



Assessment Update

State Board Workshop
January 28, 2016



Assessment Task Force Updates

Purpose

- Conduct an **environmental scan** of assessment **usage and practices** across the state
- **Establish principles** addressing purposes and goals of state assessments relative to locally chosen/designed assessments
- **Define appropriate practices and recommendations** that best support decision-making at the state, district, school, and teacher level
- Gain insight on **ways to best communicate about TNReady** to all stakeholder groups

Assessment Task Force Members

- **18 members:**

- Commissioner of Education
- Teachers
- Student Representative
- Principals
- Assistant Director of Schools
- Director of Schools
- Legislators
- State Board of Education
- Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA)
- Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

- **Ex officio members:**

- SCORE
- Tennessee Education Association (TEA)
- Professional Educators of Tennessee (PET)
- Tennessee Department of Education

Guiding Principles

- **Formative (Interim/Benchmark) Assessments**

- Provide timely feedback to teachers, parents, and students.
- Provide information that leads to daily decision-making
- Used primarily to...
 - 1) measure mastery on standards that have been taught in alignment with the expectations of the standards and the rigor of the summative assessment, and
 - 2) provide diagnostic information about student skill gaps and enrichment opportunities.

- **Summative (Annual) Assessments**

- Should be properly aligned to the state's standards.
- Embody the full range of expectations in the state's standards and demonstrate the level of rigor needed in the process of teaching and learning.
- Show *all* students' culmination of understanding, strengths, and areas for improvement to stakeholders.

Guiding Principles

- **Test Preparation**

- Emphasize and support the idea that the best test preparation is focusing on great teaching and engaged student learning every day.
- Ensure transparency in the test design – including blue prints and question format – to help teachers and students know what is expected of them in reaching mastery of the standards.

- **Test Logistics**

- Provide more test scheduling and logistics support with opportunities for input from those on receiving end of tests
- Continue to assist in greater use of technology for personalized learning and to prepare schools for online testing

16 Recommendations

Highlights:

- Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, the department should **annually release as many summative test items as possible** without compromising test security and development.
- The department should address the issue of over-testing and possible test redundancy by **eliminating the mandatory EXPLORE (8th grade) and PLAN (10th grade) tests**, and not adopt ACT's new alternative ASPIRE.
- Districts should carefully select and design formative assessments that lead to defined student outcomes. Districts should **reduce formative assessments** that do not guide decision-making and next steps in instruction.

16 Recommendations

Highlights:

- The department should form a **parent advisory group** to specifically give feedback on concerns related to over-testing and test preparation practices as well as feedback on information desired for annual student test reports.
- The department should expand ACT or SAT **retake opportunities** for all students.
- The department should convene a **testing scheduling and logistics advisory group** that is representative of district personnel across the state to address logistical challenges.

The logo consists of a red square with the letters 'TN' in white, serif font. Below the red square is a thin dark blue horizontal bar.

TN

Review of ATF Update Report



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Questions?



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TNReady

TNReady is the New & Improved TCAP

- TNReady is the new and improved TCAP test in **math and English language arts (ELA) for grades 3-11**.
 - TNReady is a part of TCAP.
 - TCAP includes grades 3-8 achievement tests and End of Course exams for science, social studies, math, and English.
- TNReady has fewer and better questions than the former TCAP tests.
- The new test in math and ELA is designed to **assess true student understanding**, not just basic memorization and test-taking skills.

TNReady is a Necessary Change

- Our students have to be **better prepared** to take advantage of opportunities after graduation, and we need a **better measurement of progress**.
- TNReady gives all of us an important big-picture perspective so we can see if students are on track and progressing toward **college and workforce readiness**. This is the only state-level test that can do that.
- We believe all of our children in Tennessee are exceptionally capable and – with the expertise and support of their phenomenal teachers – **they will show us they are TNReady**.

