

Parent Guide to Being TNReady

Preparing for the
2017–18 School Year



TN

Department of
Education

How will this guidebook help me prepare my family for the school year?

In the pages that follow, you will find details about when your student will take TNReady, how long they will spend testing, what types of questions will be on the test, and more. Our goal is to help you prepare your student to learn and succeed everyday. If you have additional questions after reading this guide, please talk with your student's teacher or visit **TNReady.gov**.

WHY DO WE HAVE STATE TESTS?

In every Tennessee classroom, teaching and learning looks different based on the textbooks, curricula, and lessons that the school and teacher have chosen. State leaders have a responsibility to make sure these varied learning opportunities are preparing all students for college, career, and life.

Our state tests serve multiple objectives:

- Provide feedback about students' academic progress and how it aligns with grade-level expectations
- Give parents and teachers a big-picture perspective about how a student is progressing compared to peers across the district and state, including a student's strengths and growth opportunities
- Build confidence and transparency about students' readiness for postsecondary and the workforce among Tennessee colleges, universities, and employers
- Help educators strengthen instruction and reflect on their practice
- Hold us accountable to serving all students fairly
- Highlight schools where students are excelling, so we can learn from those who are doing well

Letter from the Commissioner

Dear parents,



In my conversations **with more than 13,000 teachers, students, and parents** since I took office in 2015, testing has been the issue about which I've received the most feedback—and understandably so. As a mom, an educator, and a policy maker, I understand both the benefits of assessment along with the need to ensure our focus remains on strong teaching and learning in the classroom. It is through all of those perspectives that I am working to improve how we approach assessment in Tennessee.

At the state level, we look to see how students, schools, and districts are performing through the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP), which includes TNReady assessments for math, English language arts, social studies, and science. As Tennessee's teachers work to equip all students with the knowledge and skills they need, we have to ensure that we can identify any major gaps in students' learning and find variations in growth among different schools—both so we can strengthen support in places that need it and learn from those who are excelling. **TNReady provides teachers and parents a unique feedback loop and big-picture perspective to better understand how students are progressing and how they can support their academic development, but it is important to remember that results from annual assessments are just one snapshot.** They should never dominate the conversation.

As commissioner, I have committed to both creating better tests—so the results are helpful—while also looking for opportunities to improve test structure, time, delivery, and scheduling. We are taking immediate action on this work, as you will see in this guide. We are also **phasing into online assessments**, so this year, all high schools will move to online testing, including the fall 2017 administration for schools on block schedule. Districts will have the option to test their students in grades 5–8 online, while students in grades 3 and 4 will take TNReady on paper. Finally, we are working on making results more actionable for parents and teachers, including taking steps over the next couple of years to provide better information faster than before.

Our goals are the same: **we want all our students to develop real-world skills, including critical thinking, writing, and problem solving.** We want to minimize the burden of testing in our schools. We want to provide parents, teachers, and students with helpful information. And, we want to move forward with each of you as partners in this work—so ultimately our schools can foster positive learning environments that focus on whole child development. Each of our children deserves to be ready for the next step in their educational journey, and TNReady is one way we make sure they are prepared for the better opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for all that you do every day for our students,

Dr. Candice McQueen
Commissioner of Education



Frequently Asked Questions

What is TNReady?

The Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) has been the state's testing program since 1988, and it includes TNReady, the state's assessments in math, English language arts, social studies, and science. As the state has transitioned to higher academic standards over the past several years, and will continue to do so, our tests have become better aligned to what educators are teaching in their classrooms every day.



TNReady is designed to assess true student understanding, not just basic memorization and test-taking skills. TNReady measures students' **understanding** of our current state standards in English

language arts, math, social studies, and science, but it is more than just a state test. It is a way to assess what our students know and what we can do to help them succeed in the future. Just as we take our children to the doctor for their annual check-ups, TNReady offers parents, students, and teachers with an academic check-up each year to ensure all students are moving forward, on track to be successful in the next step of their academic journey.

