

2025-26 Accountability Calendar

May 2026

This document provides an estimated timeline for major 2025-26 accountability file releases from the Tennessee Department of Education (department) in the Accountability application. Please note that the timeline is an estimate and is subject to change based on the timing of data delivery and the quality assurance process.

Key Updates

- ***EIS to TEDS transition.*** To support districts during the EIS to TEDS transition, the Accountability and Reporting team will generate additional data reports highlighting areas of concern that require district attention. These reports include existing reports embedded within the Cohort (i.e., Cohort Issue Report) and College and Career Readiness (CCR) data verification process (CCR Data Quality report). In 2025-26, an additional report—the Chronically Out of School Data Report—will be provided in spring/summer to support districts’ effort to ensure attendance data is up to date in TEDS by the end of the school year.
- ***Science standard setting is scheduled for Summer 2026.*** In 2025-26, due to science standard setting, the accountability timeline and TVAAS release timeline overall is pushed back to late summer and early fall, and the appeals process is adjusted accordingly. The overall accountability calendar is constructed to ensure federal designations (i.e., Reward Schools, Priority Schools, Exemplary Districts, In Need of Improvement District) are released to schools and districts by the end of the year. Hence, the timeline is intensive and overlaps with the Cohort and CCR data verification processes. It is critical that districts review the complete timeline across all processes to

ensure a proper staffing plan is in place to complete required verification tasks between July and December 2026.

- **Federal and state accountability appeals processes are streamlined.** USED has approved the department's 2025-26 ESSA plan amendment in March 2026. With the approval finalized, the College and Career Readiness (CCR) indicator replaces the *Ready Graduate* (RG) indicator in federal accountability calculations, and the department now can streamline two separate appeals processes (i.e., federal accountability and state accountability appeals) into one.
- **TVAAS reporting.** In light of flexibility under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that will allow unification of the state and federal accountability models, the department will delay the implementation of the previously announced update to the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) composite calculation for the 2025-26 federal accountability calculation and reporting. This previously announced modification will be a necessary component in future accountability calculations, but a delay ensures coherence with subsequent changes that may arise from the engagement and avoids piecemeal updates. In 2025-26, the single-year TVAAS composites will be used for accountability purposes. The department uploads all TVAAS data files to the Accountability application for district review prior to data release on the TVAAS [restricted site](#) and [public site](#). The embargo for any TVAAS data released on the TVAAS public site is lifted following the TVAAS public site release. The embargo for any TVAAS measures used for accountability purposes is lifted following the State Report Card release.
- **Graduation rate news release.** Every year, the department announces the state-wide graduation rate following the conclusion of the annual cohort process on the TDOE [website](#). The department also shares the finalized data files via the Accountability application. The embargo for graduation rate data is lifted upon new release of state-wide graduation rate.
- **ACT news release.** Every year, the department announces the statewide ACT/SAT participation rate following the conclusion of the annual College and Career Readiness (CCR) data verification process on the TDOE [website](#). The department also shares the finalized data files via the Accountability

application prior to news release. The embargo for ACT/SAT participation rate data is lifted upon new release of statewide ACT participation rate data.

- **Federal designation news release.** Every year, the department announces federal designations following the conclusion of the annual accountability appeals process on the TDOE [website](#) and upon the approval of the Tennessee State Board of Education (SBE). The appealable files and timeline across all three phases are discussed in the timeline table of this document. All finalized accountability related data files are released in the Accountability application prior to news release. The embargo for federal designations is lifted upon SBE approval. All other accountability related data are still under embargo until the release of the State Report Card.
- **State Report Card news release.** Every year the department announces the public release of the State Report Card on the TDOE [website](#). The State Report Card release timeline is driven by the designation release timeline given that the department cannot publicly release designation data until SBE approval of school and district designations. Prior to public release, districts can preview the data on the restricted State Report Card dashboard and submit appeals as needed. The embargo for all data published on the State Report Card is lifted upon public release. The department also publishes finalized data on the [Data Downloads](#) page following the State Report Card public release. The 2025-26 State Report Card timeline will be available in the summer of 2026.

