



Briefing on 2017 NAEP and Assessment Task Force

Commissioner Candice McQueen | Thursday, April 19

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**Context on Purpose
of NAEP and
the Last 10 Years**

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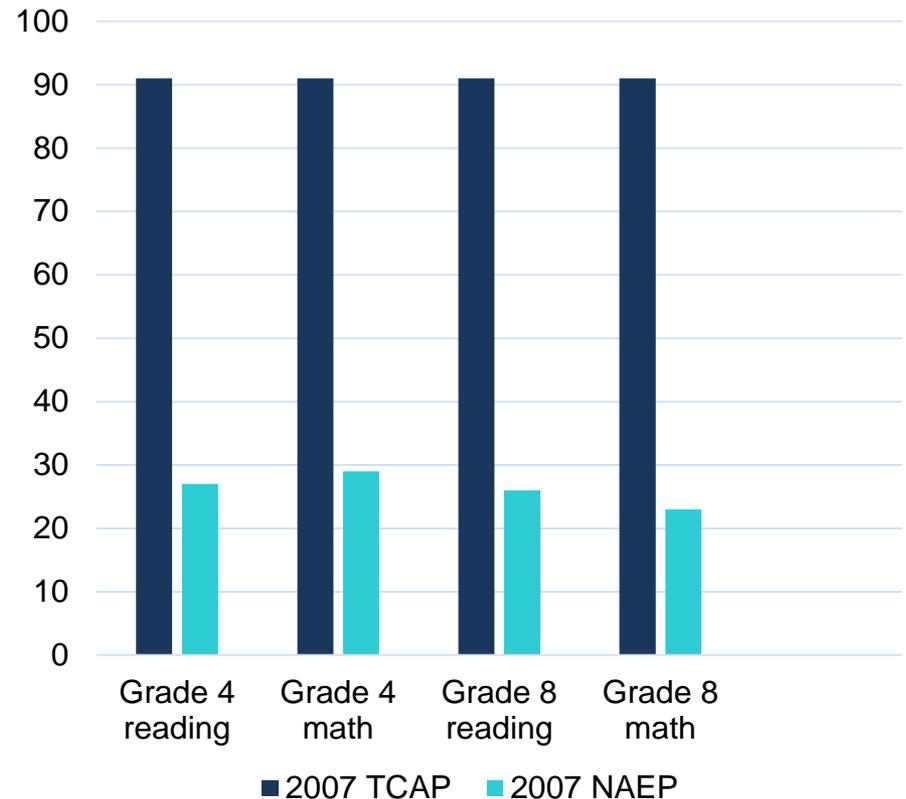
NAEP Serves as a National Benchmark

- The National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, is called the “nation’s report card” because it is the **only national survey of students’ progress over time**
- It is useful to monitor the **big picture and trends**, and it serves as one helpful feedback loop
 - More useful to use NAEP to **look for patterns**, not for immediate reaction to a single data point
- It aims to capture what students know and is considered a rigorous assessment, but it is **unclear how NAEP matches up with states’ standards** in terms of year-by-year alignment

2007 NAEP Resulted in Call to Action

- After the 2007 NAEP results, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce gave Tennessee an “F” in *Truth in Advertising*

Percent of students who were on track according to 2007 TCAP and NAEP exams



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Overview of 2017 National Results

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Context for 2017 NAEP

- 2017 NAEP included **4th and 8th grade math and reading**
- These results are from an exam taken about 14 months ago
- NAEP was administered **online for the first time**
 - About 80% of students took the exam online and 20% took it on paper, but the paper results were only used for a linking study
 - In TN, about 3,000 students take each exam and serve as a representative sample
- Tennessee made historic gains in 2013 that were maintained in 2015
- Since then, we have made **significant transitions**:
 - New academic standards in math and English language arts
 - New assessment with TNReady
 - New accountability system
 - New federal law with the Every Student Succeeds Act

