

CHEATHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TESTING CALENDAR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR



2016-2017

CHEATHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 102 Elizabeth Street- Ashland City, TN 37015

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TNReady Grades 3-11

Why do we need state assessments and what is the purpose?

- Our state tests serve multiple objectives:
 - They provide feedback about students' academic progress and how it aligns with grade-level expectations, providing 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.
 - This builds confidence and transparency about students' readiness for college and the workforce among Tennessee universities and employers and holds us accountable to serving all students fairly.
 - Assessments help educators strengthen instruction and reflect on their practice, and allow us to highlight schools where students are excelling, so we can learn from those who are doing well. ○ State assessments also help inform decisions at the state level and help state and district leaders determine how to allocate resources, better invest in schools, and identify where we may need to offer additional support.
 - TNReady is mandated by the State Department of Education

What grades and subjects will have state assessments during the 2016-2017 school year?

• Grades 3–8:

- Students in grades 3–8 will take assessments in math, English language arts (ELA), and science.
- There will not be an operational test in social studies for grades 3–8 in 2016- 17. Rather, social studies will be field tested in grades 3–8 this year.
- Students in grade 3–8 with the most significant cognitive disabilities (about one percent of the student population) will take the MSAA for ELA and math and the TCAP Alternative assessment for social studies and science.
- Middle school students will take End of Course (EOC) exams if they are enrolled in high school courses
 - Integrated Math I

• High school:

- High school students will take state assessments for courses with End of Course exams (EOCs):
 - English I/II/III
 - Integrated Math I/II/III
 - U.S. history
 - Chemistry
 - Biology

- Students in grade 10 with the most significant cognitive disabilities (about one percent of the student population) will take the TCAP Alternative assessment for science. Similarly, students in grade 11 with the most significant cognitive disabilities (about one percent of the student population) will take the MSAA for ELA and math. 4 3.

When will state assessments take place?

- All assessments will be administered toward the end of the year. We are eliminating the Part I and Part II structure.
 - State assessments will be administered during a three-week window between April 17 and May 5. The first subpart of the ELA assessment, which includes the writing prompt, will be administered during the first week of the three-week window.
 - 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.

How will assessments be structured in the 2016-17 school year?

- While all subjects will be administered in one testing window at the end of the school year, each subject, with the exception of biology and chemistry, will be delivered in multiple subparts or sessions. This structure will allow for greater scheduling flexibility within the testing window.
 - ELA: 4 subparts
 - Math: 3 subparts
 - Science (grades 3–8): 2 subparts
 - Biology and Chemistry: 1 subpart
 - U.S. history: 3 subparts
 - Social Studies field test: 1-2 subparts
- Additionally, some students will participate in ELA and/or U.S. history field tests outside the operational testing window. The ELA field test will include one subpart featuring a writing prompt; the U.S. history field test will also include one subpart featuring a writing prompt. One-third to one-half of students will need to participate in this field test, and the group of students selected to participate will rotate each year.
- For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, testing is highly individualized to meet the needs of the student. For example, the test window is two months, and the teacher will determine how to break up the test into smaller sections during those two months to best suit each individual student.

How much time will students spend taking state assessments this year? How does this compare with the amount of time scheduled for state assessments last year?

- The total time reductions vary by grade. Please see the complete testing times chart here. • In grades 3–8, students will have tests that are 200-210 minutes shorter.
 - o As an example, for a typical third grader, the 2016-17 TCAP end of year assessments will be shorter by 210 minutes—or three hours and 30 minutes—compared to last year.
- In high school, most individual End of Course assessments have been shortened by 40-120 minutes.
 - o For a typical eleventh grader, this would mean the 2016-17 TCAP End of Course assessments will be shorter in total by 225 minutes—or three hours and 45 minutes—compared to last year.
- Some students will participate in ELA and/or U.S. history field tests outside the operational testing window. The ELA field test will include one subpart featuring a writing prompt; the U.S. history field test will also include one subpart featuring a writing prompt. Only one-third to one-half of students will need to participate in these field tests.
- For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, testing time will greatly vary, depending on student needs.

Will the test be online this year?

