



TN

Department of
Education



Tennessee Succeeds

2018 State of Education in Tennessee

Strategic Plan Highlights

2017 - 2018



7,000+
teachers were trained on
new science and fine arts
standards, and hundreds
were retrained on math.



F to A

In 2009, Tennessee was given an “F” for the rigor of our standards. Now, we have earned an “A.”



\$13.4 million

new funding for
RTI² interventionists.

We invested \$1 million to create nine principal pipeline models, training

150 aspiring leaders

through the Tennessee Transformational Leadership Alliance.



Educator Support

New state funding in education for FY19 totaled **over \$200 million**, including more than \$55 million in new funding for teacher salaries.

We awarded almost \$100,000 to support **Diversity Innovation Grants** for teacher recruitment.

We revised the **educator preparation literacy standards** and convened a **new literacy network** for Educator Preparation Programs to support districts and EPPs in leveraging their partnerships to strengthen educator development.



District Empowerment

Statewide feedback informed the development of our new **online dashboard**, which will transparently report school- and district-level results aligned to Tennessee's ESSA accountability model.

We invested \$30 million in new state funding to support **school safety and security**, including grant opportunities for districts, based on the Governor's task force recommendations.

11 districts piloted a new **planning tool** to better support data analysis and identification of needs for annual planning processes.



High School & Bridge to Postsecondary

About 75% of the class of 2018 took the free **ACT retake**, with 2,333 seniors raising their composite to above a 21 to access HOPE scholarship funds.

School counselors are implementing new **counseling** standards that incorporate academic development, social and personal development, and college and career readiness.

We introduced 21 new **industry certification options** that prepare students for the workforce and are aligned to Tennessee's highest demand industry sectors.

We launched **Tennessee Pathways** and made a **\$2 million** investment in regional coordinators that connect K-12, higher ed, and industry needs.



All Means All

2018 state assessment results highlight that students in historically underserved populations – English learners, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and students who are Black, Hispanic, or Native American – **often grew faster than their peers**.

Our new **Tennessee Leaders for Equity Playbook** outlines seven equity commitments to help leaders make significant shifts in mindset and practice that will benefit all students.

Through **ACCESS** (All Children Challenged and Equipped for Success in School) materials and regional training, teachers are being better equipped to differentiate for all students.

We provided training across the state for **English as a second language** and general education teachers on new **individualized learning plans** for English Learners.

Goals

1 Tennessee will rank in the top half of all states on NAEP by 2019.

We currently rank in the top half on two of the six NAEP tests, and we are solidly in the 30s for all other NAEP tests – up from the 40s less than a decade ago.

2 75% of Tennessee third graders will be proficient in reading by 2025.

In 2017-18, 37% of third graders were on track or mastered on TNReady, up from 35% in 2016-17.

3 The average ACT score in Tennessee will be a 21 by 2020.

Our class of 2017 had an average ACT score of 20.1 – a new state record.

4 The majority of high school graduates from the class of 2020 will earn a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree.

About 30% of students from the high school class of 2012 have earned a credential or degree.



89.1%

graduation rate for the class of 2017 – a new state record.



Tennessee achieves all-time high average ACT score:

20.1



Early Foundations & Literacy

2018 state assessment results **show growth in English language arts for all elementary grades** with 36% of students in grades 3-5 on track or mastered – up from 34% in 2017.

We launched **Ready with Resources** as part of the larger Read to be Ready initiative to support access to high-quality resources, and we released and piloted K-3 English language arts **unit starters** across the state.

Regional CORE teams engaged in over **700 Literacy Learning Walks** to support district leaders in understanding the strengths and gaps in literacy instruction at the classroom level.

We continued the **Read to be Ready** coaching network in about 100 of our 147 districts with an intentional focus on three areas: selecting high-quality texts, question sequences that meet demands, and explicit foundation skills tied to tasks.



Standards, Assessment, Accountability

Tennessee maintained progress on the key national benchmark **NAEP** and was highlighted for **dramatic growth** in comparison to other states by the Stanford Center for Education Policy Analysis.

Tennessee was named a top state for closing the **“honesty gap”** while simultaneously raising expectations.

We developed a new phase-in plan for **online assessment** and announced more than 30 new **TNReady Ambassadors** to serve as content experts and support effective implementation and communication before, during, and after the testing window.



School Improvement

Established the first **Partnership Network** in collaboration with Hamilton County Schools to support five of the state's lowest performing schools.

Eight districts helped us develop a revised **needs assessment** and root cause analysis tool to support our lowest performing schools.

Hired new leader for the **Achievement School District** who has been a proven, dynamic leader for Shelby County Schools.



7,700

students participated in Read to be Ready Summer Camps in 2018 – an investment of \$8.8 million