



Accountability

2020-2021 District and School Accountability Participation Rate Calculations

for Districts

For the purposes of this guidance on Chapter 2 of the Public Acts of 2021 (PC 2), what is meant when the department refers to “hold harmless” or holding schools and school districts harmless?

While PC 2 does not use the phrase “hold harmless,” for the purposes of discussing the provisions of [PC 2](#), this guidance will refer to schools and districts being “held harmless” from the accountability provisions specified in PC 2 when they meet the TCAP “eighty-percent-participation requirement” in PC 2. “Held harmless” refers to schools and school districts for whom the data from the 2020-2021 school year cannot be used to assign letter grades or any other summative ratings in the 2021 state report card, to identify a school as a priority school, nor to assign a school to the ASD (Achievement School District). Priority schools that are “held harmless” can also have the “priority” designation removed upon meeting priority exit criteria detailed the state’s accountability model.

1. How will the 80% TCAP participation rates be calculated?

The formula used for calculating the participation rate included in PC 2 will be the formula used every year since the 2017 approval of our Tennessee ESSA plan. It compares the counts of tested student records to enrollment records, as found below.

- **Tested** counts include the number of tested records.
- **Enrolled** counts include the number of tested and non-tested records.

$$\text{Participation Rate} = \frac{\text{Number tested}}{\text{Number enrolled}} * 100$$

This formula is used every time participation rates are calculated in the accountability model, and the tests and students included change each time it is used. For the 80% participation requirement, all student records for all TCAP tests will be included.

2. Will there be any differences between how the 80% participation rate required by PC 2 is calculated and how the annual participation rate required to implement TN’s ESSA plan is calculated?

There is no difference in the calculation itself, but there are slight differences in the tests included.



WIDA tests for students enrolled in grades 3-12 will be included with the rest of the TCAP tests to arrive at an overall participation rate. Under TN’s ESSA plan, WIDA assessments and their calculations are found separate from the rest of the TCAP tests. For the purposes of determining the eligibility for the participation rate requirement, all TCAP tests will be included together to generate an overall participation rate.

3. What tests are used for calculating the 80% participation rate provided in PC 2?

The table below lists the tests that will be used in the 80% participation rate calculation.

TEST	USED IN 80% PARTICIPATION RATE
TCAP ELA (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS) GRADES 3-8	Y
TCAP MATH GRADES 3-8	Y
TCAP SCIENCE GRADES 3-8	Y
TCAP SOCIAL STUDIES GRADES 6-8	Y
TCAP ELA EOC	Y
TCAP MATH EOC	Y
TCAP SCIENCE EOC	Y
TCAP SOCIAL STUDIES EOC	Y
TCAP ALT SCIENCE GRADES 3-8 AND EOC	Y
TCAP ALT SOCIAL STUDIES GRADES 6-8	Y
MSAA MATH	Y
MSAA ELA	Y
WIDA ACCESS GRADES 3-12	Y
WIDA ACCESS ALT GRADES 3-12	Y
WIDA ACCESS GRADES K-2	N
WIDA ACCESS ALT GRADES K-2	N
ACT	N
SAT (SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST)	N
NAEP (NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS)	N
SDC (STATEWIDE DUAL CREDIT)	N
AP (ADVANCED PLACEMENT)	N
IB (INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE)	N
CLEP (COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM)	N
CIE (CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS)	N
TCAP GRADE 2 ELA	N
TCAP GRADE 2 MATH	N
TCAP ALT GRADE 2 ELA	N
TCAP ALT GRADE 2 MATH	N



4. Will students who have been in remote or virtual instruction all year count towards TCAP participation?

Yes. The way students receive instruction during the 2020-2021 school year does not affect their enrollment, testing, or funding. As with previous years, students who test or who are enrolled to test in a school or district will be included in participation calculations.

5. Will students who have been chronically absent most of the year be counted in TCAP participation?

Yes. Student attendance for the school year does not alter the expectation of taking assessments.

6. Will participation rates be calculated for each student group?

Individual student group participation rates will not be used with the 80% participation requirement, unless required for ATSI exit.

7. How will Fall EOC (End of Course) participation rates affect the TCAP participation rate required for accountability protection eligibility?

Fall EOC assessments administered in December 2020 and January 2021 will be included in the participation rate. However, schools or districts whose participation rates meet the 80% participation with Spring-only may use that as justification if requesting a waiver from the commissioner.

8. Can public charter schools meet the 80% requirement based on their own participation rate?

Yes. Public charter schools with TCAP participation rates greater than 80% can qualify independently for provisions offered to districts.

9. Will the TCAP participation rate of a public charter school be included in the participation rate of their authorizing district?

Yes.

10. If a Priority school meets the 80% participation rate and the district does not, can the Priority school still exit Priority status?

Yes. To exit Priority/CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement) status, a school must satisfy the Priority exit criteria and requirements to be held harmless. As with all school accountability provisions, the state's waiver must be approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

11. How does a school or district seek a waiver from meeting the 80% participation requirement?

Districts may submit a waiver request for consideration. Any waiver sought for a TCAP participation rate less than 80% will need to be supported by evidence of strong efforts to encourage student participation in TCAP assessments administered, in addition to strong evidence of district and school efforts to accommodate 3 students, as needed.