

Key Messages on the 2020-21 State Report Card

Directors and district communications officers are welcome to use the following messages in their district communications to explain the components of the 2020-21 Report Card with students and families.

- The State Report Card is an important tool for families, educators, elected officials and stakeholders, and communities to understand how schools and districts are serving students—and where they can improve to accelerate student achievement. With this knowledge, we can continue to build on our state’s progress to ensure that every Tennessee student has the opportunity for success.
- In March 2020, the U.S. Department of Education [waived](#) federal assessment and accountability requirements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures. In January 2021, the Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation to ensure a strong statewide administration of [Tennessee Comprehensive Achievement Program](#) (TCAP) assessments in spring 2021 to both generate reliable data on how Tennessee students were performing and inform strategies to help support academic success during the pandemic.
- Because all Tennessee school districts met the requirement in [Public Chapter 2 \(PC2\)](#) to achieve an 80% rate of student participation in TCAP this spring, some assessment data is neither publicly available this year nor included in accountability calculations such as letter grades or other summative ratings. Other information about schools and districts will still be made available this year on the Report Card as well as the department’s data downloads webpage.
- On this year’s State Report Card, the department has chosen to highlight the strong student participation rates for the 2021 Spring TCAP assessment and assign districts and schools the letter “H” to signify that they were held harmless.
- At both district and school-levels, the State Report Card presents general information, enrollment, Performance Indicators and Other Indicators.
 - General information about a school or district can be found under the “About” tab.
 - At the school level, general information includes the following and may be found under the “About” tab:
 - Letter Grade: Letter grades assigned at the overall and individual metric level based on prior year performance. This year, all districts and schools will see “H” in place of letter grades to indicate that they will be held harmless in alignment with PC2.
 - Designation: This year, the report card will identify schools that have received a federal designation of Targeted Support and Improvement or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement, or state Priority and Reward designations. Please see [here](#) for additional PC2 impacts on designation displays.
 - Enrollment: Enrollment data is available at both the school and district level and is accessible under the “School Information” or “District Information” tab.
 - Performance Indicators group information into six main categories that look at different aspects of student success. The six categories are as follows:
 - **Academic Achievement:** Whether students are performing at or above grade level or whether the school improved from year to year.
 - **Student Academic Growth:** Whether students are making progress from year to year.

- **Chronically Out of School:** Whether students are absent more than 10% of the year.
- **Progress on English Language Proficiency:** Whether English learners are making progress in their understanding of the English language.
- **Ready Graduate:** Whether students are prepared for postsecondary education or career paths after they leave high school. *Note: This information is lagged by one year. In other words, Ready Graduate information reflects the performance of the graduating class of 2020.*
- **Graduation Rate:** Whether students are graduating from high school on time.
- Other Indicators include the following:
 - **Staffing:** Whether schools or districts are retaining staff at high rates from year to year, as well as the number of teachers, leaders, and support personnel.
 - **Finance:** Whether total expenditures are increasing or decreasing over time, as well as per-pupil expenditures and funding source information.
- **Visit the 2020-21 State Report Card at reportcard.tnedu.gov/.** For additional data on schools and districts, families and community members can visit the [Data Downloads page](#),