
Annual Performance Goals/Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs)

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-1-602 requires the State Board of Education, in conjunction with the commissioner, to establish appropriate performance goals and measures for schools and LEAs. The performance goals and measures must include, at a minimum, student achievement, student growth, and other appropriate indicators of performance.

Annual Performance Goals, known to our schools as Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs), provide schools and districts with targets which help interpret recent performance and prioritize future efforts. Unlike other states, Tennessee sets each of these targets individually for each school/district and for each student group, using the most recent available performance as the starting point for each goal.

These targets align with the requirements of federal accountability in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and provide measurements for all student groups, which include economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English learners.

Due to school closures in response to COVID-19, the United States Department of Education waived federal accountability requirements for the 2019-20 school year, and the Tennessee General Assembly waived these requirements as well. The General Assembly also stated that future accountability ratings cannot utilize 2019-20 assessment data, and no assessment data are available for all schools and districts for that year.

One implication of these requirements is that some 2020-21 Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) will replicate the AMOs from the previous year due to lack of 2019-20 data with which to update the AMOs. This approach is explained in the attached rationale document. *Please note: These changes will only apply to AMOs set for the 2020-21 school year.*

Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on first and final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.