

- In addition to no longer requiring the 8th grade Explore test, a few years ago FSSD dropped one administration of our universal screeners, STAR or AimsWeb. Previously we gave this assessment four times a year but now administer it three times each school year. Additionally, we are now using current state assessment data as an initial entry point into the Honors program and have dropped the Explore test previously used for Honors.
- Teacher input is considered for TNReady scheduling. Part 1 of the ELA assessment (writing) must be submitted the first week of testing as it is hand-scored. This year, most of our schools reported that teachers wanted the other parts of TNReady to be administered as late as possible to allow for more teaching time. Although it appears that we have three weeks of testing, this is really not the case. Students have one day of testing, followed by six days of instruction before completing the other sections of TNReady. The three weeks represents the window of time set aside by the TN Department of Education (TDoE) when testing should occur; districts select specific dates within that window to complete required assessments.

Receiving scores in a timely manner:

- In 2016-17, teachers began using the newly revised ELA and Math standards. The TNReady test was also updated to reflect the revised standards. Whenever a new standardized test is administered, a process called ‘standard setting’ must occur. This process begins after testing is completed by all students. Questions are ranked from least difficult to most difficult based on actual student performance for each question. 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, a requirement for all standardized state and national tests, only occurs when a new version is rolled out. Please see page 13 of the [Parent Guide to Being TNReady](#) for a more detailed explanation.
- The standard setting process occurred in fall of 2016 for the End-of-Course (EOC) tests in Algebra and Geometry. For 2017-18, we will receive raw scores (which are used as 15% of a student’s final grade in a subject) on May 22. We do plan to use EOC scores as part of student grades for those subjects this year.
- The standard setting process occurred in the fall of 2017 for TNReady grades 3-8. Although we will begin receiving score reports over the summer this year, we will not receive them in time to include TNReady scores as part of student grades.
- We anticipate with online testing beginning next year for 5th-8th graders, we will receive initial scoring data in the spring of 2019 on a timeline similar to that of EOC this year and the results will be factored in to student grades accordingly.

Students and TNReady:

- The best test preparation for students is consistent school attendance, strong classroom instruction aligned to state standards, and support for learning in the home. However, the state has provided some specific tools to help students, teachers, and parents prepare for TNReady. The Classroom Assessment Builder

(CAB) is an online tool that allows teachers to create online tests from a bank of multiple test items aligned to state standards. This has largely been used in grades 5-8 this year but will be expanded to grades 3-4 in 2018-19. Teachers also have access to practice tests which provide example questions for many of the standards that will be tested on TNReady. Because the majority of our students will be testing using a paper/pencil format this year, FSSD has provided printed copies of the practice tests. Online versions are available to teachers on the Questar platform.

- TNReady questions are designed to assess true student understanding, not just basic memorization and test-taking skills. Just as teachers use a variety of assignments like writing tasks, projects, and multiple-choice questions, TNReady gives students an opportunity to show what they know in a variety of ways. Providing written responses, solving multi-step problems, and engaging with multiple-choice and multiple-select questions encourages students to stay engaged and focused as they take TNReady. As we move to online testing for upper grades (5-8), students will have the opportunity to engage with online tools and technology-enhanced items (i.e. drag and drop, answer elimination tool, etc.).

Teachers and TNReady:

- Each year, the TDoE releases a blueprint designed to show educators a summary of what will be assessed in each subject and grade. The blueprint outlines the major work of the grade and provides the number of items and the weight that each grade-level standard will carry on TNReady. Writing rubrics as well as a description of the various types of questions are also available. Based on these resources, FSSD teachers create pacing guides and formative assessments to be used throughout the school year. The CAB can be used to create online quizzes and practice tests are available in the spring for teachers to use as a means of familiarizing their students with the format of TNReady items.
- Teachers, school administrators, and district supervisors have opportunities for input into TNReady by applying to serve on state committees that create test items, review items for standards-aligned content, review items for bias or sensitivity, and assist with the standard setting process.
- Because TNReady is a standardized test, it is very important to preserve the integrity of the assessment to protect student results. Similar to ACT or SAT, items from the test are only released when they will no longer be used as part of the assessment. This fall, TDoE released a few items from each subject and grade level. Teachers have access to these items which are tied directly to standards that they teach this year.

The varied uses of testing results

- After receiving raw score data that can be used as a part of the student's grades if received within 5 days of the end of school, more data comes in over the summer months to drive decision making.

- TVAAS data provides a look at the growth of our students by grade and subject. Growth gives us an additional lens to see how our students performed—we not only want students to do well, we want all of them, whether they have a high or low percentage of proficiency, to show at least one year's growth. Teacher effect data is based on the growth of students from one year to the next.
- District and school data disaggregated by grade, subject, and subgroup allow us to verify that we are helping all students learn and grow, and that we making sure that those students from historically underserved populations, are growing faster in order to catch up.
- Standard analysis and school summary reports allow the district, school, and teacher to see particular strengths and challenges by sub-score category and by standard. Examples of mathematics sub-score categories are fractions, computation with whole numbers, number relationships and patterns, and geometric and measurement concepts.
- Individual Student Reports are sent home to parents and are available to teachers, administrators, and district personnel. These re-designed reports show how well the child is doing in each subskill category and how their results compare to their peers in the school, FSSD, and Tennessee.

Tips for helping your child with TNReady:

- Closely examine your child's testing schedule from his/her school. Students will be taking no more than two subtests on each day and no student will be testing more than six days.
- Familiarize yourself with the resources available to parents on the district and [state department of education](#) websites. Read the Parent Guide to Being TNReady and other resources on the [TNReady Parent Resources](#) site. Reach out to your school administrators if you have questions.
- If you have concerns about your child, now is the time to make an appointment to speak with his/her teacher so these concerns can be addressed before testing begins.
- Support your child by letting him/her know you have confidence that s/he will be able to respond to questions on TNReady, as these questions are based on what students have been learning in their classrooms. Check out the released items, blueprints, and test item types.
- Take care of the basics during testing – a peaceful night's rest, a nourishing breakfast, and a less-hectic schedule will help your child stay more relaxed and ready to focus on the individual days that s/he tests.