

Tennessee's A-F School Letter Grade Rating System

5 Things Parents Should Know...

1

School letter grades, much like student letter grades, provide a snapshot of how your school is doing in meeting the state's expectations for learning.

It is important to ask the principal for more details regarding your school's academic strengths and areas for improvement. A school can be exemplary in one area and need additional focus in another. Parents and families can play a role to support success for your students and your school. It will take everyone working together to ensure that all Tennessee schools are excellent schools.

2

There are several factors that determine 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. The achievement scores of individual students are combined to create an achievement score for their school.
- ▶ *Student academic growth* is an indicator of how well the students in your school are improving, compared to their peers across the state. For example, if your school starts the year with many students behind grade level in reading, and is successful in helping them catch up, that increases the school's academic growth score.
- ▶ The letter grade includes two measures for growth. The first academic growth score is for the growth of all students. 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, postsecondary credit, industry credentials, and military readiness.

3

Tennessee is now dedicating more funding to schools based on the needs of individual students.

The [Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement](#) (TISA) is a new law providing additional funds to school districts to provide services such as literacy, English language learner support, special education needs, preparation for college and career, and more. In the 2022-23 school year, TISA added over \$1 billion more to fund public K-12 schools, compared to the year before.

4

School letter grades will come out annually and be posted on the [Tennessee State Report Card](#) and will reflect the previous academic year.

As a result, a school's letter grade can change from year to year.

5

As a parent or caregiver, you are your child's first and most important teacher and can help to support your child's learning from home.

We encourage you to ask your teacher how your child is academically performing in reading and math and talk to your principal on how to support school and student success. You can also take advantage of these free tools:



[Best for ALL Central](#) provides resources to support student learning inside and outside of the classroom.



The [TCAP Family Portal](#) allows you to view your child's test scores and understand which skills they might need to practice more.