Third-Grade ELA TCAP Retake Assessment Guidance

Overview

Since 2011, Tennessee has had a student promotion and retention law in place. During the 2021 First Extraordinary Session, the Tennessee General Assembly updated state law to ensure that all students have the support to read and perform on grade level by the 3rd grade. If a student receives an *approaching* or below score on the 3rd grade ELA TCAP, students have multiple opportunities for support to demonstrate their mastery of 3rd grade standards and readiness for grade-level ELA lessons in the 4th grade.

In addition to the other opportunities for promotion, all students who receive an *approaching* or *below* score on the ELA section of the 3rd grade TCAP can choose to retake a shorter ELA TCAP assessment as a pathway to promotion. The following guidance outlines the design and administration of the 3rd grade TCAP retake assessment for summer 2027.Include applicable copyright info at the end of the document if needed. Delete the heading above and the bulleted notes below but keep the highlighted copy and edit as needed.

Student Participation in 3rd Grade ELA TCAP Retake Assessment

Third-grade students who score *approaching* or *below* on the ELA section of the spring TCAP assessment have the opportunity to complete a retake assessment. If a student does not have a valid spring ELA TCAP score, that student **must** complete the retake assessment to ensure they have a valid score to serve as the baseline for the purposes of determining adequate growth in summer camps or on the 4th

© Tennessee Department of Education

grade ELA TCAP. **If a student does not have a valid ELA TCAP or retake score, they are classified as "below" for the purposes of promotion consideration.** Students without a Spring TCAP score are encouraged to take advantage of the retake assessment to ensure a valid score is available for use as the baseline for any adequate growth calculations that may be required for the student's promotion pathway.

Districts and public charter schools are directed to send home literacy reports to families three times per year to ensure ongoing communication regarding their students' reading development in advance of the spring TCAP assessment. Districts and public charter schools will receive a file of 3rd grade TCAP proficiency determinations no later than May 20, 2027. This information is used to identify students who did not demonstrate proficiency for the purposes of the retake. Proficiency determinations will be available to districts and public charter schools in PearsonAccess^{next} (PAN).

Districts and public charter schools are expected to communicate directly with families about their local TCAP retake testing window. The department will provide TCAP results and a sample letter for districts and public charter schools that can be customized to explain the retake options and dates.

Retake Assessment Administration Window

The 2027 TCAP retake window of the ELA portion of the 3rd grade assessment is **May 12 – May 28, 2027**. Districts and public charter schools may choose when they will administer the TCAP retake assessments for their students. If a district or public charter school chooses to administer the retake assessment during summer programming, students will need to make up the missed instructional time.

TCAP Retake Results

The department will make results available to districts in the PearsonAccess^{next} platform within two business days of test administration. Students completing the retake will receive one of three performance levels: *meets expectations*, *approaching*, or *below* expectations. The retake will not differentiate between

meets and *exceeds expectations*. Students performing at the *meets expectations* level on the retake may be promoted to 4th grade without further intervention. The department will provide a template letter to districts and public charter schools to share the TCAP retake results with families.

The district may use retake results for students scoring in the *below* or *approaching* performance levels to determine the appropriate interventions and available pathways for those students. For example, if a student scored below on the 3rd grade TCAP but scored *approaching* on the retake, the district may provide interventions, including the opportunity to demonstrate adequate growth for promotion, consistent with the *approaching* performance level.

TCAP Retake Assessment Design

The ELA TCAP retake assessment has been designed to assess the same standards as the 3rd grade ELA TCAP assessment with the exclusion of writing and uses passages and items drawn from the operational bank of TCAP materials. The retake assessment will be taken fully online and will **not** include constructed response items.

The retake assessment will consist of two subparts, taking 75 minutes of standard testing time. In total, the assessment should take 85 minutes to complete the two subparts with a ten-minute break between sessions.

The retake assessment may be used to determine the appropriate intervention path for students scoring *below* or *approaching*. However, TCAP retake results will **not** be used for district or school accountability, including determining district TCAP participation rate or TVAAS results. For students who did not receive a valid score on the spring ELA TCAP, the student **must** take the retake to serve as the pre-test score for the calculation of adequate growth.

The TCAP retake will not be used for teacher evaluation.

TCAP Retake Administration

The TCAP retake assessment will be administered to students using the TestNav platform used for all online TCAP assessments. Prior to each retake administration, all 3rd students will be populated in PearsonAccess^{next}. Building Test Coordinators (BTC) will select students to be assigned the Retake assessment and scheduled into a session.

District and public charter school administrators will adhere to all standard secure assessment procedures, following the same procedures as in the full TCAP assessment (test security, accommodations, etc.). The results of the TCAP retake will be available in PearsonAccess^{next} within two business days.

Additional Information

For information about 3rd grade promotion policies and learning acceleration opportunities, please see the Promotion Toolkit on the Learning Acceleration page.

Permission is granted to use and copy these materials for non-commercial educational purposes with attribution credit to the "Tennessee Department of Education". If you wish to use the materials for reasons other than non-commercial educational purposes, please contact the office of general counsel at (615) 741-2921.