

2020-21 SAS Preview Webinar

Frequently Asked Questions

Will there be a claiming window for fall testing?

All rostering (claiming) will be done in spring for both fall and spring testing.

Will the student groups for accountability will change?

No, they will not change. Since we have no new testing data from 2019-20, there are no new metrics to create for district-level Growth of Student Groups report on the SAS end.

What if a teacher leaves after fall testing window? This will happen this year due to COVID-19.

This will follow the same protocol as in years past. The school administration will need to obtain written acknowledgement from the educator the administration or BTC will roster (claim) the students for that teacher.

Which team at TDOE is owning claiming this year? Is it the accountability team now?

No, the Educator Effectiveness team (Claiming.Questions@tn.gov) will continue to oversee the work of claiming and the teacher evaluation process. The Accountability team oversees the project management side of this work. The Educator Effectiveness team will be giving in-depth information about this process, timeliness, and important updates around claiming in the coming months.

Will there be additional data pulls during the Winter and Spring months?

Yes, our department does data pulls throughout the year. There will be EIS data pulls used for both enrollment updates (for TVAAS projections) and the roster verification (claiming) process in the spring. We will share those dates with districts through the *Commissioner's Update for Directors*.

Will we be testing in some fashion this year with accountability for those results both involving TVAAS, Achievement, etc. for Schools and Districts? Does this mean we are holding teachers and districts accountable for teaching among a pandemic?

Assessing student learning is an integral part of the Tennessee education system that enables us to know where students are excelling and how to best meet the needs of all students. We must be able to measure how our students are progressing to know where they need support and what areas they need to focus on, and the state remains committed to providing this critical data to educators and families.

On state assessments specifically, the state would need both a federal waiver and the legislature must make changes to existing state law in order to waive any requirements related to assessment.

Do you have a date for when that TVAAS technical manual will be updated with these TVAAS changes?

The only real changes to the manual will be in the value-added redesign report. They are redesigning the manual, and there is not a scheduled date for the release. We imagine it will be delayed beyond the

time when it's normally released. There will be separate communications about the changes to the value-added redesign report, but the technical document (Statistical Models and Business Rules of TVAAS Analyses) will still be accurate regarding methodology.

Teachers and leaders have been included on the fall and spring testing meeting agendas since they were given claiming, but then no one from T & L would attend. With claiming moving to new platform it would be really great if we had someone from that department actually attend to present and answer questions?

With this process being moved to a new platform, it is our understanding that the Educator Effectiveness team (formerly T&L) would have a larger presence in the regional meetings to make sure everyone has what they need during the transition. Our team has worked with the Educator Effectiveness team on this, and they have new team members that are creating resources with SAS to support districts during this process.