALENDAR ITEM: V.

MEETING DATE: January 25, 2024
SUBJECT: Food Insecurity Report
ITEM TYPE: Informational
ACTION RECOMMENDATION: N/A

REPORT OVERVIEW

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-7-214, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's (THEC) newest report, *Food Insecurity in Tennessee Higher Education*, details issues and interventions pertaining to food insecurity among students at public institutions of higher education.

This report comprises three sections: (1) an overview of food insecurity in higher education, including how it is defined and what the implications are; (2) a summary of results from a survey THEC administered to campus administrators on interventions and services; and (3) THEC's recommendations for policy, practice, and research.

The full report was published online in December 2023. The report—along with a comprehensive literature review of food insecurity in higher education, a roster of food banks and pantries across the state, and a recording of THEC's convening of stakeholders—is available on THEC's food insecurity webpage: <https://www.tn.gov/thec/learn-about/task-forces/food-insecurity.html>.

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

THEC's recommendations include improving communication on existing resources, such as establishing a recurring convening of stakeholders; dedicating resources to support student basic needs security, as the majority of campus administrators surveyed reported not having an established budget to support ongoing efforts; exploring the adoption of the Hunger Free Campus bill in Tennessee, which could establish standards and funding mechanisms; and supporting research and evaluation, such as a statewide survey of students or through a competitive request for proposals.