

# Tennessee State Report Card

## Frequently Asked Questions

### GENERAL REPORT CARD QUESTIONS

#### What is the State Report Card?

The State Report Card is an important tool for families, educators, elected officials, education stakeholders, and communities to understand how Tennessee's schools are serving all students—and how they can improve to accelerate student achievement. With this knowledge, we can continue to build on our state's progress to ensure every Tennessee student has the opportunity for success.

#### What is included in the State Report Card?

The State Report Card includes a dashboard of detailed school and district data, including school letter grades, student performance, growth, enrollment, discipline, finances, staff information, English learners' proficiency in English, graduation rate, and postsecondary readiness. Click [here](#) for an overview of the State Report Card.

#### Where can I find enrollment information on the Report Card?

Enrollment information at the state, district, and school level can be found under each "About" tab under the "State Overview", "District Finder", and "School Finder" tabs at the top of the page.

### SCHOOL LETTER GRADES

#### What is the School Letter Grades Rating System?

In 2016, the Tennessee legislature passed a law requiring the Tennessee Department of Education (the department) to create a rating system that annually assigns schools with an A-F letter grade to help the public easily understand how our schools are doing. Due to implementation delays including testing administration issues and the COVID-19 pandemic, Tennessee assigned letter grades to schools starting in the 2022-23 school year.

#### What features are available on the State Report Card?

The State Report Card includes a Compare Tool and a TISA Calculator. Families can use the Compare Tool to compare schools and districts side-by-side on multiple metrics. The TISA calculator demonstrates how the state funding formula is designed to address individual student needs.

#### Will files still be available for download via the Data Downloads page?

Yes, files will be available for download after the release of the Report Card. For more information, visit our [Data Downloads page](#).

#### Some metrics appear to have no information or say "Suppressed" for my school or district. Why is this information missing?

In accordance with federal and state law and policy, the department is required to suppress any information that may be personally identifiable for students. As a result, some metrics are not viewable. This is indicated by messages such as "Suppressed", "<30 students", or "<5%" on the report card. For more information on our suppression rules for the State Report Card, please click [here](#).

## How are School Letter grades determined?

There are several factors that determine school letter grades. These include student achievement and academic growth measures for all schools, as well as a measure of college and career readiness just for high schools.

▶ **Student Achievement** is an indicator of how well all the students in your school know the skills required for their grade level as measured by the state TCAP test.

▶ **Student Academic Growth** is an indicator of how well the students in your school are doing, compared to their peers across the state.

*The letter grade includes two measures for growth:*

- 1 The first academic growth score is for the growth of all students.
- 2 The second measures the growth of the school's highest need students—those who rank in the school's bottom 25% of students based on achievement— which emphasizes the need for schools to focus on supporting these students.

▶ **College and Career Readiness** is included only for letter grades for high schools and is based on how many graduating students succeed on measures like the ACT, college credit exams or opportunities, industry credentials, and military readiness.

## Where can I find school letter grades?

School letter grade information will be available on the State Report Card, located on school-level pages under the “Performance Metrics” tab.

## Where can I find more information on how letter grades are calculated?

The department sought input on letter grade calculations from stakeholders and members of the public through a variety of engagement opportunities, including small group conversations, local town halls, social media and written public comments. Through this process, the department created a letter grade calculation that includes achievement, growth, growth for highest needs students, and college and career readiness (CCR) for high school students. Find more about the letter grade calculation [here](#).

## TISA

### How does finance reporting differ under the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement Act (TISA)?

Up until 2022-23, the State Report Card showed annual BEP expenditures. With the adoption of the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement Act (TISA), this year, the State Report Card provides 2023-24 expenditure information at all levels and 2024-25 TISA allocations at the district and state-level. 2023-24 expenditure information will be displayed on the State Report Card in early 2025.

The TISA allocations at the school level are shown by a TISA calculator, a tool designed to estimate how much funding individual students generate under the TISA funding formula. To determine an estimated allocation for an individual student in a school, users can respond to the questions on the left side of the tool based on individual student needs and the calculator on the right side will adjust accordingly. The TISA Calculator is held under the “About this School” and “Finance” tabs. To learn more about the TISA Calculator, see TISA Calculator Frequently Asked Questions [here](#) and information on the TISA formula [here](#).