Overview of 2017 National Results

- The nation was generally flat last year, with the only area of statistically significant growth in **8th grade reading**
 - 10 states improved statistically; one decreased
- In **4th grade math**, 10 states saw a statistical decrease and one improved
- In **4th grade reading**, nine states saw a statistical decrease and zero improved
- In **8th grade math**, three saw statistical decreases and two had gains
- Some **gaps widened**: there were decreases for lower performers and increases for higher performers

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Overview of 2017 Tennessee Results

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Overview of 2017 Tennessee Results

- In three of the four areas, there was **no statistically significant change from 2015**, and in one area – grade 4 math – we were one of the 10 states that saw a decrease
 - Similar to what was seen nationally, the lower performers lost some ground
- Tennessee has essentially **maintained progress** since the 2013 gains and through recent transitions, but has not had additional growth
- These results are not surprising as they mirror what we saw in the first year of TNReady in grades 4 and 8
- While we always want to see more improvement, **we are encouraged to see Tennessee students' growth so far has been sustained**

Tennessee students hold steady on gains

Now, we seek to build on our progress and accelerate student achievement

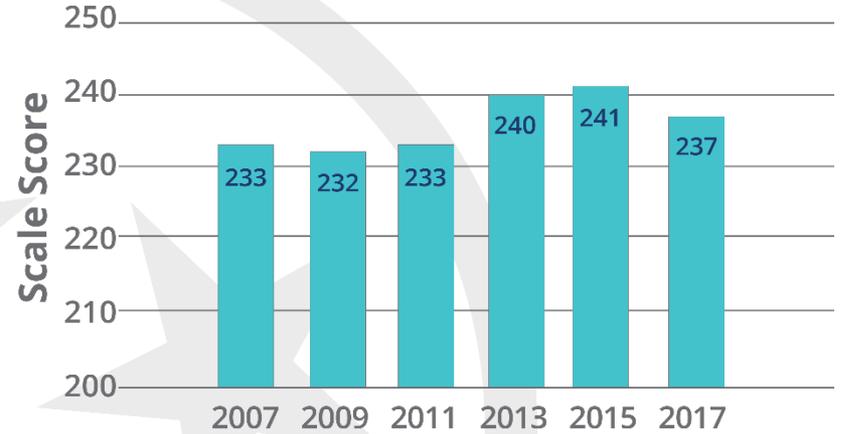
Reading

Grade 4



Mathematics

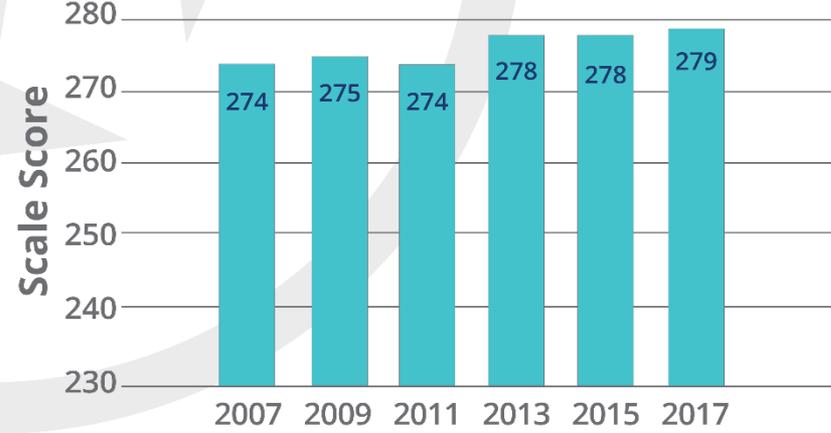
Grade 4



Grade 8



Grade 8



Overview of 2017 Tennessee Results

- We still are working toward being in the **top 25 of all states**, and we're proud of the progress we've shown since the **2007 call to action** and from **when Gov. Haslam came into office in 2011**
- But we recognize that we still have room to grow and ground to gain

