Who We Measure Determines Who Gets Support

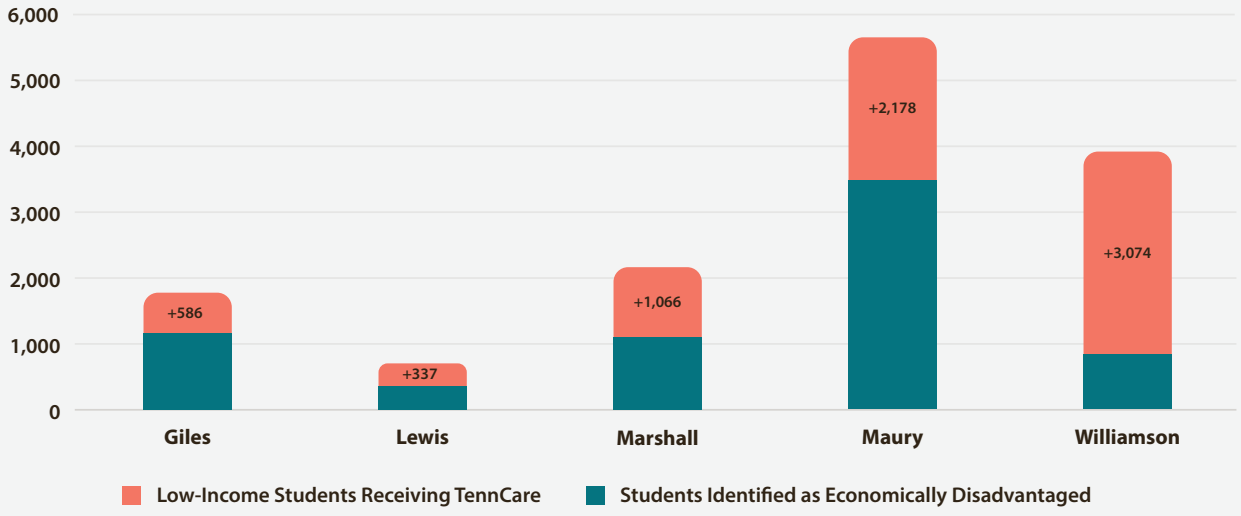
edtrust TENNESSEE

Addressing the Needs of Students from Low-Income Backgrounds

Tennessee Uses Direct Certification to Identify Economically Disadvantaged Students

Direct certification uses participation in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to identify low-income students for funding through TISA. This method is undercounting students experiencing poverty.

Additional Students Identified Using TennCare Data



Source: TN Dept. of Education 2023 Profile Data Files &
2023 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of LEAs

Incorporating TennCare Data Would Improve Accuracy and Ensure Adequate Funding

Tennessee already uses TennCare data to identify students eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch. Including TennCare alongside SNAP and TANF for school funding would better meet the needs of students using data that is already being collected in schools and districts.

Districts	Potential Additional Funding Generated by Including TennCare
Giles	$1,005,211.58
Lewis	$578,956.15
Marshall	$1,828,582.01
Maury	$3,735,846.03
Williamson	$5,272,513.99

For more information, check out edtrusttn.org/the-undercount-report or contact Jeff Strand at jstrand@edtrust.org.