Tennessee’s Calculation for School Letter Grades

Presentation for the State Board of Education
November 2, 2023
STUDENT READINESS

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

ACADEMICS

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

EDUCATORS

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Elementary School Weight</th>
<th>Middle School Weight</th>
<th>High School Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievement (ACH)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth (GTH)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subgroup – Lowest 25% (G25)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College &amp; Career Readiness (CCR)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Elementary School Weight</th>
<th>Middle School Weight</th>
<th>High School Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts (ELA)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math (MTH)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science (SCI)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies (SS)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proportional Weighting by Tests Taken (3 MTH, 2 ELA, 1 SCI, 1 SS)
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACH</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GTH</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G25</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Aggregate Score</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Map Aggregate Score to Letter Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Aggregate Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.5 – 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.5 – 4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.6 – 3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.6 – 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>1 – 1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Publishing A-F Letter Grades on the State Report Card
State Report Card: NEW Navigation Menu
**Report Card Wireframe: Letter Grade Page**

**School Letter Grades**

- **State Achievement Rate**
- **Growth**
- **Federal Performance Metrics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>College &amp; Career</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measure</td>
<td>Success Rate</td>
<td>Schoolwide TVAAS</td>
<td>Lowest Performing 25%</td>
<td>College &amp; Career Readiness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Scores - by Subject**
- ELA- Score
- Math- Score
- Science- Score
- Social Studies- Score

**Overall Scores - by Student Subgroup**
- Economically Disadvantaged- Score
- English Learners- Score
- Students with Disabilities- Score

**Statewide Letter Grade Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Aggregate Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.5 - 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.5 - 4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.6 - 3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.6 - 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>1.0 - 1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Calculating School Letter Grade**

**Indicator** | **Level** | **Weight** | **Score** |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACH</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GTH</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G25</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Aggregate Score** | **Z**

**School Letter Grade:**

A
Next Steps

▪ **November:**
  – Data verification with districts

▪ **December:**
  – District preview window
  – Publication of the State Report Card
Thank You!

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