Why TNReady?



Develops skills that are in line with college and work expectations



Allows students to show what they know in new ways



Provides better information for teachers and parents



Promotes real-world problem solving

What tests are included underneath the TCAP testing umbrella?

TCAP

TNReady

Students in grades 3-8 take the following exams each year:

- English language arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science

High school students take the following End-of-Course (EOC) exams:

- English I
- English II
- English III
- Algebra I or Integrated Math I
- Geometry or Integrated Math II
 - Algebra II or Integrated Math III
- U.S. History & Geography
- Chemistry
- Biology

**English learners are required to participate state assessments. The only exception is for a student who is in his or her first year in a U.S. school. Also, testing accommodations are available for ELs who are in direct service, waived services, or considered in transition during the four years following exit from the ESL program.*

Assessments for Students with Disabilities

Students in grades 3-11 with the most significant cognitive disabilities are eligible for alternative assessments in all four content areas (ELA, math, science, and social studies)

- For grades 3-8, students take the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) in English language arts and mathematics
- For grades 3-8, students take the TCAP Alternate for social studies
- For second grade students taking the optional grade two assessment, students take the Alternate Assessment for grade two in math and ELA
- For grade 11, students take the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) in English language arts and mathematics
- For science in grade 10, students take the TCAP Alternate for Science.

How much time will my child spend testing?

While districts and schools may add additional tests onto what is required by the state, the total amount of time a student spends on state tests is less than 1% of the school year.

2017–18 TNReady Testing Overview

	English	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Grade 3	Subpart 1: 80 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading passage sets • 7-12 questions per set • 1 writing prompt per passage set (2 total) Subpart 2: 43 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set • 10–15 questions per set • 1 listening set Subpart 3: 43 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set • 10–15 questions per set • 1 listening set Subpart 4: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set • 10–15 questions based on the passage set • 2 sets of fluency questions • 15–20 editing sentences Total: 216 minutes	Subpart 1: 45 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No calculator allowed • 21-31 questions Subpart 2: 30 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 10-17 questions Subpart 3: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 12-17 questions Total: 115 minutes	Subpart 1: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Total: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow for a more robust ELA test, the testing time in science has been reduced by half. • Score reports will not be issued for third of fourth grade science. Rather, districts will receive raw data on student performance in science. 	Subpart 1: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Total: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow for a more robust ELA test, the testing time in social studies has been reduced by half. • There are only two performance levels, on grade level and approaching grade level, because the length of the test was reduced.
Grade 4	Subpart 1: 80 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 listening sets • 4–7 editing items • 1 reading passage set • 3–5 passage-based questions • 1 writing prompt Subpart 2: 45 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 listening sets • 1 fluency set • 4–7 editing items • 1 reading passage set • 10–15 questions per set Subpart 3: 45 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 listening sets • 1 fluency set • 4–7 editing items • 1 reading passage set • 10–15 questions per set Subpart 4: 52 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading passage sets • 10–15 questions per set Total: 222 minutes	Subpart 1: 45 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No calculator allowed • 21-31 questions Subpart 2: 30 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 10-17 questions Subpart 3: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 12-17 questions Total: 115 minutes	Subpart 1: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Total: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow for a more robust ELA test, the testing time in science has been reduced by half. • Score reports will not be issued for third of fourth grade science. Rather, districts will receive raw data on student performance in science. 	Subpart 1: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Total: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow for a more robust ELA test, the testing time in social studies has been reduced by half. • There are only two performance levels, on grade level and approaching grade level, because the length of the test was reduced.

