

Transparent Reporting to Build Trust

School Letter Grades provide useful and meaningful insights to parents and policymakers

Overview

Tennessee utilizes an A-F letter grade system for schools, calculated by student achievement, growth, a subgroup growth for the lowest-performing 25% of students from the year prior, and, for high schools, a college & career readiness score.

Why?

Having a statewide objective metric, providing annual, transparent reporting about the outcomes of all public schools allows lawmakers and stakeholders to have the data needed to support students and make informed decisions.

Takeaways

01 School letter grades provide families with in-depth data about our public schools in a simple, digestible format, helping to inform parental choices in their children's education.

02 This accountability tool depends on numerous data inputs from student assessments and academic performance. The grades are not punitive but rather keep leaders informed on where key improvements can be made.

03 Transparency in our public institutions is critical, with schools being no exception. The availability of this data in a published, interactive format is essential to building and maintaining public trust.

<i>Measure</i>	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
<i>Achievement</i>	50%	50%	50%
<i>Growth</i>	40%	40%	30%
<i>Growth of lowest 25% of students</i>	10%	10%	10%
<i>College and career readiness</i>			10%

School letter grades demystified:

Achievement is measured as the proficiency success rate on TCAP and End of Course exams, including all tested subjects—though subjects such as ELA and math are weighted more heavily.

Growth is measured utilizing student TVAAS data across all tested subjects and students, and the subgroup growth score gives additional weight to growth for those students who fell within the bottom 25% of the prior year's TCAP, demonstrating how well schools serve students in need of additional support.

High schools also generate a 10% weight for college and career readiness, as measured by the percentage of the school's graduating cohort with one college and career indicator:

- ACT score of 21 or above
- AP, IB, Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment credit
- Industry Credential, or
- ASVAB qualifying score

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