The department will communicate all releases to districts through the *Commissioner's Update for Directors* and other accountability communication channels (i.e., webinars, newsletters, office hours). With questions about Accountability files and their release, contact TNEA.Accountability@tn.gov.

Embargo

All data files will be updated in the Accountability application when they are finalized. However, these data files will be under embargo until the State Report Card public release unless otherwise noted above.

Accountability Calendar

The accountability calendar below includes key milestones for federal and state accountability as well as relevant processes (gray rows) that manage key data elements used in accountability. Please consult the Accountability application and the Accountability [webpage](#) for accountability related resources referenced in this document, and the State Report Card [webpage](#) for Report Card-related resources. It is crucial that districts actively participate in all data verification processes to ensure that accurate data is used in school and district accountability calculations.

Important note. This calendar is subject to change based on the timing of data delivery and the quality assurance process.

Date	2025-26 Milestones
September 2, 2025	2025-26 Federal and State Accountability Protocols released
November 24, 2025	2025-26 Federal and State Accountability protocols updated with additional TVAAS related information
February 17— June 26, 2026	Cohort Phase I Data Submission Window <i>* Consult the 2025-26 Graduation Cohort Process Phase I Guide for details.</i> <i>* Cohort Issue Report will be updated regularly in Phase I to support districts' cohort verification effort</i>
February 17— April 3, 2026	Tennessee School Directory (TNSD) Data Verification Window: 2025-26 TNSD <i>* Consult the 2025-26 TNSD Authorization and Data Verification Guide for details.</i> <i>* TNSD provides basic school and district information for federal, state, and public reporting, including accountability and State Report Card. By the end of the verification window, the 2025-26 TNSD data is no longer appealable, including school and district contact information for the 2025-26 school year.</i>
February 17— May 22, 2026	CCR Phase I Data Verification Window <i>* Consult the 2025-26 CCR Phases I-II Data Verification Guide for details.</i> <i>* CCR Data Quality report will be provided in Phase I to support districts' data verification efforts.</i>

Date	2025-26 Milestones
May 19, 2026	2025-26 annual measurable objectives (AMOs) ¹ released in the Accountability application <i>* This date is subject to change pending the Tennessee State Board of Education's (SBE) approval of AMOs on May 19.</i>
April 3—June 30, 2026	Tennessee School Directory (TNSD) Data Verification Window: 2026-27 TNSD <i>* Consult the 2025-26 TNSD Authorization and Data Verification Guide for details.</i> <i>* TNSD provides basic school and district information for federal, state, and public reporting, including accountability and State Report Card. The 2026-27 TNSD data will be published on the TNSD public site on July 1, 2026, showing active schools and districts across in the beginning of the 2026-27 school year.</i>
June 1—August 7, 2026	CCR Phase II Data Submission Window <i>* Consult the 2025-26 CCR Phases I-II Data Verification Guide for details.</i>
June 12, 2026	Districts submit complete 2025-26 attendance data in TEDS <i>* Data used in the Chronically Out of School indicator calculation.</i> <i>* Chronically Out of School Data Report will be provided in Spring/Summer to support districts' effort to ensure attendance data is up to date in TEDS by the end of the school year.</i>
July 6-7, 2026	2026 Accountability & TVAAS Summit at Middle Tennessee State University <i>* See the Save the Date flyer here. Registration starts on April 1. We encourage you to save the date of this event. More information will be announced in the CUFD.</i>
July 13—August 14, 2026	Cohort Phase II Appeals Window <i>* Consult the 2025-26 Graduation Cohort Process Phases II & III Guide for details (available in Summer 2026).</i>

¹ In 2025-26, USED approved the department's transition to replace the Ready Graduate indicator with the College and Career Readiness indicator. With this transition, the current year graduation rate and CCR rate will be used for federal accountability purposes starting 2025-26. Hence, the 2025-26 AMOs will be calculated for success rates, English language proficient (ELPA) rate, chronically out of school (COS) rate, graduation rate, and CCR rate based on data finalized in 2024-25.

