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**Standard Setting for Grade 2 TNReady, Grades 3-8 TNReady, Grade 2 TCAP-Alt, Grades 3-8 TCAP-Alt Social Studies/Science and High School TCAP-Alt Biology**

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**The Background**

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(2), it is the duty of the State Board of Education to “set policies for evaluating individual student progress and achievement, evaluating individual teachers, and measuring the educational achievement of individual schools.”

The department of education administered the new TNReady assessment for grades 3-8 in 2016-17. The grade 2 assessment was optional for districts to administer. In addition, the new TCAP-Alt assessments were administered for grade 2 (ELA and math) and grades 3-8 and high school (science and social studies). In order to complete the reporting of test scores, it is necessary for the state board to adopt cut scores that will be used to assign students to performance categories on the TCAP assessments.

The cut scores recommended by the department are based largely on the recommendations of education panels who undertake a standard-setting process. Standard setting is a qualitative review of content standards with panels of educators who are content-area experts. Each panel completes three rounds of ratings. On the last day of the session, a table leader from each grade-level panel participates in a process called vertical articulation to ensure alignment, consistency, and reasonableness across grades.

During the week of July 10, 2017, panels of Tennessee educators convened in Nashville to recommend cut scores for the following assessments:

- Grade 2 English language arts (ELA)
- Grade 2 Mathematics
- Grades 3-8 ELA
- Grades 3-8 Mathematics
- Grade 2 TCAP-Alt (ELA and math)
- Grades 3-8 TCAP-Alt Social Studies
- Grades 3-8 TCAP-Alt Science
- High School TCAP-Alt Biology

The attached document provides the department recommended cut scores.

**The Fiscal Analysis Impact:**

Tenn. Code Ann. § 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.

**The Recommendation:**

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