



Promotion and Retention Pathway Report

Tennessee Universal Reading Screener 50th Percentile

Tennessee Department of Education | November 2024

Executive Summary

For the 2023-24 school year, Tennessee state law (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3115) requires the Tennessee Department of Education (department) to report on the number of students identified for mandatory retention who were promoted to the fourth grade by scoring within the 50th percentile on the TN Universal Reading Screener (aimswebPlus) by LEA by December 1, 2024. Only students scoring “approaching expectations” on the third grade ELA TCAP are eligible for this promotion pathway. For the 2024-25 school year and each year thereafter, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3115, the department will expand reporting for these students to include the provider, format, and frequency of tutoring services provided, the percentage that demonstrated growth or proficiency in ELA TCAP following fourth grade tutoring, the number that enrolled in Learning Loss Bridge Camp, and percentage who demonstrated growth in ELA at the conclusion of Learning Loss Bridge Camp by December 1, 2025. This report is due by December 1 annually.

Key Findings

- Districts reported 3,262 of the total 74,253 third grade students in the 2023-24 school year were promoted through the TN Universal Screener 50th percentile pathway.
- 68% of districts reported fewer than 20 students promoted solely through the TN Universal Screener 50th percentile pathway.
- 9% of districts reported 50 or more students promoted through the TN Universal Screener 50th pathway.
- The TN Universal Screener 50th percentile pathway allows for a quicker, but supportive promotion opportunity with minimum additional requirements.

Promotion and Retention Pathway Report:

TN Universal Reading Screener 50th Percentile

Background

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3115, third grade students must reach proficiency on the third grade ELA TCAP, unless eligible for an exemption or access one of the available pathways to be promoted to fourth grade. One such pathway allows students who scored “approaching expectations” on the third grade ELA TCAP and scored within the 50th percentile on the TN Universal Reading Screener (aimswebPlus) to be promoted to the fourth grade if the student receives tutoring for the entirety of the year and the parents/guardians are notified, in writing, of the benefits of enrolling their student in Learning Loss Bridge Camp. However, students promoted to fourth grade through this pathway are not required to participate in Learning Loss Bridge Camp. Students promoted on this pathway are not expected to meet other requirements that may be necessary for promotion for students scoring in the “below expectations” category on the third grade ELA TCAP, or those that scored “approaching expectations” on the ELA TCAP but below the 50th percentile on the TN Universal Reading Screener. See Figure 1 for all available third grade promotion pathways.

