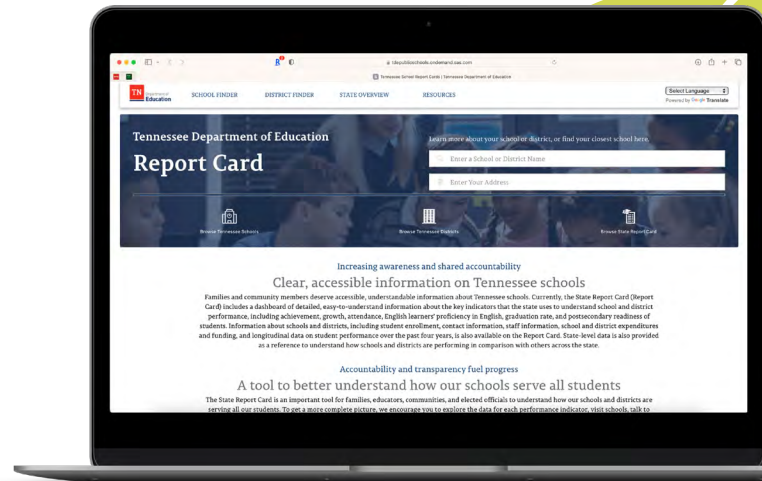


# State Report Card

## A Guide for Families

### What is the State Report Card?

The [Tennessee State Report Card](#) is an important tool released each year to help parents and families, educators, elected officials, community members, and other education stakeholders understand how Tennessee's schools and districts are serving our students and performing. The State Report Card includes a dashboard of detailed, easy-to-understand information about school performance including student letter grades, student achievement, growth, English learners' proficiency in English, graduation rate, and postsecondary readiness. Information about student enrollment, staff information, discipline, and school and district funding are also available on the State Report Card.



**This guide focuses on Tennessee's State Report Card components so that families can have a better understanding of the performance of their child's school and district.**

The chart below shows each category of information that can be found under the "Performance Metrics" tab on each school page on the State Report Card:

**Table 1:** Report Card Performance Metrics

| Performance Metrics         | What does this mean?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | K-8 Schools | High Schools |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| SCHOOL LETTER GRADES        | School Letter Grades are intended to provide a snapshot of how each school performed during the previous academic year and compare those results over time. Letter grades represent an average of 4 performance metrics (overall Achievement, overall Growth, Growth for the Highest Need Students, and College and Career Readiness—and will differ between elementary, middle, and high schools). | ✓           | ✓            |
| STATE ACHIEVEMENT RATE      | The State Achievement Rate represents how well the school is preparing students for grade-level standards on state assessments in all tested subject areas (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies for middle and high school).                                                                                                                                                                     | ✓           | ✓            |
| GROWTH                      | Growth represents how well the school is preparing students to meet expected growth in a year. This growth metric is calculated using the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) growth model.                                                                                                                                                                                             | ✓           | ✓            |
| STATE GRADUATION RATE       | State Graduation Rate represents the percentage of students who successfully finished high school with a regular high school diploma or an alternate academic diploma in four years plus a summer.                                                                                                                                                                                                  | ✗           | ✓            |
| READY GRADUATE              | The <i>Ready Graduate</i> rate represents the percent of students in the graduating cohort who are college and/or career ready before graduating from high school. The <i>Ready Graduate</i> rate reported reflects the prior year's graduating class.                                                                                                                                              | ✗           | ✓            |
| FEDERAL PERFORMANCE METRICS | Federal Performance Metrics include Federal Success Rate, Chronically Out of School, Discipline, English Language Proficiency Assessment, and Federal Graduation Rate. All of these metrics are mandated by the U.S. Department of Education, and some of them slightly differ from our State metrics. See <a href="#">Table 5</a> to learn more about these differences.                           | ✓           | ✓            |

In this guide, you will learn more about how each metric’s score is calculated, how to interpret them, and what questions you may want to ask to get a better understanding of your child’s performance.

SCHOOL LETTER GRADES

What does this mean?

School Letter Grades, much like a student’s letter grades, provide a snapshot of how your school is doing in meeting the state’s expectations for learning. However, it is also important to note that letter grades do not tell the whole story of a school’s performance. Letter grades can point to areas of strength and needed growth - for example, a school can be exemplary in one area and struggling in another. Letter grades serve as an easy-to-understand flag for parents and families to help them play an active role in supporting the success of their child and their school. It will take everyone working together to ensure that all Tennessee schools are excellent schools.

Why is this important?

