



Implementation Update: State A-F Letter Grade Rating System

Presentation for the State Board of Education
October 6, 2023



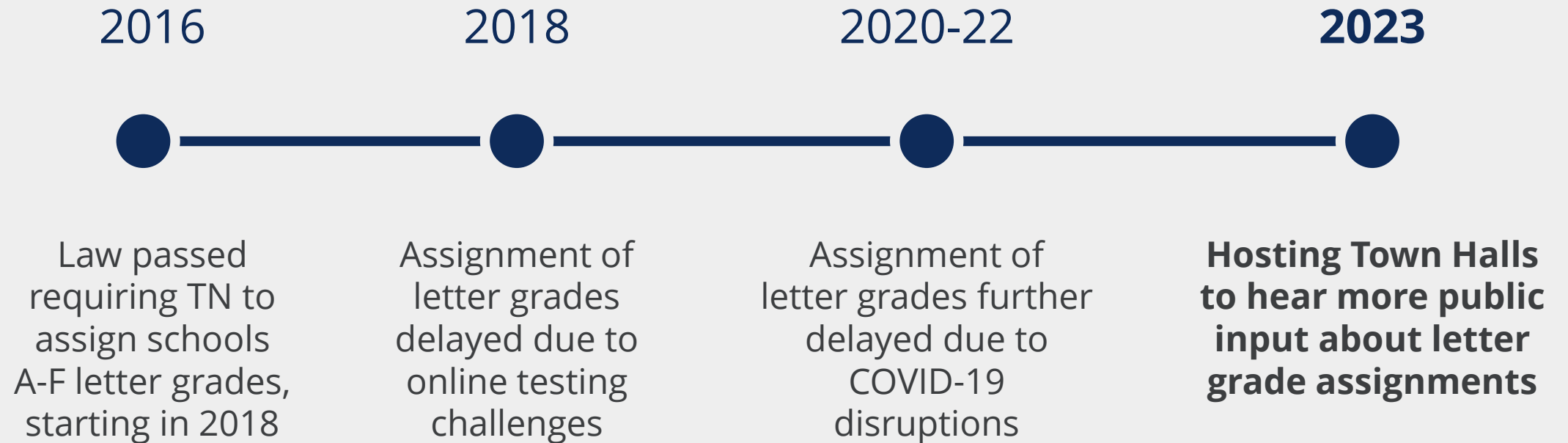
Agenda

- Overview of State Law
- TDOE's Approach to Implementation
- Public Engagement Opportunities
- Public Comment Overview
- Next Steps
- Questions



Overview of State Law

TN School Letter Grades: *A Brief History*



Legal Requirements: T.C.A. 49-1-228

- a. The department of education shall develop a school grading system that annually assigns A, B, C, D, and F letter grades to schools based on:
 - a. Student performance on the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests or end-of-course exams;
 - b. Student growth as indicated by Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) data or data from other measures of student growth; and
 - c. Other outcome indicators of student achievement that the department finds to be reliable measures of school performance.
- b. The department of education shall include each school's A, B, C, D, or F grade on the state report card.
- c. Implementation of the school grading system shall begin in the 2017-2018 school year; provided, however, prior to implementation, the state board shall review the grading scale developed by the department.
- d. The department shall provide notice of the adopted grading scale to each LEA prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year.
- e. Notwithstanding subsection (a), student performance and student growth data from the TNReady assessments administered in the 2017-2018 school year shall not be used to assign a letter grade to a school pursuant to this section.
- f. Notwithstanding subsections (a)-(c), student performance and student growth data from the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests, which include, but are not limited to, TNReady assessments, English learner assessments, alternate TCAP assessments, and end-of-course examinations, administered in the 2019-2020 school year shall not be used to assign a letter grade to a school, unless the use results in a higher letter grade for the school.
- g.
 - a. If eighty percent (80%) or more of an LEA's or public charter school's students enrolled in grades three through twelve (3-12) participate in the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests administered in the 2020-2021 school year, then, notwithstanding subsections (a)-(c), student performance and student growth data generated from the TCAP tests administered in the 2020-2021 school year shall not be used to assign a letter grade to a school.
 - b. The commissioner of education may, at the commissioner's discretion, grant an LEA or public charter school a waiver from the eighty-percent-participation requirement in subdivision (g)(1).
- h. The department shall not issue letter grades or any other summative ratings for schools eligible for the accountability protections in subdivision (g)(1) or schools that receive a waiver from the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (g)(2) in the state report card for the 2020-2021 school year; provided, that the department shall provide student performance and student growth data to LEAs, and as required by federal law.

