

Frequently Asked Questions District Accountability

This document is intended to be a reference and supporting document for district leaders to better understand district accountability. To learn more about district accountability, please reference Section 5 of the [2018 Accountability Protocol](#).

1. Why does 3-5 science only include grade 5?

For the 2017-18 district accountability results, grades 3 and 4 were excluded due to the shortening of the test. This shorter test does not yield sufficient data to be included in accountability.

2. When examining the student-level chronic absenteeism file, there is a discrepancy in the students included when comparing to the district-level file. Why is this?

All students are included, whereas district- and school-level files only include students enrolled for at least 50 percent of a given school year. Also, a district-level file takes into account students who may re-enroll in the district or change schools within the district, creating a sum of their enrolled days.

3. Why does accountability only take into account English language arts, math, and science for each of the grade bands?

Social studies tests in grades 6-8 and U.S. History will be operational in 2018-19. Grades 3-5 will not be operational and will be delivered on paper.

4. How are middle school students who take high school EOCs (i.e., Algebra I, Biology) factored in to accountability results?

For accountability purposes, these students are included in the corresponding subject (e.g., math, science) calculations for the grade in which they are enrolled.

5. What are the components of district accountability?

District accountability results include:

- Success Rates (ELA, math, and science) for each grade band (i.e., grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and high school)
- Graduation Rate
- Chronically Out of School (i.e., chronic absenteeism)
- English Language Proficiency Assessment (WIDA ACCESS)

Districts' scores on these indicators average their value-added performance with the higher score between their absolute performance and their performance relative to AMO targets. Please reference the 2018 Accountability Protocol for more information about each pathway for the given indicators.

6. How are business rules different from accountability rules?

Business rules are the specific steps used to prepare data and calculations and can be found in sections

2 and 3 of the 2018 Accountability Protocol, whereas accountability rules refer to which data are included in accountability and how. These rules can be found in sections 5 and 6 of the Protocol.

7. *Why is the denominator of total days not 180 on the Chronically Out of School files?*

This is due to stockpiled days. The exclusion of stockpiled days is a business rule that maintains proportionality with present days and total days.

For further questions pertaining to district accountability, please contact TNEA.Accountability@tn.gov.