	English	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Grade 5	Subpart 1: 75 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set* • 3-5 questions • 1 writing prompt Subpart 2: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading passage sets* • 5-10 questions per set Subpart 3: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading passage sets* • 5-10 questions per set Subpart 4: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set* • 10-15 questions • 8-14 editing items Total: 195 minutes	Subpart 1: 45 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No calculator allowed • 21-31 questions Subpart 2: 30 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 10-17 questions Subpart 3: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 12-17 questions Total: 115 minutes	Subpart 1: 48 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Subpart 2: 47 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Total: 95 minutes	Details about the social studies test structure will be shared in the coming weeks.
Grade 6	Subpart 1: 85 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set* • 3-5 questions • 1 writing prompt Subpart 2: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading passage sets* • 5-10 questions per set Subpart 3: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading passage sets* • 5-10 questions per set Subpart 4: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set* • 5-10 questions • 8-16 editing items Total: 230 minutes	Subpart 1: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No calculator allowed • 18-24 questions Subpart 2: 35 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 12-17 questions Subpart 3: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 14-22 questions Total: 125 minutes	Subpart 1: 48 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Subpart 2: 47 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Total: 95 minutes	Details about the social studies test structure will be shared in the coming weeks.
Grade 7	Subpart 1: 85 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set* • 3-5 questions • 1 writing prompt Subpart 2: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading passage sets* • 5-10 questions per set Subpart 3: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading passage sets* • 5-10 questions per set Subpart 4: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set* • 5-10 questions • 8-16 editing items Total: 230 minutes	Subpart 1: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No calculator allowed • 18-24 questions Subpart 2: 35 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 12-17 questions Subpart 3: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 14-22 questions Total: 125 minutes	Subpart 1: 48 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Subpart 2: 47 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Total: 95 minutes	Details about the social studies test structure will be shared in the coming weeks.
Grade 8	Subpart 1: 85 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set* • 3-5 questions • 1 writing prompt Subpart 2: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading passage sets* • 5-10 questions per set Subpart 3: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading passage sets* • 5-10 questions per set Subpart 4: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reading passage set* • 5-10 questions • 8-16 editing items Total: 230 minutes	Subpart 1: 40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No calculator allowed • 18-24 questions Subpart 2: 35 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 12-17 questions Subpart 3: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 14-22 questions Total: 125 minutes	Subpart 1: 48 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Subpart 2: 47 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Total: 95 minutes	Details about the social studies test structure will be shared in the coming weeks.

English (English I, II, and III)	Mathematics (Algebra I, II, and Geometry or Integrated Math I, II, and III)	Science (Biology and Chemistry)	Social Studies (U.S. History & Geography)
Administered online Subpart 1: 85 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 passage set* • 3-5 passage-based questions • 1 writing prompt Subpart 2: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 passage sets* • 6-11 questions per set Subpart 3: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 passage sets* • 6-11 questions per set Subpart 4: 45 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 passage set* • 6-11 questions per set • 8-16 editing items Total: 230 minutes <i>*A reading passage set could be one reading or multiple readings. Regardless of which test form a student receives, the total word count will be the same.</i>	Administered online Subpart 1: 35 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No calculator allowed • 13-18 questions Subpart 2: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 11-25 questions Subpart 3: 60 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator allowed • 11-20 questions Total: 145 minutes <i>*To measure a student's fluency with math, which means a student's ability to do math in an efficient and flexible way, TNReady includes one calculator prohibited subpart.</i>	Administered on paper Subpart 1: 75 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Total: 75 minutes	Administered online Subpart 1: 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 writing prompt Subpart 2: 45 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Subpart 3: 45 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 questions • Multiple choice and multiple select Total: 140 minutes

What types of questions will be on TNReady?

TNReady tests a deeper level of knowledge than previous tests. For example, in English language arts students will read from a passage and provide some written responses to support their answers. In math, students will solve multi-step problems, many without using a calculator, to show what they know. TNReady gives students a variety of ways to show what they know and can do.



We know that teachers use a variety of assignments like writing tasks, projects, and multiple-choice questions to measure student learning throughout the year. In a similar way, TNReady will give students a variety of ways to show what they know.

