

Overview of Testing in Tennessee

Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) has been the state's testing program since 1988, and it includes TCAP assessments in English language arts, math, science and social studies, as well as alternate assessment for students with special needs.

TCAP for Grades 3–8

Each subject-area test is divided into multiple subparts and will be administered during one testing window at the end of the school year.

English language arts (4 subparts) will assess the Tennessee Academic Standards through literary and Informational texts requiring students to demonstrate the ability to read closely, analyze text, answer text-dependent questions, provide a written response to a prompt, and demonstrate command of the English language.

Mathematics (3 subparts) will consist of both calculator permitted and calculator prohibited subparts. It assesses the Tennessee Academic Standards requiring students to demonstrate a deep conceptual understanding of mathematics, number sense, fluency, problem solving and an understanding of the grade-level horizontal coherence embedded within the standards.

Science (1 subpart in grades 3-8) will assess the current Tennessee Academic Standards requiring students to demonstrate a deep conceptual understanding of scientific concepts in Life Science, Earth and Space Science and Physical Science. Please note science will be a field test in the 2018-19 school year. There are no score reports available for individual students.

Social studies (2 subparts in grades 6-8) will assess the current Tennessee Academic Standards for social studies requiring students to demonstrate historical awareness, geographical understanding and the ability to analyze primary source documents.

Required: Yes

Federal and State Law:

Administered in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 and T.C.A. § 49-1-602 pertaining to district and school accountability. Modified assessments in Braille and large print are also provided in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1990.

Purpose & Use:

The TCAP tests are designed to assess true student understanding and not just basic memorization and test-taking skills. TCAP measures student understanding of our state standards.

Results to Districts:

Raw data is provided to districts at the very end of school year. This information may be used to help calculate final grades for report cards. State law requires TCAP scores be included as a percentage of a student's grade in grades 3-8. Districts do have the flexibility, as provided in state law, to exclude TCAP data from student grades if the data is not available at least five instructional days before the last day for students.

Results to Parents & Students:

Score reports from the 2025-26 school year for grades 3-8 will be provided to districts in summer 2026 to distribute to parents.

TCAP End-of-Course Assessments

Each subject-area test is divided into multiple subparts and will be administered during one testing window at the end of the course.

English I and English II (4 subparts) assess the Tennessee Academic Standards through literary and informational texts requiring students to demonstrate the ability to read closely, analyze text, answer text-dependent questions, provide a written response to a prompt, and demonstrate command of the English language.

Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Integrated Math I, Integrated Math II and Integrated Math III (3 subparts) will consist of both calculator permitted and calculator prohibited subparts. Each assesses the Tennessee Academic Standards requiring students to demonstrate a deep conceptual understanding of mathematics, fluency, problem solving, and an understanding of the grade-level horizontal coherence embedded within the standards.

Biology will assess current Tennessee Academic Standards requiring students to demonstrate a deep understanding of scientific inquiry, engineering and technology as related to the scientific concepts in the course.

U.S. History and Geography (2 subparts) will consist of multiple choice and multiple select items. Students will be assessed on the current Tennessee Academic Standards and be required to demonstrate a deep understanding of civics, economics, geography, and Tennessee connections within the context of U.S. History.

Required: Yes

Federal and State Law:

Administered in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 and T.C.A. § 49-1-602 pertaining to district and school accountability. Modified assessments in Braille and large print are also provided in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1990.

Purpose & Use:

The TCAP tests are designed to assess true student understanding and not just basic memorization and test-taking skills. TCAP measures student understanding of our state standards. TCAP EOC assessments are given to help measure how much a student grows academically in a particular content area.

Results to Districts:

Raw data is provided to districts at the very end of school year (districts will receive fall block data at the very end of the first semester). This information may be used to help calculate final grades for report cards. State board policy requires TCAP scores be included as a percentage of a high school student's end-of-course grades. Districts do have the flexibility, as provided in policy, to exclude TCAP data from student grades if the data is not available at least five instructional days before the last day for students.

Results to Parents & Students:

Score reports from Spring 2026 for End of Course will be provided to districts in summer 2026 to distribute to parents.