Grade 4 math

2017 ranking: 34th
2015 ranking: 25th
2011 ranking: 46th
2007 ranking: 43rd

Grade 4 reading

2017 ranking: 34th
2015 ranking: 36th
2011 ranking: 41st
2007 ranking: 39th

Grade 8 math

2017 ranking: 35th
2015 ranking: 37th
2011 ranking: 45th
2007 ranking: 41st

Grade 8 reading

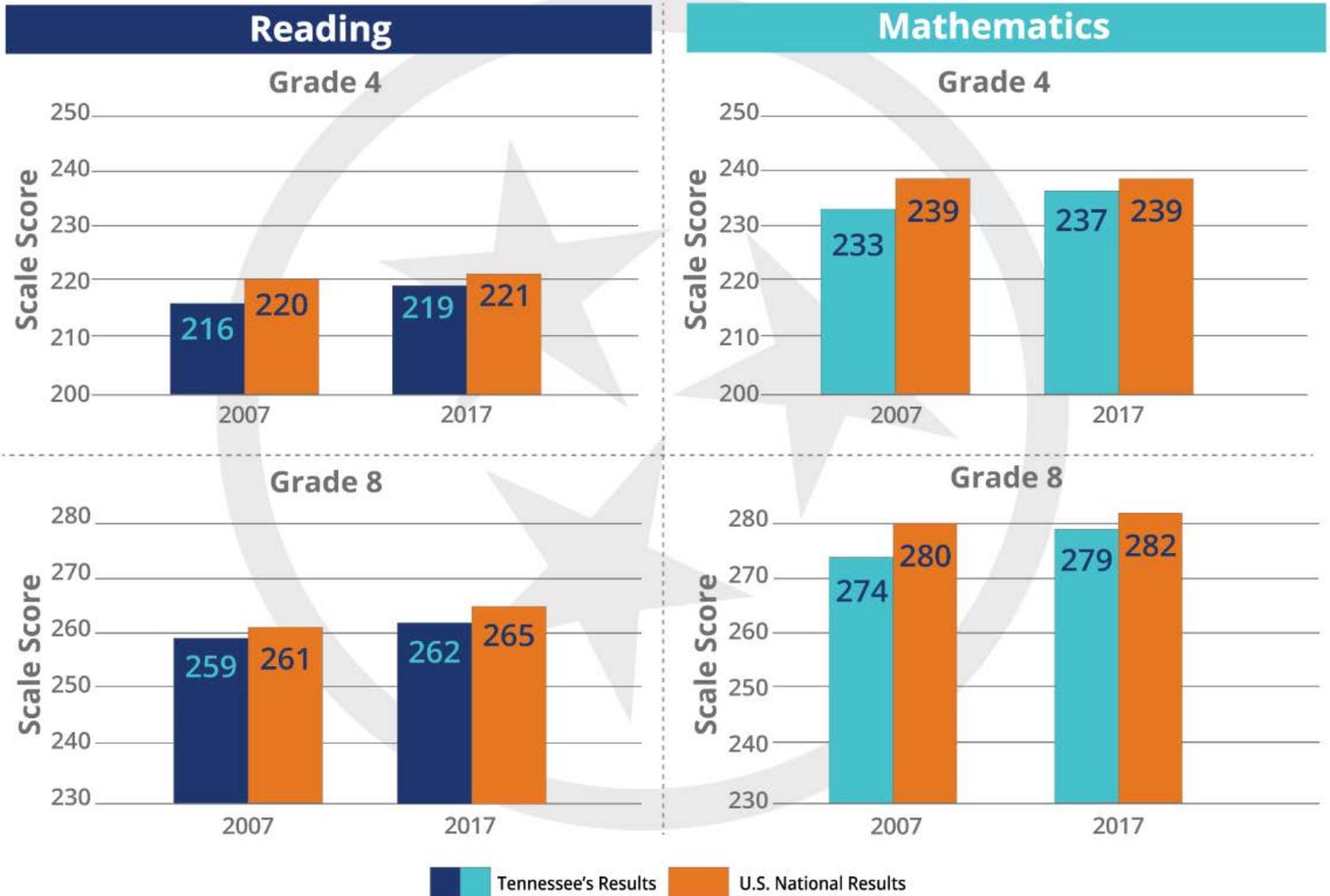
2017 ranking: 38th
2015 ranking: 30th
2011 ranking: 41st
2007 ranking: 35th