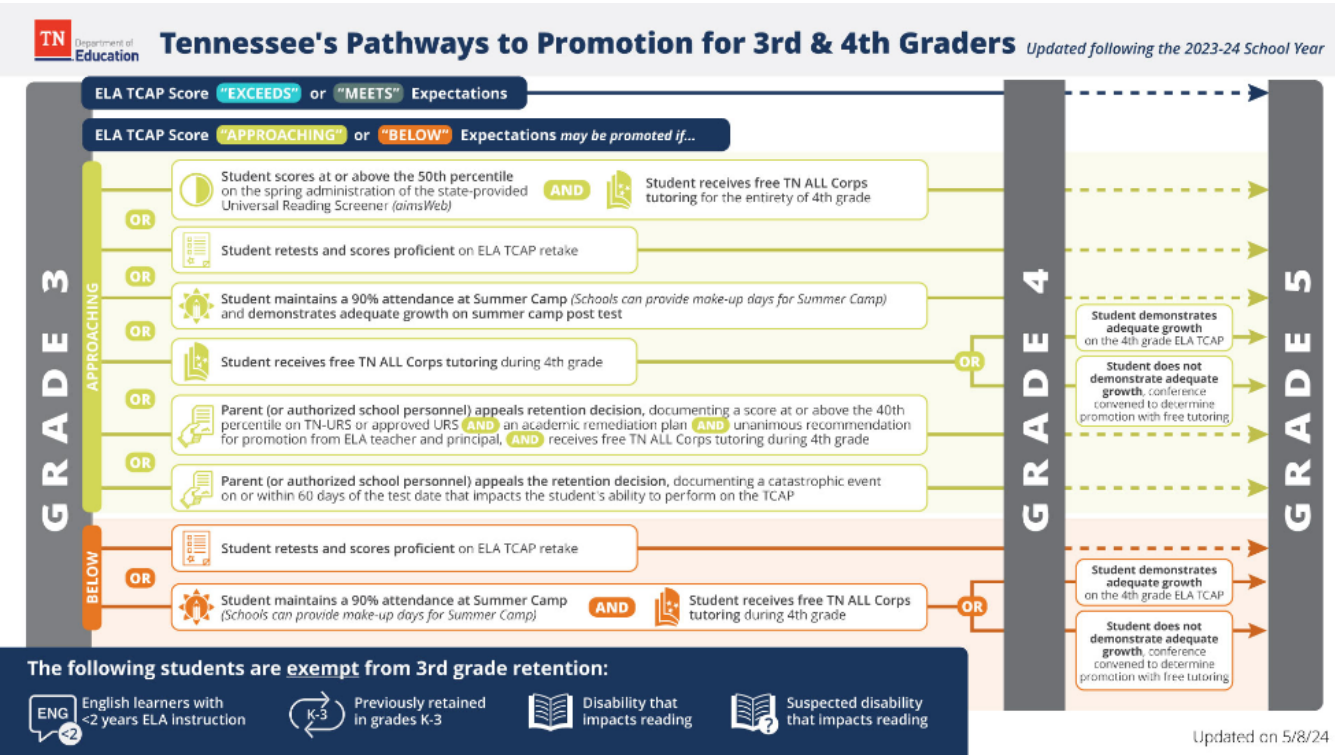


Figure 1. 2023-24 Tennessee's Pathways to Promotion for 3rd and 4th Graders

Promotion of Students

A student may meet the criteria for more than one promotion pathway which could result in the student utilizing a promotion option other than the TN Universal Reading Screener 50th percentile pathway. For the 2023-24 school year, Tennessee had 74,253 total third grade students. Of the total third grade students, 3,262 or 4.39% were reported as promoted by scoring at or above the 50th percentile on the TN Universal Reading Screener. These students are required to receive tutoring throughout fourth grade.

4.39% of all third grade students were promoted to fourth grade through the TN Universal Reading Screener 50th percentile pathway.

The majority of districts (68%) reported fewer than twenty students promoted through the TN Universal Screener 50th percentile pathway. These students are required to receive tutoring throughout the entirety of fourth grade but are not expected to meet additional requirements (e.g., summer programming attendance or adequate growth) outlined in other pathways. Because this pathway is only available to students scoring "approaching expectations" on the ELA TCAP or ELA TCAP retake. However, this pathway allows the student to receive a faster promotion decision, allows for a seamless transition to the next school year without filing an appeal, and provides tutoring support during fourth grade without adequate growth requirements to be promoted to fifth grade.

Summary

Although students are able to be promoted in a variety of ways, including exemptions and appeals processes for those that meet certain eligibility requirements, the TN Universal Reading Screener 50th percentile pathway allowed 3,262 additional students to be promoted to fourth grade for the current school year. These students not only scored at "approaching expectations" on the ELA TCAP but also demonstrated a minimum score meeting at least the 50th percentile on the TN Universal Reading Screener, which allowed them the opportunity to move forward with the expectation that they will receive tutoring to accelerate their learning in fourth grade.

Appendix

Table 1. Number of students identified for mandatory retention who were promoted to the fourth grade by scoring within the 50th percentile on the Tennessee Universal Reading Screener (aimswebPlus).

District Name	Number of Students at Risk of Retention	Number of Students Promoted by Scoring \geq 50 TN URS Score
ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	178	***
ALAMO CITY SCHOOL	75	***
ALCOA CITY SCHOOLS	154	***
ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	373	***
ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	303	***
ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS	183	11
BARTLETT CITY SCHOOLS	642	58
BEDFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS	669	50
BELLS CITY SCHOOLS	56	***
BENTON COUNTY SCHOOLS	172	18
BLED SOE COUNTY SCHOOLS	116	12
BLOUNT COUNTY SCHOOLS	746	17
BRADFORD SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	51	***
BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS	780	69
BRISTOL CITY SCHOOLS	263	***
CAMPBELL COUNTY SCHOOLS	358	***
CANNON COUNTY SCHOOLS	123	10
CARTER COUNTY SCHOOLS	325	***
CHEATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS	435	10
CHESTER COUNTY SCHOOLS	189	11
CLAIBORNE COUNTY SCHOOLS	311	17
CLARKSVILLE-MONTGOMERY COUNTY	2972	76
CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS	72	***
CLEVELAND CITY SCHOOLS	434	17
CLINTON CITY SCHOOLS	150	22
COCKE COUNTY SCHOOLS	317	13
COFFEE COUNTY SCHOOLS	272	16
COLLIERVILLE SCHOOLS	733	42
CROCKETT COUNTY SCHOOLS	84	***
CUMBERLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS	537	***
DAYTON CITY SCHOOL	104	***
DECATUR COUNTY SCHOOLS	113	***
DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOLS	245	15

