



Director of Advocacy

“The progress that our students have made in recent years is inspiring – there is no doubt that they are capable of achieving at high levels and leading Tennessee into a bright future. While education stakeholders are already working together in exciting ways in Tennessee, it is our responsibility to redouble our innovative efforts to ensure that we are supporting our students to truly excel and thrive. The future of our state depends on it.”

- Senator Bill Frist, Chairman and Founder, SCORE

ABOUT SCORE

Tennessee has been making significant progress in advancing a bold education reform plan over the last decade and is now a leader in the nation in dramatically improving student achievement. Tennessee is among the fastest improving states for student achievement according to the Nation’s Report Card.

While Tennessee has made significant gains, there is much still to do – in public K-12 education, in college and career readiness, and in postsecondary completion. The State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) plays a critical role in advancing student achievement, aligning K-12 and postsecondary, and ensuring that all students can achieve career and life success. We work to monitor statewide progress in support of a prioritized agenda that drives collaboration across the state on policy while generating proof points and providing targeted support for implementation across the state.

SCORE is an independent, nonprofit, and nonpartisan organization founded by former US Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and is dedicated to the goal that that all students can achieve success in college, career, and life. SCORE supports student success in public schools across Tennessee by ensuring all schools and systems meet high expectations; preparing, recruiting, supporting, and retaining excellent teachers and leaders; and aligning K-12 and college with career and life success.

SCORE is based at Vanderbilt University’s John Seigenthaler Center. For more information on SCORE, please visit www.tnscore.org.

OVERVIEW OF THE POSITION

SCORE’s Director of Advocacy will lead the organization’s advocacy, outreach, and engagement efforts focused on ensuring that all students in Tennessee can succeed in college, career, and life. The Director of Advocacy will be responsible for working with, engaging, listening to, and leading diverse stakeholders, including civic leaders, educators, parents, and other advocates, in support of Tennessee’s efforts to improve student achievement.

The Director of Advocacy will lead and oversee the organization’s efforts in three areas:

- **Advocacy:** Develop and lead SCORE’s advocacy strategy to build and enhance support for Tennessee’s student improvement efforts.
- **Outreach:** Deepen SCORE’s local and regional engagement by building relationships with and making connections with K-12 and postsecondary education, business, and community partners at the state and local level.

- Coalition Building: Lead SCORE's coalition-building efforts, connecting diverse stakeholders with SCORE's student-focused advocacy efforts.

The Director of Advocacy will report to SCORE's Vice President of Strategy.

TRAVEL REQUIRED

Position requires 25 percent statewide and/or national travel.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop and execute advocacy, outreach, and engagement strategies that will deepen SCORE's impact on Tennessee student achievement and postsecondary success
- Lead all statewide advocacy campaigns
- Build and cultivate relationships with new partners in the education, business, civil rights, and philanthropic communities
- Maintain and grow relationships with partner organizations and education stakeholders to connect partners across the work
- Give statewide and local presentations and speeches regularly on issues related to education reform and the organization's work
- Build strong coalitions of partners and partner organizations to achieve organizational advocacy goals
- In partnership with SCORE's Director of Policy and Government Relations, collaboratively lead other partner organizations in working together to ensure effective, strategic, and coordinated advocacy efforts
- In partnership with SCORE's Director of Policy and Government Relations, connect community voices with policymakers and other statewide and local decision makers to impact policy
- Train advocates and educators in effective advocacy strategies and tactics
- Support SCORE's efforts to share and distribute research, policy, and advocacy communications materials to various stakeholders and audiences statewide and nationally
- Assist in SCORE's strategic communications by actively identifying voices from the field to be featured in letters-to-the-editor, videos, and other communications
- Lead the strategy around all public opinion research for SCORE, including managing vendors and developing and executing plans for distribution
- Plan, execute, and manage various convenings and events
- Manage consultants and vendors connected to SCORE's advocacy strategy
- Counsel other SCORE directors and senior directors, and SCORE's leadership team, on political and advocacy implications of policy proposals and organizational activities
- Work with SCORE's Vice President of Strategy to ensure that all of SCORE's advocacy efforts in K-12 and postsecondary are connected to a broader advocacy strategy

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

- Deep understanding of the education field and education policy
- Minimum of 3-5 years' relevant work experience in advocacy, outreach, or political/issue campaigns
- Experience working on political campaigns is preferred
- Passion for SCORE's mission, a drive to dramatically improve student achievement in Tennessee, and an understanding of current national, state, and local education policy issues
- Deep alignment with SCORE's [core values](#) of student focus, collaboration, optimism, excellence, innovation

- Ability to think in innovative ways and the ability to communicate with a variety of audiences, including parent groups, educators, postsecondary leaders, business and civic leaders, legislators, and education policy experts
- Strong partner engagement skills with an ability to quickly build trusting and authentic relationships with K-12 and postsecondary education stakeholders
- Demonstrated ability to develop strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders
- Ability to problem-solve in the moment and proactively consult and collaborate with other team members as appropriate
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to communicate with a variety of audiences
- Demonstrated success in project management with proven experience managing multiple tasks simultaneously in a fast-paced, high-intensity, and intellectually demanding environment
- Evidence of leadership among peers and ability to build professional relationships
- Management experience preferred

COMPENSATION

SCORE offers a competitive salary commensurate with experience.

BENEFITS

SCORE deeply values team members and their well-being and is proud to offer a comprehensive benefits plan. All full-time SCORE employees are eligible for benefits, including:

- Medical insurance, including access to a high-quality network with SCORE paying for the majority of medical coverage costs; dental insurance options; vision insurance options; employer-paid disability, life insurance, and EAP benefits; access to Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA) and Health Savings Accounts (HSA) benefits
- Eligible for participation in a 401K program with employer match after one year of service
- Paid parental leave time, including paternity, maternity, and adoption leave, available after six months of service
- Paid time off, holiday office closures, and paid floating holidays
- Free on-site parking

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

At SCORE, we are committed to creating a workplace where all team members bring their whole selves to work and thrive both personally and professionally. We deeply value collaboration, optimism, excellence, and innovation in our student-centered work and in how we work together and support each other as a team. We also believe that it is important for our team to reflect the rich diversity of students in Tennessee, and we strive to intentionally create space for diverse viewpoints to meaningfully contribute to our work.

SCORE is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants are considered for all roles without regard to race, color, religion, gender, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic or status.

TO APPLY

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to hr@tnscore.org. If you have any questions, please contact SCORE's Human Resources team at hr@tnscore.org.