

Form **990**  
 Department of the Treasury  
 Internal Revenue Service

# Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

**Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)**

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public  
 ▶ Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990)

OMB No 1545-0047  
2016  
**Open to Public Inspection**

**A For the 2016 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2016, and ending 12-31-2016**

- B** Check if applicable:  
 Address change  
 Name change  
 Initial return  
 Final  
 Return/terminated  
 Amended return  
 Application pending

**C** Name of organization  
 Tennesseans For Student Success Inc

Doing business as

Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite  
 511 Union St

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code  
 Nashville, TN 37219

**D** Employer identification number  
 47-2541950

**E** Telephone number  
 (615) 490-6161

**G** Gross receipts \$ 2,445,010

**F** Name and address of principal officer  
 Adam Lister

**H(a)** Is this a group return for subordinates?  Yes  No  
**H(b)** Are all subordinates included?  Yes  No  
 If "No," attach a list (see instructions)  
**H(c)** Group exemption number ▶

**I** Tax-exempt status  501(c)(3)  501(c)(4) (insert no)  4947(a)(1) or  527

**J** Website: ▶ TNSUCCESS.ORG

**K** Form of organization  Corporation  Trust  Association  Other ▶

**L** Year of formation 2014 **M** State of legal domicile TN

**Part I Summary**

**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities  
 The mission is to support and pursue a better public education and improved student achievement in Tennessee

**2** Check this box  if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets

<b>3</b> Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	5
<b>4</b> Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	5
<b>5</b> Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2016 (Part V, line 2a)	0
<b>6</b> Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	25
<b>7a</b> Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	0
<b>7b</b> Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	

	Prior Year	Current Year
<b>8</b> Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	750,000	2,445,010
<b>9</b> Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	0	0
<b>10</b> Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	256	0
<b>11</b> Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	0	0
<b>12</b> Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	750,256	2,445,010
<b>13</b> Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	0	0
<b>14</b> Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0	0
<b>15</b> Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	514,139	489,964
<b>16a</b> Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
<b>b</b> Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 12,185		
<b>17</b> Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	667,989	1,600,668
<b>18</b> Total expenses Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	1,182,128	2,090,632
<b>19</b> Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	-431,872	354,378
	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
<b>20</b> Total assets (Part X, line 16)	473,041	827,419
<b>21</b> Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	0	0
<b>22</b> Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20	473,041	827,419

**Part II Signature Block**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on information and documents furnished to the preparer by the taxpayer. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on information and documents furnished to the preparer by the taxpayer.

**Sign Here**

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Signature of officer

Adam Lister President  
 Type or print name and title

**Paid Preparer Use Only**

Print/Type preparer's name  
 W Craig Ballentine CPA

Preparer's signature  
 W Craig Ballentine CPA

Firm's name ▶ PATTERSON HARDEE & BALLENTINE PC

Firm's address ▶ 1889 GENERAL GEORGE PATTON DR SUITE  
 FRANKLIN, TN 37067

**Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission

The mission is to support and pursue a better public education and improved student achievement in Tennessee

**2** Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?  Yes  No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

**3** Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?  Yes  No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

**4** Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

**4a** (Code ) (Expenses \$ 1,791,161 including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )  
See Additional Data





**4b** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4c** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4d** Other program services (Describe in Schedule O )  
(Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4e** Total program service expenses ▶ 1,791,161

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i> . . . . .		No
<b>2</b> Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)?  . . . . .	Yes	
<b>3</b> Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>  . . . . .	Yes	
<b>4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>5</b> Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>6</b> Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i> . . . . .		No
<b>7</b> Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i> . . . . .		No
<b>8</b> Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i> . . . . .		No
<b>9</b> Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>10</b> Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i> . . . . .		No
<b>11</b> If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable		
<b>a</b> Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i> . . . . .		No
<b>b</b> Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i> . . . . .		No
<b>c</b> Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i> . . . . .		No
<b>d</b> Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i> . . . . .		No
<b>e</b> Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>		No
<b>f</b> Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>		No
<b>12a</b> Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i> . . . . .		No
<b>b</b> Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>		No
<b>13</b> Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>		No
<b>14a</b> Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? . . . . .		No
<b>b</b> Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>15</b> Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>16</b> Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>17</b> Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i> (see instructions) . . . . .		No
<b>18</b> Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i> . . . . .		No
<b>19</b> Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i> . . . . .		No