Tennesseans deserve an accountability system that produces clear information about how our schools are performing so they can best engage to support their student’s education. Similarly, Tennessee schools and districts need clear information on how they will be measured during the school year.

How does a school earn the highest score of an A?

Schools will receive a score for each metric (Achievement, Growth, Growth for Highest Need Students, and College and Career Readiness), ranging from levels 1-5, and sub-indicator grades A-F. Each of those scores will be multiplied by the assigned weights (on Table 3) to generate a total score. This total score determines the school’s letter grade. An “A” letter grade, like school letter grades, is earned by scoring a total of 4.5-5.0 points. See Table 2 for the letter grade calculation range.

Table 2: Letter Grade Calculation Range

| Letter Grade | Aggregate Score Range |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| A            | 4.5 - 5.0             |
| B            | 3.5 - 4.4             |
| C            | 2.5 - 3.4             |
| D            | 1.5 - 2.4             |
| F            | 1.0 - 1.4             |

What is the weight of each metric in overall letter grade calculation?

Table 3: Letter Grade Calculation Weights

| School Letter Grade Metrics      | School Weights |        |      |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------|------|
|                                  | Elementary     | Middle | High |
| Achievement                      | 50%            | 50%    | 50%  |
| Growth                           | 40%            | 40%    | 30%  |
| Growth for Highest Need Students | 10%            | 10%    | 10%  |
| College & Career Readiness       | --             | --     | 10%  |

**Table 4:** School Letter Grades Component Definitions

| Letter Grade Component           | What does this mean?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | K-8 Schools | High Schools |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| ACHIEVEMENT                      | Achievement, or State Achievement Rate, represents how well the school is preparing students for grade-level standards on state assessments in all tested subject areas.                                                                                                  | ✓           | ✓            |
| GROWTH                           | Growth represents how well the school is preparing students to meet expected yearly growth. This is calculated using the traditional <a href="#">TVAAS</a> growth model.                                                                                                  | ✓           | ✓            |
| GROWTH FOR HIGHEST NEED STUDENTS | Growth for Highest Need Students represents how the school is equipping students who rank in the school's bottom 25% of state assessment performance to meet expected yearly <b>growth</b> . This is calculated using the traditional <a href="#">TVAAS</a> growth model. | ✓           | ✓            |
| COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS       | College and Career Readiness represents how well the school is preparing students for postsecondary opportunities and/or career success through earning credits and certificates in high school.                                                                          | ✗           | ✓            |

\*see [here](#) for the accountability protocol guide and more information on how the letter grades are calculated.

## STATE ACHIEVEMENT RATE

### What does this mean?



The State Achievement Rate represents the percentage of students who met or exceeded grade-level expectations on state assessments in all tested subjects. At each school, all students and individual student groups receive a rating on this metric. The State Achievement Rate is the same metric that is shown for "Achievement" in the letter grade calculation.

### Why is this important?



It shows the extent to which students have met grade-level expectations on all state assessments based on the Tennessee Academic Standards.

### How does a school earn the highest score of 5 for Achievement?



Schools earn an achievement score of a 5 when they earn an average of 49.5% (Elementary), 45.4% (Middle) or 40.1% (High school) of students meeting or exceeding expectations on state assessments for all tested subjects.

### What is the weight of the State Achievement Rate in overall school letter grade calculation?



Achievement is weighted at 50% for all schools.



## GROWTH

### What does this mean?



Growth represents the academic progress on all state assessments that students are making within a school compared to the average progress of all students across the state within one year. At each school, all students and individual student groups each receive a rating on this metric.

### Why is this important?



It shows how much academic progress students have made in the previous school year. Growth is an important part of understanding how effective the prior year has been in accelerating student academic achievement.

### How does a school earn the highest score of 5 for Growth?



Schools earn a growth score of a 5 when there is significant evidence that students made more growth on statewide assessments than expected using the [TVAAS](#) growth model.

### What is the weight of Growth in overall school letter grade calculation?



Growth is weighted at 40% for K-8 schools and 30% for high schools.

## GROWTH FOR HIGHEST NEED STUDENTS

### What does this mean?



Growth for Highest Need Students represents how well the school is equipping students who rank in the school's bottom 25% of the previous year's state assessment performance to meet expected growth on standardized assessments. This is calculated using the traditional TVAAS growth model. Read more about TVAAS [here](#).

### Why is this important?



This metric emphasizes the importance of schools supporting this group of highest need students and helping them to grow over the academic year. Growth is an important part of understanding how effective the prior year has been in accelerating student academic achievement.