Why is there a calculator-prohibited-section?

To measure a student's fluency with math, which means a student's ability to do math in an efficient and flexible way, TNReady includes one calculator prohibited subpart.

Will my student take TNReady online?

Tennessee is phasing in online administration over multiple years to ensure both state and local technology readiness. The department is working closely with Questar, our testing vendor for TNReady, to ensure our online platform is ready for high school End-of-Course exams for math, English, and U.S. history & geography to be administered online.

Biology and chemistry exams will be administered via paper and pencil. For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, MSAA has online and paper options, and the TCAP Alternative assessment is paper and pencil only.

As the next step in our phase-in process, districts will have the choice to administer TNReady online for their students in grades 5–8. Even if schools demonstrate readiness for online spring administration, districts will still have the option to choose paper and pencil assessments for grades 5–8 students this year.

Grades 3–4 students will only take TNReady on paper this year.

How can I help my student prepare for online testing?

In higher education, nearly every job, and our modern society, we use the internet to communicate and accomplish our work. It is the way of our world. We must prepare students for their future, which requires comfort with technology. With that in mind, high schools will administer their End-of-Course exams online this year.

We must prepare students for their future, which requires comfort with technology.

To prepare your student, encourage them to begin using digital devices every day in low-stress situations. Don't wait until testing begins to help your student learn how to use a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer.

We know that some Tennessee students do not have access to a computer or the internet at home. If internet access is a challenge, we encourage you to talk with your school principal about options for allowing your student to use a computer after school hours. You could also visit a computer lab at the public library, community center, and/or place of worship.



What practice tools are available to help my student prepare for TNReady?

While the best preparation for TNReady will be strong instruction every day in the classroom, we know that parents and teachers need additional tools to prepare students for success. Questions on TNReady this year will be in a similar format to last school year and will be aligned to the standards students are learning in class every day.

Classroom Assessment Builder

This educator resource will allow teachers to build online tests from a bank of multiple item types aligned to state standards. Teachers can then use the results to adjust and inform their teaching to ensure that students achieve the best possible outcomes.

Parent Access to Practice Questions

TNReady practice questions will be available to parents online in the coming months. Continue to check TNReady.gov for more information.

Practice Tests

Teachers have access to practice tests, which provide example questions for many of the standards that will be assessed on the test through an internal system called EdTools. Practice tests are available in all tested grades and subjects. Teachers can use the practice test in class to help your student be prepared for TNReady.

What testing supports will be available to help my student understand and access the test material?

As in the past, the full range of accommodations will be available to make the test accessible for all students to participate. IEP teams will be provided guidance on how to select appropriate accommodations for this, which will be similar to last year.

For parents of students with disabilities, please visit TNReady.gov for a supplemental guide on accommodations and preparing your student for TNReady.



When will my student take TNReady?

All TNReady assessments will be administered toward the end of the year (or at the end of the semester for high school students on block schedule). All assessments will be taken in one administration window.

TNReady will be administered **between April 16 and May 4**, and districts have scheduling flexibility to minimize the impact of testing on classroom instruction and school activities. The first subpart of the English language arts assessment, which includes the writing prompt, will be administered during the first week of the three-week window. High schools on a fall block schedule will take their assessment between November 27 and December 15. Fall block students will take the test online, just like all high school students will this year.

The assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, MSAA (math and ELA) and TCAP Alternative (science and social studies), will take place over a two-month window in the spring.



Will scores be factored into student grades?



The department provides school districts with raw data from state testing. Raw data means how many questions a student answered correctly. Districts set local policies to determine how to translate these raw scores to a 100-point grading scale. If districts receive this information before the final five days of the school year, they are required to include TNReady as 15% of a student's grade for 2017–18.

However, if they receive this information less than five days before the end of the school year (or after the year is over), it is the school district's choice whether to include state test scores in students' grades. We will provide updated information on the timing of student results and family score reports at the end of the school year.