TDOE's Approach to Implementation

Goals & Process for Implementation

- Produce ratings for schools that are clear and meaningful to families who already have expectations for performance as represented by a letter grade
 - Recognize accomplishments in academic achievement, growth and any other indicators that may be determined
 - Identify areas of need or opportunities for improvement to support planning and investments at the local level

1. Public Town Halls

2. Public Comment

3. A-F Working Group

4. Calculation & Letter Grades

Public Engagement Opportunities for All Tennesseans

2023 Town Hall Schedule

Tuesday, August 15: Mid-Cumberland Region

Dickson County High School, Dickson, TN

Thursday, August 17: First Region

General Morgan Inn, Greenville, TN

Tuesday, August 22: Southwest Region

Bartlett High School, Bartlett, TN

Wednesday, August 23: Southwest Region

Southwest TN Community College, Memphis, TN

Thursday, August 24: Northwest Region

Dyersburg Middle School, Dyersburg, TN

Tuesday, August 29: Southeast Region

East Brainerd Annex, Chattanooga, TN

Thursday, August 31: East Region

Central High School, Knoxville, TN

Tuesday, September 5: Upper Cumberland Region

Cookeville High School, Cookeville, TN

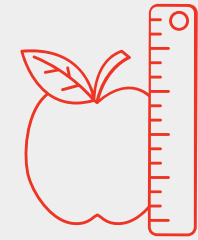
Wednesday, September 6: Mid-Cumberland

Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville, TN

Thursday, September 7: South Central

Shelbyville Central High School, Shelbyville, TN

TN Accountability System Measures for...



All Public Schools



Academics: Percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations on state tests



Growth: Progress students in a school are making on state test performance compared to the average progress of all students statewide



Chronically Out of School: Percentage of students who miss 10% or more days of the school year (18 days)



English Language Proficiency: Progress of English language learners

All Public High Schools



Graduation Rate: Percentage of students who successfully finished high school with a diploma or alternate academic diploma in four years plus a summer



Ready Graduate: Percentage of graduating students who demonstrated readiness for college and career after high school

Let Us Know...

- **What are your top priorities for measuring a school's academic success?**
- **How should the state measure progress towards these priorities?**
- **What should an A, B, C, D, F school represent?**
- **How would you define what each school should provide to students to receive each grade listed above?**

Let Us Know...

**E-mail written
comments and
feedback by
Friday, September 15th**

SchoolLetterGrades@tnedu.gov

Overview of Public Comment

What have we heard thus far?

Public Comment Overview

WAYS TO THINK ABOUT PERFORMANCE

- Achievement
- Growth
- Performance in subgroup(s)
- Growth in lowest performing
- Cohorts
- Trends over time

COMMUNICATING THE LETTER GRADE

- Challenging to convey in one grade
- Simple construction, not complex
- Understandable by parents
- Report/display the components alongside single letter grade
- “What is measured will be the focus”

OTHER INDICATORS

- Elementary, Middle, High
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Student Attendance
- Teacher Retention
- Postsecondary Readiness
 - Career Exploration
 - CTE, AP, DE, JROTC
 - Graduation Rate
- Academics & Supports
 - Science, Social Studies
 - Third grade ELA
 - RTI²
 - Tutoring

Next Steps

- **A-F Working Group**

- All meetings will be recorded and posted
- All materials will be posted

- **State Report Card Development**

- NEW: Enhanced functionality (*throughout*)
- NEW: Improved language to communicate with the public (*throughout*)
- NEW: A-F Letter Grade subpage
 - Overview of A-F Calculation
 - Scores/grades for each component indicator
 - Overall letter grade for the school

- **District Supports**

- Key Audiences: Parents and Families, Teachers & Staff, Local Elected Officials, General Public
- CORE and Data Analyst Coordination

- **Key Releases**

- October: A-F Letter Working Groups
- November: A-F Letter Grades (*after district preview window*)



Thank you!