### How does a school earn the highest score of 5 for Growth for Highest Need Students?



Schools earn a growth score of a 5 when there is significant evidence that students who are identified as the bottom 25 percent of state assessment performance the previous year made more growth on statewide assessments than expected using the [TVAAS](#) growth model.

### What is the weight of the Growth for Highest Need Students Metric in overall school letter grade calculation?



Growth for Highest Needs is weighted at 10% for all schools.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

**What does this mean?**

The College and Career Readiness (CCR) metric represents how well the students enrolled in this high school are earning credits towards post-secondary pursuits. CCR is the percentage of graduating students who achieved at least one of the following:

- ACT score of 21 or higher
- Postsecondary credit-earning score on Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate
- (IB), Cambridge, College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), Dual Credit, or Dual Enrollment
- Industry Credential (Tier III or Tier II plus one other [industry credential](#))
- Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Qualifying Score, indicating military readiness

**Why is this important?**

It shows how prepared students are once they graduate from high school to enter the workforce or pursue any type of postsecondary education.

**How does a school earn the highest score of 5 for College and Career Readiness?**

Schools receive the highest score of 5 if there is at least 65.7% of students who received credit or credentials towards a postsecondary program or career.

**What is the weight of College and Career Readiness in overall school letter grade calculation?**

CCR is weighted at 10% for high schools only.

STATE GRADUATION RATE

**What does this mean?**

The state graduation shows the percentage of students who successfully finished high school with a regular high school diploma or an alternate academic diploma (AAD) in four years plus a summer. Students with disabilities who participate in the alternate assessment can obtain an alternate academic diploma (AAD). A school's dropout rate and post-secondary enrollment are also reflected in the State Report Card under the "State Graduation Rate" tab.

**Why is this important?**

It shows how successful a school is in helping its students achieve a high school diploma on time.

**What is the weight of the State Graduation Rate in overall letter grade calculation?**

The state graduation rate is provided for informational purposes only and is not included in calculations for school letter grades.

FEDERAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

**What does this mean?**

In addition to state-level expectations for schools and districts, the federal government also requires states to report on certain indicators of school and district quality. While these metrics are not a scored part of the state report card, they are included to increase transparency. The federal performance metrics give schools a chance to see where their school is performing based on federal guidelines. Federal metrics include Federal Success Rate, Chronically Out of School, Discipline, English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA).

**Why is this important?**

The federal performance metrics show certain measurements of school performance that are not reported on the State metrics. These metrics help schools get a better picture of behavior and English language proficiency rates.

**What is the weight of the Federal Performance Metrics in overall letter grade calculation?**

Federal Performance Metrics are provided for informational purposes only and are not included in calculations for school letter grades.

**Table 5:** Federal vs. State Metrics

| <b>Federal Metric</b>                                 | <b>How is this different from the State Performance Metrics?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>State Metric</b>           | <b>How is this different from the Federal Performance Metrics?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Federal Success Rate</b>                           | The Federal Success Rate represents how a school is performing on math and ELA assessments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>State Achievement Rate</b> | The State Achievement Rate represents how a school is performing on all state assessments (ELA, math, science, and social studies for middle and high school). The State Achievement Rate is the same metric that is shown for “Achievement” in the letter grade calculation.                                                                                          |
| <b>Chronically Out of School</b>                      | Chronically Out of School measures the percent of students who miss 10% or more of instructional days of school.                                                                                                                                                                                             | N/A                           | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Discipline</b>                                     | Discipline includes in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and expulsion. It represents the percentage of students who received at least one instance of each specific discipline.                                                                                                                  | N/A                           | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)</b> | The English Language Proficiency Assessment shows English learners’ (EL) progress in becoming English proficient as measured by the WIDA ACCESS assessment. Progress is evaluated by comparing WIDA scores from the previous year with expected EL growth.                                                   | N/A                           | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Federal Graduation Rate</b>                        | The federal graduation metric shows the percentage of students who successfully finished high school with a regular high school diploma or an alternate academic diploma (AAD) in four years plus a summer. This metric only counts students who have completed Algebra II plus either Physics or Chemistry. | <b>State Graduation Rate</b>  | The state graduation rate shows the percentage of students who successfully finished high school with a regular high school diploma or an alternate academic diploma (AAD) in four years plus a summer. The State allows students with a qualifying IEP (Individualized Educational Program) to obtain credit for Algebra II, Physics, and/or Chemistry in other ways. |

Learn more about school and district accountability and federal designations on the [District and School Accountability webpage](#).

### Where can I access the State Report Card?

More information about the State Report Card can be found at [TN State Report Card](#). Parents and families can also directly access the State Report Card at [ReportCard.tnedu.gov](#)