When will I know how my student scored on TNReady?



The department is planning for 2017–18 TNReady results to be available for families and schools in summer 2018.

Scores and raw data from the grades 3–8 TNReady 2016–17 state tests will be available later this fall, as the department shared last year. Students will receive full, newly redesigned family score reports, which will provide better information to parents and students and are the same to those already provided to high school students for End-of-Course exams.

How will TNReady scores help me support my student?

As students and teachers rise to new expectations with the new tests, we predict that first-year test scores for students in grades 3–8 will decline when compared to previous TCAP assessments. We expect first-year results from TNReady to set a new baseline to measure rapid progress in the years to come. As a parent, you can use the information from the test to help support your child at home and begin a discussion with your child's teacher to identify what, if any, additional support is necessary to ensure they move from grade to grade with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for success in the next school year and beyond high school.

New parent reports will show more and better information than ever before, and will be given to parents once the scoring process has been completed.

For students who took End-of-Course exams during the 2016–17 school year, their parents and teachers will receive these new reports later this summer. Each subject is broken down into categories of skills to show where a student is doing well or needs some extra help and how their results compare to that of their peers in their school, district, and in Tennessee. On the next page, you will see a sample of the parent reports for TNReady.

As a parent, you can use the information from the test to help support your child at home.

SUBJECT	PERFORMANCE LEVEL	OVERALL
ENGLISH I	LEVEL 2	291



FIRSTNAME scores within the Level 2 range on the English I End of Course (EOC) exam. This student may need assistance to be on-track for postsecondary and career readiness.

Generally, students who score at this level demonstrate they have a partial understanding of the literacy concepts and analytical skills expected of high school students.

Performance Level Comparison

Percent of students scoring at each level	School	District	State
Level 4	6%	10%	9%
Level 3	24%	32%	27%
Level 2	45%	40%	44%
Level 1	24%	18%	20%

Level 4	Mastered	Performance at this level demonstrates an extensive understanding and expert ability to apply the English I EOC knowledge and skills as defined by the Tennessee academic standards.
Level 3	On-track	Performance at this level demonstrates a comprehensive understanding and thorough ability to apply the English I EOC knowledge and skills as defined by the Tennessee academic standards.
Level 2	Approaching	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student is approaching understanding and has a partial ability to apply the English I EOC knowledge and skills as defined by the Tennessee academic standards.
Level 1	Below	Performance at this level demonstrates a minimal understanding and nominal ability to apply the English I EOC knowledge and skills as defined by the Tennessee academic standards.

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The **Sub-score Expectations** indicate how a student performed in each **Sub-score Category** compared to other students in Tennessee. Sub-scores are used to identify potential **Strengths** and **Areas for Improvement**. This is different from the overall **Performance Level**, which measures how a student performed compared to the criterion standard set by teachers and other educators in Tennessee.

ENGLISH I

Sub-score Category	Students meet expectations by...	Sub-score Expectation	Points Possible	Student Points Earned
Reading: Literature	reading and analyzing fiction, drama and poetry for grades 9-10.	Below ↓	0-8	3
Reading: Informational Text	reading and analyzing non-fiction for grades 9-10.	Meets ↔	0-8	4
Reading: Vocabulary	using context clues to determine the meaning of words and phrases in text for grades 9-10.	Exceeds ↑	0-8	7
Writing: Focus & Organization	effectively organizing writing for clarity.	Exceeds ↑	0-8	2
Writing: Development	using relevant evidence from the text to thoroughly develop a topic.	Below ↓	0-8	5
Writing: Language & Style	using precise language and literary techniques.	Meets ↔	0-8	4
Conventions	correctly using the rules of standard English.	Exceeds ↑	0-8	7
FIRSTNAME'S Total ENGLISH I EOC Raw Score = 32/56			0-56	32