Goals and Transition Points

Goals

- Better information about postsecondary readiness
- Full alignment to depth and breadth of standards
- TN-specific test

Primary Transition Points

- Online
- Variety of test item types
- Two parts
- Additional tools – MICA, Assessment Blueprints
- Timeline adjustment in year one

FAQs on TN Ready Content

- TNReady measures the **problem solving** and **critical thinking skills** that are required in postsecondary education, the workforce, and in the real world.
- **TNReady English** integrates reading and writing skills. Students are asked to support their answers with **evidence** from something they read, which includes both **fiction** and **nonfiction** texts.
- **TNReady Math** requires students to solve **multi-step problems**. There are **calculator-permitted** and **calculator-prohibited** sections at every grade level.

FAQs on TNReady Logistics

- It will be given **online in two parts**, however, the time students spend testing will be similar to last year.
 - Part I will be given in February/March.
 - Part II will be given in April/May.
- TNReady has **every accommodation** feature that TCAP tests have provided in the past – as well as additional tools. No student will be denied access to an allowable accommodation that is part of their IEP.
- Nearly **200 Tennessee educators** are informing how the test is scored, and there is *no* set number of students who have to fall into each performance level category (e.g., proficient, advanced).

FAQs on TNReady Logistics

- Nearly 2 million practice tests have been taken on MIST since the beginning of the school year.
- Based on district feedback regarding MIST performance and usability during **Break MIST Day on Oct. 1**, we have continued to make updates to ensure a smooth test administration.
- We have also conducted ***additional optional system tests*** to further enhance MIST performance in advance of the spring assessment window that opens on Feb. 8, 2016. These optional tests took place this month.

TNReady Administration to Date

- **171,000** End of Course tests successfully completed in November and December
- **99** districts participated in fall administration
- **Half a million** practice tests successfully completed thus far in January
- **More than 1.4 million** practice tests successfully completed in October

TNReady Timeline

Fall
2015

- **Block schedules administer Part I & II**

Winter
2016

- Conduct two additional system tests
- **Traditional schedules administer Part I**
- Release quick scores for fall block schedule students (estimated 1st week of February)

Spring
2016

- **Block schedules administer Part I & II**
- **Traditional schedules administer Part II**
- Finalize performance level descriptors

Summer
2016

- Begin educator collaboration on scoring and set cut scores
- Release quick scores for traditional and spring block schedules (estimated 1st week of June)
- Release growth scores (estimated July)

Fall
2016

- Deliver student reports in Sept-Oct

FAQs on TNReady Accountability

- TVAAS will compare students' ***relative*** performance on TNReady to their peers' performance on TNReady. TVAAS will not compare students' ***absolute*** performance on TNReady to their ***absolute*** performance on TCAP.
- Because students' performance will be compared to the performance of their peers, any **drops in statewide proficiency rates** resulting from **increased rigor** will have **no impact** on the ability of teachers, schools, and districts to earn strong TVAAS scores.

FAQs on TNReady Accountability

- The **Tennessee Teaching Evaluation Enhancement Act** passed last spring adjusts the weighting relative to the Individual Growth Score component of teacher evaluations during the transition to TNReady.
- The new law provides for a **three-year phase-in approach** so that new state assessments administered in 2015-16 through 2017-18 will factor in a teacher's evaluation as follows:
 - **10 percent** of the individual growth in the first year (2015-16)
 - **20 percent** of the individual growth in year two (2016-17)
 - **35 percent** of the individual growth in year three (2017-18)

FAQs on TNReady Accountability

- The Tennessee Teaching Evaluation Enhancement Act gives ***complete discretion*** to local school districts in how they factor student test data into **employment decisions**.
- In addition, districts have the option of **excluding TNReady scores from a student's final grade** if the scores are not received at least **five days** before the end of the school year.
- Because this is the first year of TNReady, results will be delayed due to the completion of the standards setting process led by Tennessee teachers. This means that **districts will have the choice to exclude TNReady scores for the 2015-16 school year**.



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Questions?