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules** (continued)

	Yes	No
<b>20a</b> Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H . . . . .</i>		No
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
<b>21</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II . . . . .</i>		No
<b>22</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III . . . . .</i>		No
<b>23</b> Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J . . . . .</i>		No
<b>24a</b> Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a . . . . .</i>		No
<b>b</b> Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception? . . . . .		No
<b>c</b> Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds? . . . . .		No
<b>d</b> Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year? . . . . .		No
<b>25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I . . . . .</i>		No
<b>b</b> Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I . . . . .</i>		No
<b>26</b> Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II . . . . .</i>		No
<b>27</b> Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III . . . . .</i>		No
<b>28</b> Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)		
<b>a</b> A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . . . .</i>		No
<b>b</b> A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . . . .</i>		No
<b>c</b> An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . . . .</i>		No
<b>29</b> Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M . . . . .</i>		No
<b>30</b> Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M . . . . .</i>		No
<b>31</b> Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I . . . . .</i>		No
<b>32</b> Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II . . . . .</i>		No
<b>33</b> Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I . . . . .</i>		No
<b>34</b> Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1 . . . . .</i>		No
<b>35a</b> Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		No
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2 . . . . .</i>		No
<b>36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2 . . . . .</i>		No
<b>37</b> Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI . . . . .</i>		No
<b>38</b> Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? <b>Note.</b> All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O . . . . .	Yes	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

Table with columns for question ID, question text, and Yes/No response boxes. Includes sections for backup withholding, employee reporting, foreign accounts, prohibited transactions, solicitations, and various organizational requirements.

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O See instructions

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI [X]

Section A. Governing Body and Management

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year (5); 1b Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent (5); 2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee? (No); 3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person? (No); 4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed? (No); 5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets? (No); 6 Did the organization have members or stockholders? (No); 7a Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body? (No); 7b Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body? (No); 8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following: a The governing body? (Yes); b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body? (Yes); 9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O (Yes)

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 10a Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates? (No); 10b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes? (No); 11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form? (Yes); 11b Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990; 12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13 (No); 12b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts? (No); 12c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done (No); 13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy? (No); 14 Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy? (No); 15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision? a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official (No); b Other officers or key employees of the organization (No); If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions); 16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year? (No); 16b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?

Section C. Disclosure

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 17 List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed; 18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply: [ ] Own website, [ ] Another's website, [X] Upon request, [X] Other (explain in Schedule O); 19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year; 20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records: Patterson Hardee Ballentine 1889 General George Patton Dr Ste 2 Franklin, TN 37067 (615) 490-6161







**Part VIII Statement of Revenue**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514	
<b>Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts</b>	<b>1a</b> Federated campaigns . . .	<b>1a</b>					
	<b>b</b> Membership dues . . .	<b>1b</b>					
	<b>c</b> Fundraising events . . .	<b>1c</b>					
	<b>d</b> Related organizations	<b>1d</b>					
	<b>e</b> Government grants (contributions)	<b>1e</b>					
	<b>f</b> All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	<b>1f</b>	2,445,010				
	<b>g</b> Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$ _____						
	<b>h Total.</b> Add lines 1a-1f . . . . .		2,445,010				
<b>Program Service Revenue</b>	<b>2a</b> _____	Business Code					
	<b>b</b> _____						
	<b>c</b> _____						
	<b>d</b> _____						
	<b>e</b> _____						
	<b>f</b> All other program service revenue		0				
	<b>g Total.</b> Add lines 2a-2f . . . . .		0				
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>3</b> Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) . . . . .		0				
	<b>4</b> Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds		0				
	<b>5</b> Royalties . . . . .		0				
	<b>6a</b> Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
		<b>b</b> Less rental expenses					
		<b>c</b> Rental income or (loss)					
		<b>d</b> Net rental income or (loss) . . . . .		0			
	<b>7a</b> Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
		<b>b</b> Less cost or other basis and sales expenses					
		<b>c</b> Gain or (loss)					
		<b>d</b> Net gain or (loss) . . . . .		0			
	<b>8a</b> Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18 . . . . .	<b>a</b>					
		<b>b</b> Less direct expenses . . . . .	<b>b</b>				
		<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . . . . .		0			
	<b>9a</b> Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19 . . . . .	<b>a</b>					
<b>b</b> Less direct expenses . . . . .		<b>b</b>					
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . . . .			0				
<b>10a</b> Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances . . . . .	<b>a</b>						
	<b>b</b> Less cost of goods sold . . . . .	<b>b</b>					
	<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . . . .		0				
<b>11a</b> Miscellaneous Revenue	Business Code						
	<b>b</b> _____						
	<b>c</b> _____						
	<b>d</b> All other revenue . . . . .						
	<b>e Total.</b> Add lines 11a-11d . . . . .		0				
<b>12 Total revenue.</b> See Instructions . . . . .		2,445,010					

**Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A)

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
<b>1</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments See Part IV, line 21	0			
<b>2</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals See Part IV, line 22	0			
<b>3</b> Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals See Part IV, line 15 and 16	0			
<b>4</b> Benefits paid to or for members	0			
<b>5</b> Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	133,402	66,701	66,701	
<b>6</b> Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	0			
<b>7</b> Other salaries and wages	283,232	221,891	61,341	
<b>8</b> Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401 (k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	0			
<b>9</b> Other employee benefits	40,869	36,782	4,087	
<b>10</b> Payroll taxes	32,461	23,185	9,276	
<b>11</b> Fees for services (non-employees)				
<b>a</b> Management	0			
<b>b</b> Legal	21,318	10,659	10,659	
<b>c</b> Accounting	15,367		15,367	
<b>d</b> Lobbying	106,271	106,271		
<b>e</b> Professional fundraising services See Part IV, line 17	0			
<b>f</b> Investment management fees	0			
<b>g</b> Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)	121,704	99,543	13,283	8,878
<b>12</b> Advertising and promotion	12,192	8,750	3,442	
<b>13</b> Office expenses	25,693	10,084	15,609	
<b>14</b> Information technology	0			
<b>15</b> Royalties	0			
<b>16</b> Occupancy	51,581		51,581	
<b>17</b> Travel	24,079	17,070	3,824	3,185
<b>18</b> Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials	0			
<b>19</b> Conferences, conventions, and meetings	3,300		3,300	
<b>20</b> Interest	0			
<b>21</b> Payments to affiliates	0			
<b>22</b> Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	0			
<b>23</b> Insurance	818		818	
<b>24</b> Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
<b>a</b> Issue Advocacy	890,292	890,292		
<b>b</b> Political Issue Advocacy	270,821	270,821		
<b>c</b> Door to Door Canvassing	18,789	18,789		
<b>d</b> General and Admin Expenses	17,869	4,467	13,402	
<b>e</b> All other expenses	20,574	5,856	14,596	122
<b>25</b> Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	2,090,632	1,791,161	287,286	12,185
<b>26</b> Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

**Part X Balance Sheet**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash—non-interest-bearing . . . . .	473,041	<b>1</b>	827,419
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments . . . . .		<b>2</b>	0
	<b>3</b> Pledges and grants receivable, net . . . . .		<b>3</b>	0
	<b>4</b> Accounts receivable, net . . . . .		<b>4</b>	0
	<b>5</b> Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L		<b>5</b>	0
	<b>6</b> Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions) Complete Part II of Schedule L		<b>6</b>	0
	<b>7</b> Notes and loans receivable, net . . . . .		<b>7</b>	0
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use . . . . .		<b>8</b>	0
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges . . . . .		<b>9</b>	0
	<b>10a</b> Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	<b>10a</b>		
	<b>b</b> Less accumulated depreciation	<b>10b</b>		<b>10c</b>
	<b>11</b> Investments—publicly traded securities . . . . .		<b>11</b>	0
	<b>12</b> Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .		<b>12</b>	0
	<b>13</b> Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .		<b>13</b>	0
	<b>14</b> Intangible assets . . . . .		<b>14</b>	0
	<b>15</b> Other assets See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .		<b>15</b>	0
<b>16 Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34) . . . . .		473,041	<b>16</b>	827,419
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses . . . . .		<b>17</b>	
	<b>18</b> Grants payable . . . . .		<b>18</b>	
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue . . . . .		<b>19</b>	
	<b>20</b> Tax-exempt bond liabilities . . . . .		<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b> Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D		<b>21</b>	
	<b>22</b> Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L . . . . .		<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b> Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .		<b>23</b>	
	<b>24</b> Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .		<b>24</b>	
<b>25</b> Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24) Complete Part X of Schedule D		<b>25</b>		
<b>26 Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25 . . . . .		0	<b>26</b>	0
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>27 Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.</b> Unrestricted net assets		<b>27</b>	
	<b>28</b> Temporarily restricted net assets . . . . .		<b>28</b>	
	<b>29</b> Permanently restricted net assets		<b>29</b>	
	<b>30 Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>and complete lines 30 through 34.</b> Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds . . . . .		<b>30</b>	
	<b>31</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund . . . . .		<b>31</b>	
	<b>32</b> Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	473,041	<b>32</b>	827,419
	<b>33 Total net assets or fund balances . . . . .</b>	473,041	<b>33</b>	827,419
	<b>34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances . . . . .</b>	473,041	<b>34</b>	827,419