How We are Learning from the Results

- **Our policy foundation is the right one. But we must provide consistency instead of continuing to change.**
 - We have successfully improved our schools since 2011, when in every ranking we were among the bottom 40-something states
 - Now, we are solidly sitting several spots higher than where we were less than a decade ago
 - In general, we are closing the gap between Tennessee students and the national average
 - Our educators have navigated huge changes in the last couple of years – we need to provide them time to dig into this work instead of constantly changing course

Tennessee vs. National trends

We are closing the gap between Tennessee students and their peers across the country

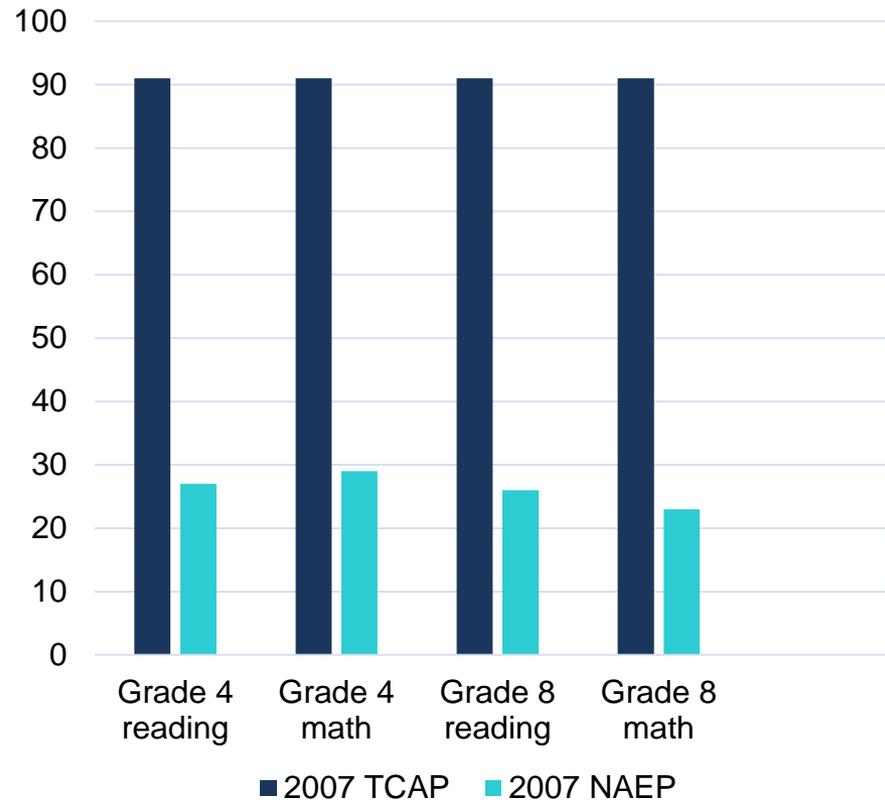


How We are Learning from the Results

- **We have closed the “honesty gap” between what we say on our state test and what NAEP indicates – the reason we were given an “F” in 2007**
 - In 2017, for the first time ever, our NAEP results and TNReady results show the same thing
- **And we’ve done this while continuing to improve: Every NAEP scale score is higher than it was in 2007, and more students are proficient**
- **Because of this alignment, we are even more confident in the feedback we get from TNReady**
 - Every year, TNReady will provide us with detailed feedback on how our students are performing and where we need to focus

