

## 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 [2019 Accountability Protocol](#).

**1. *What subjects are included in accountability calculations?***

2018-19 accountability results include only English language arts and math subjects.

**2. *How will testing participation rates be applied in district accountability?***

Both ACT and TNReady participation rates require 95 percent of students to test. Districts that miss the TNReady participation for a given student group and grade band (e.g. 3-5), will receive zero points for the indicator and subgroup for which it missed the participation rate. Districts that miss the ACT participation rate (95 percent) will receive zero points for that specific group of students for all pathways of the Graduation Rate indicator.

**3. *How will “In Need of Improvement” districts be determined?***

Districts that fall in the bottom five percent of all districts statewide will be identified as “In Need of Improvement.” This has changed from years past. For more information, please reference section 5 of the protocol.

**4. *When examining the student-level chronic absenteeism file, why is there a discrepancy in the students included when comparing to the district-level file?***

All students are included in the student-level file, 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.

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

Due to the standards revisions across various grades, science and social studies are not included in accountability. For 2018-19, science will be conducted as a field test while social studies tests in grades 6-8 and U.S. history will be operational and reported in various platforms (e.g., TVAAS website), but will not be applied to school or district accountability results. Due to upcoming changes in the grades 3-5 social studies standards, this assessment has been paused.

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

For accountability purposes, these students are included in the corresponding grades 3-8 subject (e.g., math, ELA) calculations for the grade in which they are enrolled.

**7. What are the components of district accountability?**

District accountability results include:

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

Districts' scores on these indicators are comprised of the average of their value-added performance pathway with the higher score of their absolute performance and their performance relative to AMO targets. Please reference section 5 of the [protocol](#) for more information about each pathway for the given indicators.

**8. 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 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.

**9. 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](mailto:TNEA.Accountability@tn.gov).