District Name	Number of Students at Risk of Retention	Number of Students Promoted by Scoring \geq 50 TN URS Score
DICKSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	562	20
DYER COUNTY SCHOOLS	238	***
DYERSBURG CITY SCHOOLS	205	15
ELIZABETHTON CITY SCHOOLS	196	20
ETOWAH CITY SCHOOLS	22	***
FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOLS	222	11
FAYETTEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS	87	***
FENTRESS COUNTY SCHOOLS	184	***
FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS	380	13
FRANKLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	361	***
GERMANTOWN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	428	16
GIBSON COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	254	11
GILES COUNTY SCHOOLS	282	18
GRAINGER COUNTY SCHOOLS	204	***
GREENE COUNTY SCHOOLS	441	28
GREENEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS	203	25
GRUNDY COUNTY SCHOOLS	131	***
HOLLOW ROCK – BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	45	***
HAMBLETON COUNTY SCHOOLS	791	38
HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOLS	3489	209
HANCOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS	57	***
HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS	245	16
HARDIN COUNTY SCHOOLS	262	14
HAWKINS COUNTY SCHOOLS	435	28
HAYWOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS	169	***
HENDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	232	***
HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS	146	***
HICKMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS	239	32
HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS	78	***
HUMBOLDT CITY SCHOOLS	88	***
HUMPHREYS COUNTY SCHOOLS	198	34
HUNTINGDON SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	94	11
JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	98	***
JACKSON-MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS	934	12
JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	528	28
JOHNSON CITY SCHOOLS	566	22
JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	132	17

District Name	Number of Students at Risk of Retention	Number of Students Promoted by Scoring \geq 50 TN URS Score
KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS	563	24
KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS	4490	246
LAKE COUNTY SCHOOLS	65	***
LAKELAND SCHOOL SYSTEM	200	***
LAUDERDALE COUNTY SCHOOLS	246	***
LAWRENCE COUNTY SCHOOLS	483	41
LEBANON SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	469	***
LENOIR CITY SCHOOLS	147	***
LEWIS COUNTY SCHOOLS	215	29
LEXINGTON CITY SCHOOLS	82	***
LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOLS	254	26
LOUDON COUNTY SCHOOLS	424	31
MACON COUNTY SCHOOLS	345	15
MANCHESTER CITY SCHOOLS	153	***
MARION COUNTY SCHOOLS	298	16
MARSHALL COUNTY SCHOOLS	428	53
MARYVILLE CITY SCHOOLS	466	33
MAURY COUNTY SCHOOLS	1009	33
MCKENZIE SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	102	19
MCMINN COUNTY SCHOOLS	340	***
MCNAIRY COUNTY SCHOOLS	261	***
MEIGS COUNTY SCHOOLS	110	10
MEMPHIS-SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS	8168	133
METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6218	202
MILAN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	164	***
MILLINGTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	182	***
MONROE COUNTY SCHOOLS	322	25
MOORE COUNTY SCHOOLS	61	***
MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOLS	210	21
MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOLS	1406	69
NEWPORT CITY SCHOOL	68	***
OAK RIDGE SCHOOLS	344	29
OBION COUNTY SCHOOLS	221	17
ONEIDA SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	100	***
OVERTON COUNTY SCHOOLS	194	***
PARIS SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	179	***
PERRY COUNTY SCHOOLS	80	10

District Name	Number of Students at Risk of Retention	Number of Students Promoted by Scoring \geq 50 TN URS Score
PICKETT COUNTY SCHOOLS	55	***
POLK COUNTY SCHOOLS	174	***
PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOLS	799	36
RHEA COUNTY SCHOOLS	264	16
RICHARD CITY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	17	***
ROANE COUNTY SCHOOLS	463	31
ROBERTSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	834	30
ROGERSVILLE CITY SCHOOL	73	***
RUTHERFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS	3162	73
SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS	190	13
SEQUATCHIE COUNTY SCHOOLS	117	***
SEVIER COUNTY SCHOOLS	1059	36
SMITH COUNTY SCHOOLS	222	23
SOUTH CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	20	***
STEWART COUNTY SCHOOLS	136	10
SULLIVAN COUNTY SCHOOLS	555	21
SUMNER COUNTY SCHOOLS	2302	88
SWEETWATER CITY SCHOOLS	145	20
TENNESSEE CHARTER COMMISSION	483	11
TIPTON COUNTY SCHOOLS	707	33
TN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND	***	***
TN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	***	***
TRENTON SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	87	***
TROUSDALE COUNTY SCHOOLS	100	***
TULLAHOMA CITY SCHOOLS	286	16
UNICOI COUNTY SCHOOLS	149	18
UNION CITY SCHOOLS	114	***
UNION COUNTY SCHOOLS	522	23
VAN BUREN COUNTY SCHOOLS	64	***
WARREN COUNTY SCHOOLS	470	36
WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS	573	***
WAYNE COUNTY SCHOOLS	147	16
WEAKLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS	299	18
WEST CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	50	***
WEST TN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	***	***
WHITE COUNTY SCHOOLS	287	20
WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	3059	135
WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	1425	85

*** Fewer than 10 students.

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