- Tennessee will phase in online administration over multiple years to ensure both state and local technology readiness.
- For the upcoming school year, the state assessment for grades 3–8 will be administered via paper and pencil.
- The department will work closely with Questar to provide an online option for high school End of Course exams for math, ELA, and U.S. history if the testing platform demonstrates early proof of successful online administration in schools.
- Biology and chemistry exams will be administered via paper and pencil.
- For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, MSAA has an online and paper options, and the TCAP Alternative assessment is paper and pencil only.

When will we receive scores?

- High school quick score reports will be available by the end of the school year for traditional schedules. Individual student reports will be mailed to the district in early summer.
- Since it is the first year the department will be able to score math and ELA assessments, score reports will not be available for grades 3–8 until fall 2017.

- In future years, grade 3-8 score reports will be released over the summer, similar to when high school reports will be released in 2017.

What resources are available to help me prepare my students?

- Revised assessment blueprints will be shared by the end of July.
- Updated practice tests will be available in August.
 - These practice tests will be available in an online practice platform in by early November.
- Teachers of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities can continue to utilize NCSCpartners.org or the NCSC wiki for MSAA preparation. Practice tests for both MSAA and TCAP Alternative will be available in February.

English Language Learners

What assessments are required for English Learners (ELs)?

- ELs are required to participate in any state or federal mandated assessments, including achievement assessments.
- The only exception is for a student who is in his or her first year in a U.S. school. A first-year EL may be exempt from the English language arts, social studies, and U.S. history assessments. However, the first-year EL must take the math assessment but may have the score exempt from accountability.
 - Note: This is a one-time exemption only, regardless of a student going in and out of the country multiple times.
- Testing accommodations apply for ELs who are in direct service, waived services, or considered transition during the four years following exit from the ESL program

What is the English language proficiency assessment for English Learners (ELs)?

- Our English language proficiency assessment is the WIDA ACCESS 2.0 assessment, which is a computer-based assessment for ELs in all grades except kindergarten.
 - This assessment is not a part of TCAP because its purpose is to determine proficiency levels for ELs and allows the districts to properly place ELs into the English as a Second Language program for the district.
 - Federal policy requires under Title I that all English Learners be assessed for English language proficiency.
- Kindergarten ELs also take an assessment called WIDA ACCESS, which is built around a board game.
- All WIDA assessments cover all four domains: reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- This assessment is given to ELs in the spring.

ACT

Who is required to take?

- All 11th Grade Students
 - Applicable Federal/State Law
 - Administered in accordance with T.C.A §49-6-6001(b).

What is the purpose and use?

- These exams are used to measure college readiness and HOPE scholarship eligibility.
- Administration Window
 - Optional Senior Retake: October 22, 2016
 - Statewide ACT Assessment for 11th Grade: March 21, 2017 with make-up day April 19, 2017
- **Length of Assessment**
 - English: 45 minutes
 - Math: 60 minutes
 - Reading: 35 minutes
 - Science: 35 minutes
 - Writing: 30 minutes
- **Results to Parents & Students**
 - For ACT, student level reports are provided to students approximately three to eight weeks after the administration of the assessment by ACT.
- See more at: <http://tn.gov/education/topic/testing-dates#sthash.WKgM4fQ9.dpuf>

Additional Assessments required for Cheatham County School District

EasyCBM and Text Level Assessments Grades 3-8

- **What is the Purpose?**
 - These tests are used to determine baseline reading and math levels for each student.
- **Easy CBM Administration Window**
 - Fall 2016
 - Tuesday, August 30- KSES/PES & HMS
 - Tuesday, August 30- WCES
 - Wednesday, September 1- ACES & CMS
 - Thursday, September 2- ECES/SMS
 - Friday, September 3- PVES
 - Winter 2017
 - Tuesday, January 24- PES/KSES & HMS
 - Tuesday, January 24- WCES
 - Wednesday, January 25- ACES & CMS
 - Thursday, January 26- ECES & SMS
 - Friday, January 27- PVES
 - Spring 2017
 - Monday, May 8- KSES/PES & HMS
 - Monday, May 8- WCES
 - Tuesday, May 9- ACES & CMS
 - Wednesday, May 10- ECES & SMS
 - Thursday, May 11- PVES
- **Length of Assessment**
 - Reading approximately 5 minutes
 - Math approximately 3 minutes
- **Results to Parents & Students**
 - Results will be available on request
- **Text Level Assessment Administration Window**
 - Fall 2016
 - August 8-September 9
 - Winter 2016/2017
 - December 12-January 27
 - Spring 2017
 - May 12-TBD