

2018-19 TNReady English Language Arts Grades 5–8 Assessment Overview

English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the English language arts grades 5–8 assessments. The ELA assessments will assess the Tennessee Academic Standards through literary and informational texts and require students to demonstrate the ability to read closely, analyze text, answer text-dependent questions, provide a written response to a prompt, and demonstrate command of the English language.

The ELA assessments are administered in four subparts and measure comprehension, foundational literacy skills, language conventions, grammar, spelling, and writing. Students who are enrolled in a grade 5–8 ELA class must take the assessment.

For information on the other TNReady assessments in grades 5–8, click [here](#).

Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the Statewide Assessment Schedule on the department website.

Test Administration Times

The time for administration of the ELA assessment in grades 5–8 is outlined in the tables below.

Grade 5

Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3	Subpart 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 minutes • 1 passage set* • 3–5 passage-based items • 1 writing prompt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 minutes • 2 passage sets* • 5–10 items per passage set 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 minutes • 2 passage sets* • 5–10 items per passage set 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 minutes • 1 passage set* • 5–10 items per passage • 8–14 editing items

Grades 6-8

Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3	Subpart 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85 minutes • 1 passage set • 3-5 passage-based items • 1 writing prompt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes • 2 passage sets • 5-10 items per passage set 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes • 2 passage sets • 5-10 items per passage set 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 minutes • 1 passage set • 5-10 items per passage set • 8-16 editing items

*A passage set may be comprised of one or more passages. The word count across all passage sets is comparable.

Performance Levels and Scale Scores

Student performance on Tennessee’s statewide assessments is categorized into four performance levels.

Table 1 provides information regarding student achievement at each performance level for the TNReady ELA tests. This information is provided on student reports so that students, parents, and educators may interpret student results in a meaningful way.

Table 1. Performance Levels

Level 1 (Below)	Level 2 (Approaching)	Level 3 (On-track)	Level 4 (Mastered)
Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has a minimal understanding and has a nominal ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student is approaching understanding and has a partial ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has a comprehensive understanding and has a thorough ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has an extensive understanding and has an expert ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.

Performance level scale score ranges for TNReady ELA assessments for grades 5-8 are provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Performance Levels for the TNReady ELA Grades 5–8 Assessment Scale Scores

Assessment	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Grade 5	200–295	296–332	333–370	371–450
Grade 6	200–302	303–341	342–376	377–450
Grade 7	200–304	305–340	341–373	374–450
Grade 8	200–297	298–345	346–383	384–450

Test Administration Information

Within the state testing window, testing schedules are established **by the district at the school and/or district level**. It is at the district’s discretion to allow schools to set their own testing schedules, independent of a district testing schedule. Please see details on subparts for each subject and grade level on the updated testing times chart [here](#).

The ELA assessments for grades 5-8 may consist of the following item types:

- Multiple choice
- Evidence-based selected response (EBSR)
- Multiple select
- Writing prompt
- Editing task

Practice Tests

The department has provided the following practice tools to support educators and students:

- **Paper practice tests:** PDF versions of practice tests for grades 5–8 are available and posted on EdTools ([here](#)).
- **Online practice tests:** The online versions of the practice are available on the Nextera platform ([here](#)) for grades 5–8.

Additional Information

Please visit the [department’s website](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.