



**TCSS U** NIVERSITY

INFORMING ADVOCATES FOR OUR SCHOOLS

The Tuscaloosa County School System is excited to announce the 2024–2025 session of TCSS University (TCSS U), a program designed to engage members of our community who are passionate about education, seek a deeper understanding of issues facing our schools, and want to become informed advocates for education and students in our community. Applications are being accepted for this program, now through Friday, August 23, 2024, at 4 pm. You will find more information about the program and application process below.

## **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF TCSS U?**

To provide members of the community with an opportunity to learn more about the Tuscaloosa County School System and its operations, including instructional and administrative services.

To create a sense of pride and knowledge among program graduates, enabling them to act as informed advocates for our schools.

## **HOW WILL THE PROGRAM WORK?**

Members of the program will meet seven times. Locations for most sessions are still being finalized, but sessions will be held at various TCSS schools and facilities across our county.

Session One: Tuesday, September 17, 6 – 8 pm, TCSS Central Office

Session Two: Tuesday, October 22, 6 – 8 pm, Location To Be Announced

Session Three: Tuesday, November 19, 6 – 8 pm, Location TBA

Session Four: Tuesday, January 14, 6 – 8 pm, Location TBA

Session Five: Tuesday, February 11, 6 – 8 pm, Location TBA

Session Six: Tuesday, March 18, 6 – 8 pm, Location TBA

Session Seven: Tuesday, April 15, 6 – 8 pm, Location TBA

TCSS U Reception & Graduation: Monday, April 21, 4:45 – 5:30 pm, TCSS Central Office

Sessions One through Seven will focus on various aspects of our school system, and will be facilitated by TCSS leaders who work in each of these areas. Topics will include school finance, curriculum, school safety, teacher recruitment and retention, counseling, assessment and accountability, special education, transportation, facilities, child nutrition, and more. Dinner will be provided at each of the five sessions, beginning at 5:30 pm. Participants are welcome to arrive at 5:30 for dinner, but are not required to be present until the official start of the session. Sessions will begin promptly at 6 p.m., and participants may continue their dinner as the session begins.

The final session will be a Graduation at the April 21 Tuscaloosa County Board of Education meeting. In order to graduate, a program member may miss no more than one of the seven sessions.



**TCSS U** NIVERSITY

INFORMING ADVOCATES FOR OUR SCHOOLS

## **HOW MANY MEMBERS WILL BE ACCEPTED?**

Approximately 50 members.

## **WHO CAN APPLY?**

The purpose of TCSS U is to engage a wide variety of citizens, from all areas of Tuscaloosa County, who care about education in our community. This includes, but is not limited to, parents and guardians of TCSS students, educators, business professionals, community and civic leaders, members of non-profit organizations, and retired educators.

## **IS THERE A COST TO APPLY OR BE A PART OF THE PROGRAM?**

No.

## **HOW DO I APPLY?**

Applications are available at [tcss.net](http://tcss.net). You may also call (205) 758-0411 for an application. Completed applications must be mailed or hand delivered to the TCSS Central Office. The application includes the address to which you should mail or deliver your application. To be considered for the program, an applicant's completed application must be received by Friday, August 23, 2024, at 4 pm.

## **HOW WILL PROGRAM MEMBERS BE SELECTED?**

A steering committee, comprised of TCSS leaders, educators, and community members, will review applications. All applicants will be notified if they have been selected or not by Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

Please call (205) 758-0411 with any additional questions.





# PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

As a parent, the information I have learned at TCSS U has been eye-opening! From funding issues and curriculum to opportunities for our students and programs to support them, this program has been so helpful. The leaders of our Tuscaloosa County School System have such a large responsibility & obligation to our community that they handle with great poise and expertise! They really do care about our students and our community. I consider myself a pretty involved & educated parent, but I had NO IDEA all that goes into making our school system what it is. If you have an opportunity to attend TCSS U in the future, do it!

- Jeremy Burrage, Parent

Being a part of TCSS U has allowed me a glimpse into the Tuscaloosa County Schools System on an intimate level. I have learned about great programs, innovative approaches to instruction, and have felt community and camaraderie. The district leaders/presenters have been open, honest and intentional about funding, needs and facts. I am grateful for this opportunity and can't wait to learn more about TCSS through TCSS U.

- Dr. Terri Boman, Educator

I like that they are explaining things at a level that parents can understand. For example, when they explained the Alabama State Report Card for schools, they explained the detail that goes into it, so a parent can really understand what exactly makes up a school's score. Also, when they talked about alternative school options, I learned so much. I work in the schools, and I didn't even know all the options for this. I like that you get to network with other parents, and I like that the participants are leaders within their school communities, so they can take this information back and share it.

- Janice Smith, Parent & School Secretary

"We were provided important details and, also, good visuals of the larger role of the education system in general and the TCSS specifically. Also, more prevalent topics such as mental health awareness were discussed and the specific initiatives addressing these issues. I highly recommend TCSS U to parents. You will gain a greater understanding of your child's educational journey and the role of so many educators in your child's nurturing and development."

- Ariel Blocker, Parent