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

<b>1</b>	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12) . . . . .	<b>1</b>	2,445,010
<b>2</b>	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25) . . . . .	<b>2</b>	2,090,632
<b>3</b>	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1 . . . . .	<b>3</b>	354,378
<b>4</b>	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A)) . . . . .	<b>4</b>	473,041
<b>5</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments . . . . .	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	Investment expenses . . . . .	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	Prior period adjustments . . . . .	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O) . . . . .	<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b>	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	<b>10</b>	827,419

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

		Yes	No
<p><b>1</b> Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                      If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O</p>			
<p><b>2a</b> Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?                      If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis</p>	<b>2a</b>	Yes	
<p><b>b</b> Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?                      If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis</p>	<b>2b</b>		No
<p><b>c</b> If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?                      If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O</p>	<b>2c</b>	Yes	
<p><b>3a</b> As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?</p>	<b>3a</b>		No
<p><b>b</b> If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits</p>	<b>3b</b>		

## Additional Data

**Software ID:** 16000303

**Software Version:** 2016v3.0

**EIN:** 47-2541950

**Name:** Tennesseans For Student Success Inc

Form 990 (2016)

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### **Form 990, Part III, Line 4a:**

To support student-centered education policies that serve as the foundation of Tennessee's efforts to improve student achievement, we support higher academic standards, an effective and aligned assessment, an expansion of public school choice for parents, strong mechanisms for accountability, and better more effective tools for teachers

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**SCHEDULE C**  
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)  
  
Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities**

OMB No 1545-0047  
  
**2016**  
**Open to Public Inspection**

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527  
 ▶ Complete if the organization is described below. ▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.  
 ▶ Information about Schedule C (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

**If the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, Line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then**

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations Complete Parts I-A and B Do not complete Part I-C
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations Complete Parts I-A and C below Do not complete Part I-B
- Section 527 organizations Complete Part I-A only

**If the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, Line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then**

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-A Do not complete Part II-B
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-B Do not complete Part II-A

**If the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, Line 5 (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions), then**

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations Complete Part III

Name of the organization Tennesseans For Student Success Inc	Employer identification number 47-2541950
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**Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.**

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV
- 2 Political expenditures ▶ \$ 276,321
- 3 Volunteer hours

**Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).**

- 1 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955 ▶ \$
- 2 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955 ▶ \$
- 3 If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?  Yes  No
- 4a Was a correction made?  Yes  No
- b If "Yes," describe in Part IV

**Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).**

- 1 Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$
- 2 Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$
- 3 Total exempt function expenditures Add lines 1 and 2 Enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b ▶ \$
- 4 Did the filing organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?  Yes  No
- 5 Enter the names, addresses and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization's funds Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC) If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds If none, enter -0-	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization If none, enter -0-
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

**Part II-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).**

- A** Check  if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures)
- B** Check  if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply

**Limits on Lobbying Expenditures**  
(The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)

	(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals
<b>1a</b> Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)		
<b>b</b> Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)		
<b>c</b> Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)		
<b>d</b> Other exempt purpose expenditures		
<b>e</b> Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)		
<b>f</b> Lobbying nontaxable amount Enter the amount from the following table in both columns		
<b>g</b> Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)		
<b>h</b> Subtract line 1g from line 1a If zero or less, enter -0-		
<b>i</b> Subtract line 1f from line 1c If zero or less, enter -0-		
<b>j</b> If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?		