Date	2025-26 Milestones
August 3— November 20, 2026	<p>TVAAS Release Timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 3- Partial TVAAS data (except data using science scores) released on the Accountability application • Aug. 21- TVAAS restricted site released to schools and districts containing data released on August 3 • Oct. 5- Complete TVAAS data released on the Accountability application • Nov. 6- TVAAS restricted site release • Nov. 20- TVAAS public site release • TBD EPP site release (will be announced in the EPP newsletter)
August 13, 2026	2025-26 Federal Accountability Overview Webinar
August 14, 2026	2025-26 State Accountability Overview Webinar
August 20, 2026	2025-26 Federal and State Accountability Appeals Webinar
August 24— September 25, 2026	<p>Federal & State Accountability Appeals Phase I Window</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 24- Phase I data files released on the Accountability application • Aug. 24- Appeals submission window opens • Sept. 4- Appeals submission window closes • Sept. 11- Initial responses sent to districts • Sept. 14- Remediation window opens • Sept. 18- Remediation window closes • Sept. 25- Final responses sent to districts; Phase I data files are final <p>Data files include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-26 Assessment data files, including Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) grades 2-8, End-of-Course (EOC) exams, TCAP-Alt, and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) tests • 2025-26 ELPA data files • 2025-26 Chronically out of school data files <p><i>* This timeline is pending SBE approval of standard setting in July; If timeline changes, all subsequent accountability timeline will be adjusted accordingly.</i></p>

Date	2025-26 Milestones
August 24— October 2, 2026	Cohort Phase III Appeals Window <i>* Consult the 2025-26 Graduation Cohort Process Phases II & III Guide for details (available in Summer 2026).</i>
September 28— November 6, 2026	CCR Phase III Data Verification Window <i>* Consult the 2025-26 CCR Phase III Data Verification Guide for details (available in Fall 2026).</i>
September 28, 2026	Districts complete 2026-27 English II course enrollment update in TEDS. <i>* The department uses 2026-27 English II enrollment records to finalize the 10th grade cohort data file (i.e., Identify 11th grade English learners' English II enrollment status). At a minimum, districts must ensure English II enrollment data is complete in TEDS by this deadline. Districts will need to submit document manually for individual students during Accountability Phase II appeals if English II course enrollment data in TEDS is incomplete.</i>
October 5— October 30, 2026	Federal & State Accountability Appeals Phase II Window <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 5- Phase II data files released on the Accountability application • Oct. 5- Submission window opens • Oct. 16- Submission window closes • Oct. 23- Initial response sent to districts • Oct. 26- Remediation window opens • Oct. 27- Remediation window closes • Oct. 30- Final responses sent to districts; Phase II data files are final Data files include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-26 Assessment data files, including Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) grades 2-8, TCAP-Alt, and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) tests. • 10th grade cohort file • Participation rate and success rate file • Student- and school-level substitution data files (letter grade calculation)
October 30, 2026	Districts complete 2026-27 student enrollment update in TEDS <i>* The department uses student enrollment information to identify new schools that may be eligible for carrying CSI/Priority designation. Student enrollment data must be updated in TEDS</i>

Date	2025-26 Milestones
	<i>for the department to accurately determine school designation status.</i>
November 16— December 11, 2026	Federal & State Accountability Appeals Phase III Window <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov. 16- Phase III data files released on the Accountability application • Nov. 16- Submission window opens • Dec. 4- Submission window closes (no remediation) • Dec. 11- Final response sent to districts; Phase III data files are final Data files include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School/district accountability data files • School/district accountability designations • School and district heatmaps (<i>not appealable</i>) • School letter grade summary data file <i>* Federal designations are embargoed until SBE approval. State letter grades are embargoed until the State Report Card release.</i>
December 18, 2026	2025-26 Federal Designation Public Release Timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 18 SBE special-called meeting scheduled to approve federal designations, including Reward Schools, Priority Schools, Exemplary Districts, and In Need of Improvement Districts, and 2026-27 AMOs • Dec. 18- TDOE news release of federal designations; designation lists published on the TDOE website; designation letters sent to schools and districts • Dec. 18- 2026-27 AMOs released on the Accountability application • TBD- 2025-26 State Report Card Release <i>* This timeline is pending SBE approval of federal designations; if timeline changes, the federal designation release timeline will be adjusted accordingly.</i>

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