

What families and students should know about TNReady score results

This fall, high school teachers, students, and families will receive results from last spring's TNReady End of Course exams. Statewide, scores have dropped as we have set higher expectations for all students—but that is not cause for alarm. Instead, the results help us understand better how to support students' growth toward readiness for opportunities after high school graduation.

This is a reset moment.

State tests are just one measure of a child's readiness, but they give us unique feedback. This is a chance for educators, families, and students to talk about how to support our students' growth toward their long-term goals, make sure they are ready for each step of the way, and take early action to help them get back on track. With this new baseline, we are setting a new high bar that our students and teachers have been working toward for several years. Our hope is this benchmark will provide our educators and students with stability from which they can grow for years to come.



Students are learning and growing.



Test scores are expected to dip when we set higher expectations. This does not mean your child is learning less or that our teachers are not working hard every day; it means we have a fuller picture about how our high school students are progressing based on what colleges and employers expect. On TNReady, students are being asked to do more critical thinking, including solving problems without a calculator, and there are fewer multiple-choice questions. Re-assure your student that they are capable of doing the hard work needed to succeed and that our teachers are helping them get there. As our students gain the skills and knowledge to meet those expectations, performance on TNReady will also improve.

We've been here before.

In 2010, our TCAP test was improved to reflect the higher standards we had adopted a couple of years earlier. When that happened, scores again dipped initially—and then improved over time. Because we raised expectations, in addition to being more prepared for colleges and careers, Tennessee students' achievement soared on national exams, making Tennessee the fastest improving state in the country. Tennessee's teachers and students have a growth mindset, and we know that will continue from this new baseline.