If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000

Yes  No

**4-Year Averaging Period Under section 501(h)**  
(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the separate instructions for lines 2a through 2f.)

**Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2013	(b) 2014	(c) 2015	(d) 2016	(e) Total
<b>2a</b> Lobbying nontaxable amount					
<b>b</b> Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					
<b>c</b> Total lobbying expenditures					
<b>d</b> Grassroots nontaxable amount					
<b>e</b> Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					
<b>f</b> Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

**Part II-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).**

For each "Yes" response on lines 1a through 1i below, provide in Part IV a detailed description of the lobbying activity

	(a)		(b)
	Yes	No	Amount
<b>1</b> During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of			
<b>a</b> Volunteers?			
<b>b</b> Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)?			
<b>c</b> Media advertisements?			
<b>d</b> Mailings to members, legislators, or the public?			
<b>e</b> Publications, or published or broadcast statements?			
<b>f</b> Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes?			
<b>g</b> Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body?			
<b>h</b> Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means?			
<b>i</b> Other activities?			
<b>j</b> Total Add lines 1c through 1i			
<b>2a</b> Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)?			
<b>b</b> If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912			
<b>c</b> If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912			
<b>d</b> If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?			

**Part III-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members?	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?	<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b> Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political expenditures from the prior year?	<b>3</b>	

**Part III-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No" OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."**

<b>1</b> Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).		
<b>a</b> Current year	<b>2a</b>	
<b>b</b> Carryover from last year	<b>2b</b>	
<b>c</b> Total	<b>2c</b>	
<b>3</b> Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditure next year?	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (see instructions)	<b>5</b>	

**Part IV Supplemental Information**

Provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1, Part I-B, line 4, Part I-C, line 5, Part II-A (affiliated group list), Part II-A, lines 1 and 2 (see instructions), and Part II-B, line 1 Also, complete this part for any additional information

Return Reference	Explanation
Part I-A, Line 1 - Direct and Indirect Political Campaign Activities	Our direct political expenditures included issue advocacy mail and online advertisements that supported one of our four policies priorities (higher standards, an aligned assessment, teacher and school accountability, and public school choice) in which a candidate for public office was identified by name with 30 days of a state legislative primary election or 60 days from a state legislative general election



**SCHEDULE O**  
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

OMB No 1545-0047

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

**2016**

**Open to Public Inspection**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

Tennesseans For Student Success Inc

Employer identification number

47-2541950

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part VI, Line 11b Form 990 Review Process	The draft 990 is prepared by Tennesseans for Student Success Inc 's accounting firm workin g in conjunction with its bookkeeper The draft is provided to the Executive Director for review and revisions The Executive Director then presents a draft to the Tennesseans for Student Success Inc Tax Lawyer for final review before presenting the 990 to the Board of Directors

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

<b>Return Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Form 990, Part VI, Line 18 Explanation of Other Means Forms Available For Public Inspection	No Documents are made available to the Public, except for those required by Law Form 1024 and 990 are made available upon request

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

<b>Return Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Form 990, Part VI, Line 19 Other Organization Documents Publicly Available	No Documents are made available to the Public, except for those required by Law Form 1024 and 990 are made available upon request

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

<b>Return Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Form 990, Part XII, Line 1 Change of Accounting Method	The Organization has adopted FASB ASC 740-10, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes. The standard prescribes a minimum recognition threshold and measurement methodology that a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return is required to meet before being recognized in financial statements. It also provides guidance for De-recognition classification, interest and penalties, accounting for interim period disclosure, and transition.

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

<b>Return Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Form 990, Part XII, Line 2 Change of Oversight or Selection Process	The oversight policies and selection of an independent accountant by the finance committee has not changed since the prior year

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

<b>Return Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
FORM 990, PART V, LINE 2A	THE ORGANIZATION USES A PEO COMPANY AND THEREFORE DOES NOT FILE A W3 OR W2 FOR ITS EMPLOYEES USING THE ORGANIZATION'S EIN