



Accountability

Summary of New Accountability Hold Harmless Law *for Districts and School Board Members*

On January 21, 2021, during the 1st Extraordinary Session of the 112th General Assembly, the Tennessee General Assembly took bold action by passing the Accountability Hold Harmless Law (SB7001/HB7003) to hold your schools, teachers, and students harmless from negative consequences resulting from the 2020-21 TCAP assessments.

The Governor, the General Assembly, and the department heard from districts that the COVID-19 pandemic created the need for common-sense flexibilities regarding school and district accountability, educator evaluations, and the incorporation of TCAP data in student grades. These flexibilities include:

- **School-level accountability:** Student performance and growth data generated by TCAP assessments administered in the 2020-2021 school year shall not be used to assign a letter grade to schools, identify any schools for the priority list, or assign any schools to the achievement school district so long as districts administer assessments to at least 80% of eligible students or receive a waiver from the Commissioner of Education.
- **Ratings:** The department shall not issue letter grades or any other summative ratings for schools or districts on the state report card for the 2020-2021 school year, so long as the district meets the 80% threshold or receives a waiver.
- **Student growth composites:** Student growth data generated by the 2020-2021 TCAP assessments will not be used for educators' student growth composites for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years, unless such inclusion results in a higher overall final evaluation score for the educator.
- **Alternative growth model evaluations for teachers in non-tested grades and subjects and pre-k and kindergarten portfolio/portfolio alternatives:** The state shall not require educators to be evaluated using alternative growth models or pre-k and kindergarten portfolio or portfolio alternatives. As a district LEA, you may locally decide to evaluate your teachers in non-tested grades and subjects using an alternative growth model, portfolio, or portfolio alternative, but the evaluations may not be used in your educators' final evaluations, unless such use results in a higher final evaluation score for the educator.
- **Incorporation of TCAP scores in student grades:** For the 2020-2021 school year, districts may choose the percentage that scores from the TCAP assessments will count on students' final grades. The range currently allowable is 0% - 25%.