



# Tennessee's Calculation for School Letter Grades

*Presentation for the State Board of Education  
November 2, 2023*





**BEST** FOR  
**ALL**

We will set all students on a path to success.

## ACADEMICS

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ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE  
ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION,  
NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE

## STUDENT READINESS

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TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE  
EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC  
AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL  
STUDENTS IN THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS

## EDUCATORS

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TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR  
THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE  
THE TOP STATE IN WHICH TO BECOME AND  
REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER FOR ALL





# Agenda

- Overview of Implementation
  - Law & History
  - TDOE Goals & Process for Implementation
  - Town Halls, Public Comment & A-F Working Group
- A-F Letter Grade Calculation
  - Indicators & Weighting
  - Aggregated Scores & Mapping
- Publishing A-F Letter Grades on State Report Card



# Overview of Implementation

# TDOE's Goals & Process for Implementation

- Produce school **ratings that are clear and meaningful to families** who already have expectations for **outcomes performance** as represented by a letter grade
- **Recognize accomplishments** in academic achievement, growth and any other indicators
- **Identify areas of need or opportunities** for improvement to support planning and investments at the local level

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*...all in partnership with Tennesseans across the state.*

1. Public Town Halls

2. Public Comment

3. A-F Working Group

4. Calculation & Letter Grades



The A-F Working Group's task:

Develop a ***calculation***  
to generate  
A-F letter grades for schools

# A-F Letter Grade Calculation





# Letter Grade Model: Overview

- Indicators & Weights

Indicator	Elementary School Weight	Middle School Weight	High School Weight
Achievement (ACH)	50%	50%	50%
Growth (GTH)	40%	40%	30%
Subgroup - Lowest 25% (G25)	10%	10%	10%
College & Career Readiness (CCR)	-	-	10%

- Schools will receive a sub-score (Level 1-5) for each indicator within the calculation
- Level scores will be multiplied by assigned weights to generate aggregate score
- Aggregate score is cross-walked into a letter grade



# Indicator 1: Achievement

- **Measure:** Proficiency Success Rate in TCAP and End of Course exams
- **Key Points**
  - All tested subjects are included
  - Subjects are weighted differently by grade band, reflective of tests offered, and with an emphasis on ELA and Math
  - Cut scores for Level 1-5 are derived from baseline data in 2022, allowing schools to demonstrate proficiency gains

Indicator	Elementary School Weight	Middle School Weight	High School Weight
English Language Arts (ELA)	40%	35%	Proportional Weighting by Tests Taken (3 MTH, 2 ELA, 1 SCI, 1 SS)
Math (MTH)	40%	35%	
Science (SCI)	20%	15%	
Social Studies (SS)	-	15%	





# Indicator 1: Achievement, cont.

- **Special Considerations**

- US History & Biology: Districts may opt to include students taking advanced course work (e.g. AP, dual credit, etc.) in place of these EOCs provided the district maintains a 95% participation rate on the associated exam





# Indicator 2: Growth

- **Measure:** Schoolwide TVAAS
- **Key Points**
  - All tested subjects and students are included
  - Leverages measure familiar to stakeholders
  - Maintain existing level descriptors
- **Special Considerations**
  - Continue to study and improve as needed the TVAAS calculation
    - Stability versus sensitivity







# Indicator 3: Subgroup Performance

- **Measure:** TVAAS Growth of Lowest Performing 25% Student Subgroup
  - Students in this subgroup are identified based on prior year performance on TCAP
  - Leverages same TVAAS measure already in use
- **Key Points**
  - Includes all tested subjects
  - Mitigates the “double counting” of students
  - Does not presuppose who is lowest performing
- **Special Considerations**
  - Important to display other subgroup growth by student characteristic





# Indicator 4: College & Career Readiness

- **Measure:** Percent of graduating cohort with one of the following:
  - ACT 21 or higher;
  - Postsecondary credit earning score on AP, IB, Cambridge, CLEP, Dual Credit, or Dual Enrollment;
  - Industry Credential (Tier III or Tier II plus one other industry credential);
  - ASVAB Qualifying Score;
- **Key Points**
  - Applies to high schools only
  - Ensures data included is from the same year of performance
  - Emphasizes attainment of credits/credentials toward post-secondary pursuits
- **Special Considerations**
  - Requires district data verification window