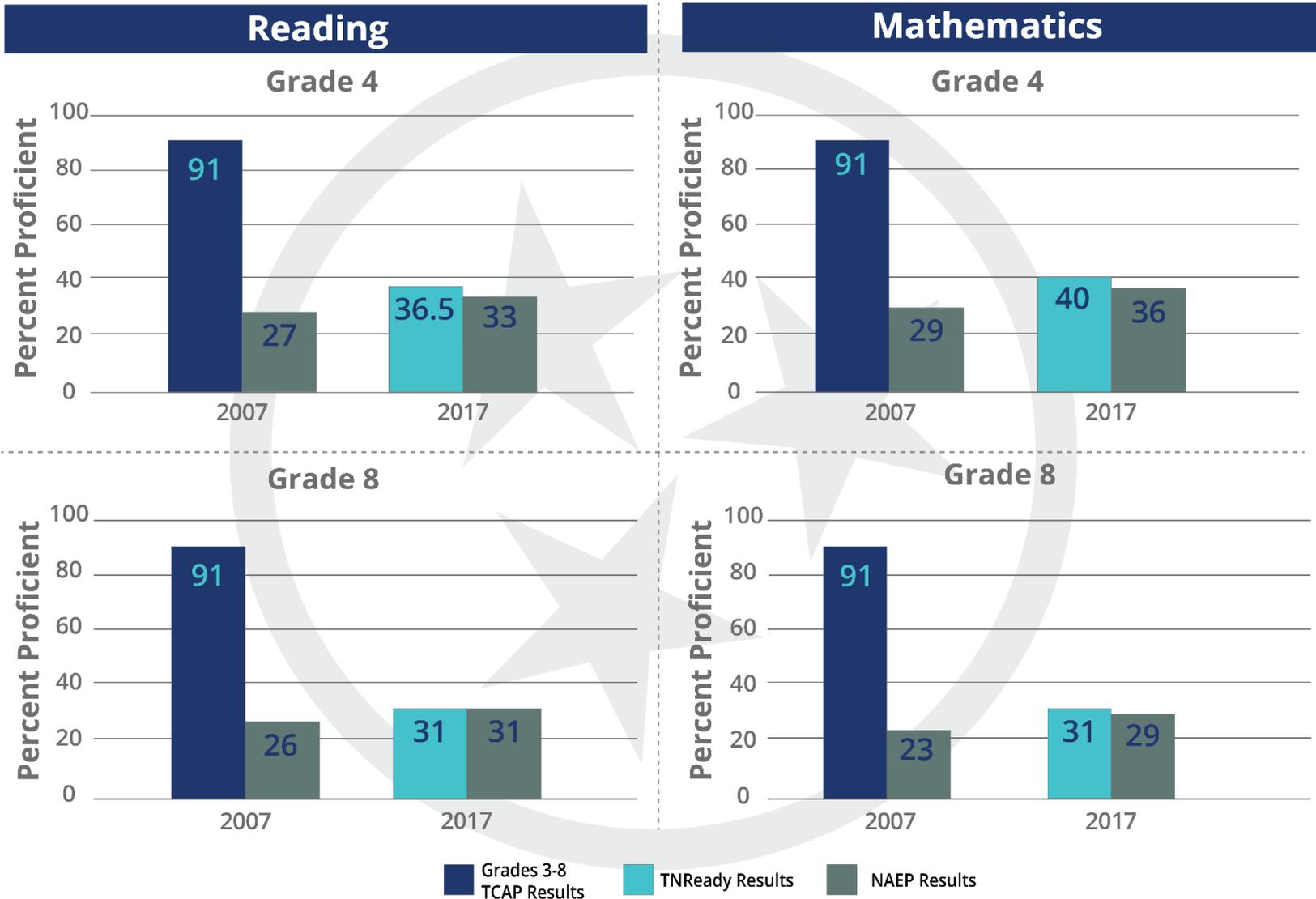
Where We Were in 2007

Percent of students who were on track according to 2007 TCAP and NAEP exams



TNReady shows the truth about student proficiency

We have closed the “honesty gap” between how students perform on TNReady and NAEP



How We are Learning from the Results

- **We need to support our teachers in more targeted ways to take our progress to the next level.**
 - We think what we are doing with early grades reading shows promise. Now, we want to scale up that intense focus on literacy to support teachers in the upper grades.
 - We see a needed area of focus in math – which mirrors what we see in key weaknesses from TNReady. Now, we're revisiting what that support looks like to help our educators better teach the full depth of each standard.

