

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms 2015

Apprentice License Teacher¹	Completer teaching on an Apprentice license. The Apprentice license is a full license, valid for five years, and renewable. To receive an Apprentice license, an individual must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university and have demonstrated competency in the subject matter for which the candidate is seeking licensure.
Beginning Teacher	Teacher with 1 to 3 years of classroom teaching experience in Tennessee.
Completer	<p>A person who has met all the requirements of a state-approved teacher preparation program. Program completers include all those who are documented as having met such requirements. Documentation may take the form of a degree, institutional certificate, program credential, transcript or other written proof of having met the program's requirements. In applying this definition, the fact that an individual has or has not been recommended to the state for initial certification or licensure may not be used as criterion for determining who is a program completer.</p> <p>For Transitional licensed teachers, the reporting includes currently enrolled students who have completed all nonclinical coursework in addition to program completers.</p>
Difference T-Value of Teacher Effect	The t-value of the teacher effect is defined as the teacher effect divided by its standard error in all subjects. The mean t-value is derived from one year of value added data (2013-2014) for all beginning teachers from each program. All teachers who have been teaching for one, two, or three years are included in the analysis.
End of Course (EOC)	EOC exams are given in specific high school subjects that are used in the value-added analysis. Subjects include: Algebra I, Algebra II, biology, chemistry, English I, English II, English III, and US History.
No Statistically Significant Difference	The difference of the mean t-value of teacher effect can represent a positive or negative difference, but is not considered to be statistically significant.
Overall Program Negative TVAAS Percentage	The percentage of statistically significant negative TVAAS results for each institution in the statewide, program, and statewide distribution comparisons for Apprentice and Transitional license teachers.
Overall Program Positive TVAAS Percentage	The percentage of statistically significant positive TVAAS results for each institution in the statewide, program, and statewide distribution comparisons for Apprentice and Transitional license teachers.

¹ On September 1, 2015, a new educator licensure policy became effective. The current initial license is a practitioner license that can be issued to an individual who is enrolled or has completed an educator preparation program. Recommendations for the license are submitted by the educator preparation provider.

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Personnel Information Reporting System (PIRS)	PIRS is the State Department of Education reporting system that collects employment information on teachers and school leaders from all Local Education Agencies.
Program Comparison	Comparison of the 2013 – 2014 difference in the mean t-value of teacher effect among beginning teachers (1-3 years of experience) as compared to the mean of means for all teacher training programs in the state. Also known as Beginning Teacher Comparison.
Statewide Distribution	The percentage of beginning teachers (1-3 years of experience) from teacher training programs who fall into either the lowest or highest effectiveness quintiles; the quintiles are based on the 2013 – 2014 statewide distribution of the t-value of teacher effects.
Statewide Teacher Comparison	Comparison of the 2013 – 2014 difference of the mean t-value of teacher effect for beginning teachers (1-3 years of experience) as compared to the mean of the statewide average of 2013 – 2014 teacher valued-added data.
Statistically Significant Negative Difference	The mean t-value of teacher effect as compared to the given reference population which show a tendency for those teachers to have lower student achievement gains in the specific subject.
Statistically Significant Positive Difference	The mean t-value of teacher effect as compared to the given reference population represents a tendency for those teachers to have higher student achievement gains in the specific subject.
Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP)	TCAP exams given in grades 3-8 in math, reading/language arts, science, and social studies.
Teacher Effect	Teacher effect measures teacher effectiveness relative to the district average gain and is part of the solution to the mixed model equations for TCAP subjects.
Teacher Gain	The teacher gain is defined as the teacher effect added to the district gain.
Transitional License Teacher	Completer teaching on a Transitional license. The Transitional license is not a full teaching license; it is issued at the request of a superintendent/director of schools for a teacher who will be employed while completing licensure requirements. The license is issued for one school year at a time and may only be renewed two times for a maximum of three years. To receive a Transitional license, an individual must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university and have demonstrated competency in the subject matter for which the candidate is seeking licensure.