LEGEND

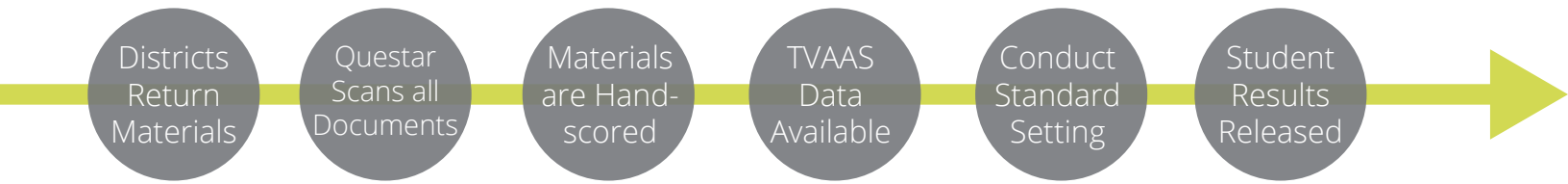
↓ **Below Expectations:** scored less than students who met overall grade level expectations. ↔ **Meets Expectations:** scored as well as students who met overall grade level expectations. ↑ **Exceeds Expectations:** scored better than students who met overall grade level expectations.

STRENGTHS	AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT	NEXT STEPS
FIRSTNAME may have a strong understanding in these areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using context clues to determine the meaning of words and phrases Including an effective introduction and conclusion in writing Using effective organizational techniques when writing Editing text for correct grammar and conventions Room for one more line Room for one more line 	FIRSTNAME may need to improve skills in these areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining the theme or central idea of grade-level literary text Writing a response appropriate to purpose and audience Using details from a text to demonstrate understanding Room for one more line Room for one more line Room for one more line 	Consider the following to increase FIRSTNAME's performance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and discuss complex text in the 9-10 grade band with others Focus on determining the meaning of unknown words using context Practice supporting ideas with evidence from both literary and informational text Reference the Parent Guide for more information Room for one more line Room for one more line

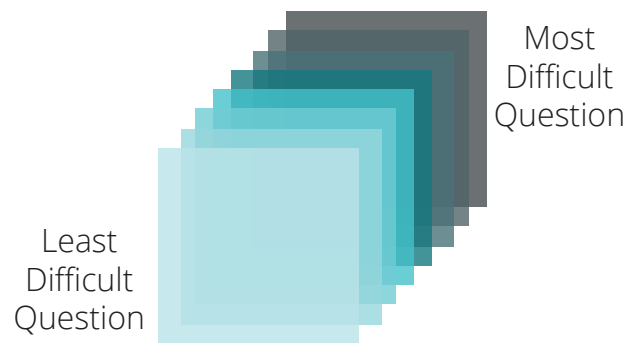
The **Family Report Guide** at www.TNReady.gov provides more detailed information to help you interpret this report. If you have further questions, please contact FIRSTNAME's teacher or principal in City Schools District at (800) 123-4567.

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How are TNReady Scores Determined?



What is standard setting?



Actual student performance determines where the questions fall from least difficult to most difficult; that's why you can only do standard setting after students take the test.

Based on broad definitions of what students should know and be able to do at each level, Tennessee educators look at each question, determining the cut off between each level of proficiency. This process is called standard setting.

What is a cut score?

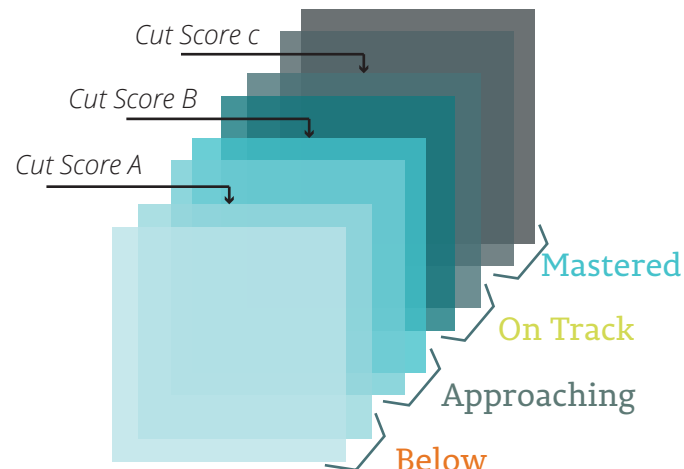
The point where two levels meet is called the cut score. Three cut scores determine four levels of performance.