We are Encouraged and Optimistic

	Reading		Math	
	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 4	Grade 8
Alabama	4			
Alaska		4	3	6
Arizona				
Arkansas			4	5
California		8		4
Colorado			4	5
Connecticut				
Delaware	4	3	4	5
DC	13	5	10	5
Florida	4	4	6	
Georgia		4		
Hawaii		4		
Idaho				
Illinois				
Indiana	6	7		
Iowa		3		
Kansas			5	4
Kentucky		4		4
Louisiana				6
Maine			4	5
Maryland	6	4	7	7
Massachusetts			4	
Michigan				
Minnesota				
Mississippi	6		5	

	Reading		Math	
	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 4	Grade 8
Missouri				
Montana	3	6	3	7
Nebraska			6	5
Nevada			5	3
New Hampshire		3	6	
New Jersey				
New Mexico			3	5
New York				
North Carolina			5	4
North Dakota	4	4		4
Ohio			3	
Oklahoma				4
Oregon			4	
Pennsylvania			4	
Rhode Island			4	6
South Carolina			3	6
South Dakota				4
Tennessee	4 *		4	5
Texas				8
Utah	5			4
Vermont			6	6
Virginia			3	
Washington		4		
West Virginia	3			
Wisconsin			4	
Wyoming	3		4	

Scale Score Increase 2011-2017
 Scale Score Decrease 2011-2017
 No Significant Difference 2011-2017

*Tennessee 8th grade reading increased 3 points, but it was not statistically significantly different from 2011

- Modified from an analysis originally run by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute

We are Encouraged and Optimistic

- Looking at the big picture and long-term trends, **Tennessee is still one of the hottest states in the nation in terms of growth**
- We now must accelerate our foundational progress by staying the course and continuing to go deeper in instructional practice

Takeaways

- We have the right foundation.
- We have been through many transitions over the past three years. Stability matters so we can dig deeper.
- We now have state standards and an assessment that closes the “honesty gap” so our TNReady results give greater year-by-year information that is as rigorous as NAEP and gives more details that assist with instructional changes.
- Tennessee is still one of the fastest improving states in the country – we need to keep moving forward.

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**NEW: Assessment
Task Force
Recommendations**

Assessment Task Force 3.0 Goals

- The **Assessment Task Force** reconvened in December
- Materials and a recording can be accessed on the department's [website](#)
- Goals of the reconvened task force:
 - Make recommendations for further improvements, including a review of 11th grade testing
 - Review the first full year (2016-17) of grades 3–8 and EOC TNReady exams, including timeline and results
 - Review the first year of the optional grade 2 TNReady exam
 - Review of district formative assessments and alignment to standards and TNReady expectations

NEW: Recommendations

- While the task force will continue meeting for the next few months, they reached a majority vote on **three recommendations** after months of analysis and feedback.
- These recommendations include:
 - **Eliminate the chemistry end-of-course exam**; use state-developed chemistry test form as option for local administration and scoring
 - **Eliminate the English III end-of-course exam**; additionally, the department will prioritize adding a statewide dual credit English composition option that will be available beginning in 2019-20
 - **Collaborate with TBR, UT, TICUA to use U.S. History end-of-course exam as dual credit exam and set cut scores for college credit**

NEW: Other Changes for 2018-19

- These will complement other TNReady changes for next year (2018-19):
 - **Eliminating the stand-alone field test for next two years**
 - **Reducing time on the English language arts exam in grades 3 and 4 to make it a combined 78 minutes shorter**

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Questions?