Marion County Schools

Established in 1910

2025-2026 TCAP Testing Schedule Grades 3-8

Week 1				
Monday April 13	Tuesday April 14	Wednesday April 15	Thursday April 16	Friday April 17
ELA Part 1	ELA Part 2	ELA Part 3	ELA Part 4	Science Part 1
	Math Part 1	Math Part 2	Math Part 3	Science Part 2

Week 2				
Monday April 20	Tuesday April 21	Wednesday April 22	Thursday April 23	Friday April 24
Social Studies Part 1	Makeups	Makeups	Makeups	Makeups
Social Studies Part 2				

*3rd-5th Grades do not test SS.

2025-2026 High School EOC Testing Schedule

Senior ACT Retake: October 28th, 2025

Fall EOC Window: December 1st-18th, 2025

Junior ACT Test Date: March 10th, 2026

Spring EOC Testing Schedule:

Date:	Test:	Subpart:	Time:	Schedule Example:
April 13, 2026	English I, English II	1	85 minutes **17 min	8:30-9:55
April 14, 2026	English I, English II	2	75 minutes **15 min	8:30-9:45
April 15, 2026	English I, English II	3	70 minutes **14 min	8:30-9:40
April 16, 2026	US History	1	45 minutes **9 min	8:30-9:15
April 16, 2026	US History	2	45 minutes **9 min	9:25-10:10
April 16, 2026	Biology	1	75 minutes **15 min	8:30-9:45
April 17, 2025	1* Make UP Day			
April 20, 2026	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	1 (No calculator)	40 minutes *8 min	8:30-9:10
April 20, 2026	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	2	55 minutes **11 min	9:20-10:15
April 21, 2026	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	3	45 minutes **9 min	8:30-9:15
April 23, 2026	2nd Make UP Day			

**If requested by a parent or student, a test administrator may allow a student additional 20% (calculated above) of testing time per subpart, to ensure students are able to finish. The original times posted above represent testing time appropriate for 95% of students. TAs may add the additional time listed as requested while adhering to all test security measures and test procedures. <https://publications.tnsfiles.com/acts/112/pub/pc0970.pdf>

*If students do 2 test at same time, 2nd test is done on make-up day.

Additional Assessments Dates			
Assessment Name	Administration	Administration Window	Who is Assessed?
ACT*	Fall 2025 Senior Retake	First window: September 30, October 1-3, & 6-10 Second window: October 14-17 & 20-24 Third Window: October 28-31, November 3-7	All currently enrolled 12th grade students.
ACT*	Spring 2026 Junior Testing	First window: March 10-13 & 16-20 Second window: March 24-27 & 30-31, April 1-3 Third window: April 7-10 & 13-17	All currently enrolled 11th grade students.
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Spring 2026	January 27 - March 27, 2026	Students enrolled in selected schools and subjects.
English Learners Assessment (ELPA21)	Spring 2026	February 2, March 27, 2026	All current English Language Learners coded as an L or W in SIS

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

- **What it is:** A nationally representative and continuing assessment of student performance in various academic subjects, including reading, mathematics, science, and civics.
- **Purpose:** To provide a consistent, comparable measure of student achievement in public and private schools across the U.S.. Results can be used to compare student achievement at the state and national levels and track trends over time.
- **How it works:** NAEP randomly samples students from a representative sample of schools across states and the nation. Individual student or school results are not provided.
- **Who takes it:** NAEP randomly samples students from randomly selected schools within the district. Those schools are notified by the district, following which the school notifies the parents.

NAEP score reports are released approximately six months after the administration of mandatory reading and math assessments for grades 4 and 8, and about one year after administration for other assessments. For specific examples, reports for assessments conducted in the winter (January-March) are often released in the following fall or spring of the next year.

ELPA21

The ELPA21 assessment is a standardized online system for English language learners (ELLs) that measures proficiency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. It includes a summative assessment administered annually to track progress and a dynamic screener to identify students needing language support services.

- **Purpose:** To measure English language proficiency and growth for K–12 students, helping them prepare for college and career readiness.
- **Administration:** The summative assessment is typically administered online, with accommodations available for eligible students. Eligible students are those who have tested into the ESL program and require daily services. Once a student provides scores high enough to test out, they no longer are required to take ELPA21.

ELPA21 scores are received in late May to early June digitally followed by individual student reports being mailed to the LEA. Parents and students receive their scores and score reports upon return to school in August.