What is a performance level?

The cut score is the minimum score a student must earn to be considered at a certain performance level.

Performance level is not the same as proficiency; rather, performance levels are used to determine proficiency.

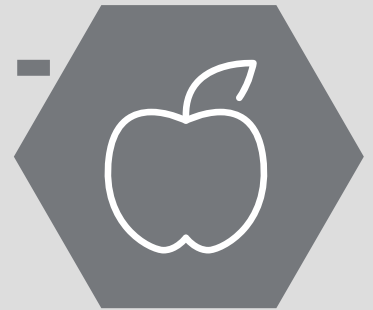


Parent Checklist for TNReady



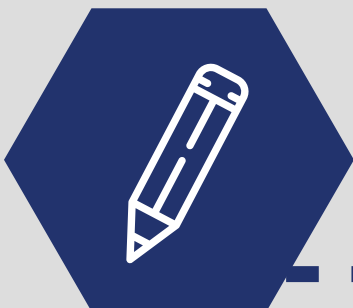
Help your child get ready to learn: ensure your child is going to school every day well rested and ready to take on new challenges.

Meet with your child's teacher: Ask about your child's strengths and areas to grow and how you can support them at home.



Talk to your child: Get feedback from them on which subjects your child feels most comfortable in and where they are most challenged.

Challenge your child: When your child is working on homework or studying for a classroom test, ask them to explain what they are learning and let them be the teacher.



Be an adult learner: Let your child see you discovering new things and overcoming challenges, whether it be learning new information or a new skill.

Glossary

Cut Scores: the minimum score a student must earn to be considered at a certain performance level

Performance Level: used to determine proficiency

Practice Test: a bank of questions that represents each standard or academic expectation that will be assessed on the actual test

Reporting: how we share details about student performance on TCAP

Standards: what we expect students to know and be able to do by the end of a grade or school year

Standard Setting: the process of Tennessee educators looking at each question and determining the cut off between each level of proficiency

TCAP: Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment program, which includes all of our state tests. TNReady is a part of TCAP.

Testing Window: the window of dates in which districts can choose to administer TNReady; students only spend a portion of the testing window actually taking the test

TNReady: our improved state tests in math, English language arts, social studies, and science in grades 3–11; they include questions that mirror what students are expected to know and be able to do in order to be on track for the next step in their educational journey



Resources

Your student's teacher is always the best resource for questions about TNReady.

The following websites are recommended for preparing for and staying up-to-date about TNReady:

Tennessee Department of Education's webpage focused on TNReady information and resources: www.TNReady.gov

Tennessee Department of Education's website section with details about academic standards for all subjects and grade levels:
www.tn.gov/education/topic/academic-standards

Tennessee Department of Education's blog site, which features teacher perspectives and inspiring stories: www.tnclassroomchronicles.org

Tennessee Department of Education's Twitter account: www.twitter.com/TNedu

Tennessee Department of Education's Facebook account:
www.facebook.com/TennesseeEducation

Please note: Some resource publishers have created materials that contain "TNReady" in the title or within the contents of their instructional materials. **The department does not endorse any of these materials as official TNReady products.**

What if I still have questions?

We know that you may still have questions about TNReady for the 2017–18 school year, and we have prepared a detailed frequently asked questions section on TNReady.gov. If you still have unanswered questions, you can submit a question on a form located at the bottom of the frequently asked questions page. Your question will be shared with us and someone at the department will provide you with an email response and any additional resources that may be helpful.