# Aggregating Scores & Mapping the Letter Grade

- Schools will receive a sub-score (Level 1-5) for each indicator within the calculation
- Level scores will be multiplied by assigned weights to generate aggregate score
- Aggregate score is cross-walked into a letter grade

## 1. Determine Aggregate Score Grade

Indicator	Level	Weight	Score
ACH	X	%	
GTH	X	%	
G25	X	%	
CCR	X	%	
Aggregate Score			

## 2. Map Aggregate Score to Letter Grade

Letter Grade	Aggregate Score Range
A	4.6 – 5
B	3.6 – 4.5
C	2.6 – 3.5
D	1.6 – 2.5
F	1 – 1.5





# Publishing A-F Letter Grades on the State Report Card

# State Report Card: **OLD** Navigation Menu

SCHOOL'S NAME

District: [Redacted] | District Website: [Redacted] | Grades Served: [Redacted]

SCHOOL WEBSITE: [Redacted]

ADDRESS: [Redacted]

PHONE: [Redacted]

- Achievement
- Growth
- Chronically Out of School
- English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)

- Staff
- Finance

## About This School

This is where the w

E-MAIL PRINCIPAL



# State Report Card: **NEW** Navigation Menu



SCHOOL FINDER

DISTRICT FINDER

STATE OVERVIEW

RESOURCES

Search by Name

Select Language

Powered by Google Translate

**SCHOOL'S NAME**

District: [REDACTED] District Website: [REDACTED] Grades Served: [REDACTED]

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:** [REDACTED]

**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]

**PHONE:** [REDACTED]

ABOUT THIS SCHOOL

PERFORMANCE METRICS

COMPARE SCHOOLS

TCAP PARENT PORTAL

This is where the welcome message goes

- School Letter Grade
- State Achievement Rate ^
  - Overall State Achievement Rate
  - State Achievement Rate by Subject Area
- Growth
- Federal Performance Metrics ^
  - Federal Success Rate v
  - Chronically Out of School
  - Discipline
  - English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)

## About This School





# Report Card Wireframe: Letter Grade Page

School Letter Grades	School Letter Grades
State Achievement Rate v	
Growth	
Federal Performance Metrics v	

Indicators	Achievement	Growth	Subgroup	College & Career
	<b>LEVEL 1-5</b>	<b>LEVEL 1-5</b>	<b>LEVEL 1-5</b>	<b>LEVEL 1-5</b>
Measure	<b>Success Rate</b>	<b>Schoolwide TVAAS</b>	<b>Lowest Performing 25%</b>	<b>College &amp; Career Readiness</b>
Overall Scores- by Subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELA- Score</li> <li>• Math- Score</li> <li>• Science- Score</li> <li>• Social Studies- Score</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Explore More]</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy- Score</li> <li>• Numeracy- Score</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Explore More]</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT 21+- Score</li> <li>• AP/IB/Cambridge/Etc. - Score</li> <li>• Industry Certifications- Score</li> <li>• ASVAB- Score</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Explore More]</b></p>	
Overall Scores- by Student Subgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economically Disadvantaged- Score</li> <li>• English Learners- Score</li> <li>• Students with Disabilities- Score</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Explore More]</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economically Disadvantaged- Score</li> <li>• English Learners- Score</li> <li>• Students with Disabilities- Score</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Explore More]</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economically Disadvantaged- Score</li> <li>• English Learners- Score</li> <li>• Students with Disabilities- Score</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Explore More]</b></p>	

*Calculation of School Letter Grade*

Indicator	Level	Weight	Score
ACH	X	%	Y
GTH	X	%	Y
G25	X	%	Y
CCR	X	%	Y
<b>Aggregate Score</b>			<b>Z</b>

School Letter Grade:

A

*Statewide Letter Grade Scale*

Grade	Aggregate Score Range
A	4.6 - 5.0
B	3.6- 4.5
C	2.6- 3.5
D	1.6- 2.5
F	1.0- 1.5



# Next Steps

- **November:**
  - Data verification with districts
- **December:**
  - District preview window
  - Publication of the State Report Card





# Thank You!

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