

Grainger County Schools

Teach. Learn. Succeed

MEDIA RELEASE

Grainger County Schools received 3rd grade TCAP information from the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) on May 19, 2023. Principals and teachers at our elementary schools notified parents and families on Monday, May 22, of their child's score and performance level. TDOE has established four categories of performance: Exceeded, Met, Approaching or Below Expectations for TCAP.

This year our TCAP scores for 3rd grade English/Language Arts (ELA) reflect the highest percentage of Grainger County students categorized as proficient by the TDOE since more rigorous and demanding standards were established in 2017.

Our system is proud to share that for 2023 school year, **46.2%** of Grainger County 3rd grade students scored in the **Met or Exceeded** categories and are considered **proficient** by TDOE on the (ELA) TCAP test. This is a **15.3%** increase in 3rd grade proficiency from the previous school year in our system. In comparison, the state of Tennessee has an overall proficiency rate this year of 40% for the ELA portion of the TCAP test. This is an increase of 4.3% from the previous school year for the state.

Grainger County School District ranks 31st out of 142 systems in the state for **proficiency** for the 22-23 school year, and 12th in the state for **rate of improvement** based on our increase of percentage of students proficient this year when compared to last year's scores.

For many of our students that scored in the approaching category, their path to promotion to 4th grade will only require parents to apply for waiver based on score they received on a universal screener during the school year that reflects a reading score that TDOE considers adequate reading ability for promotion. For other approaching students, their path to 4th grade will include the option of attending summer learning camp OR participation in tutoring during their 4th grade year. Students scoring in the Below category have a path to promotion by attending **both** summer learning camp and required participation in tutoring while in 4th grade next year. Students that have been previously retained in grades K-3,

have a disability or suspected disability that impacts reading, or that are English learners with two years of instruction or less are exempt from 3rd grade retention. All 3rd graders have a pathway to promotion to 4th grade under the state law that became effective this year.

In Grainger County, we anticipate that 25 of our third-grade students (12.6%) will be required to include summer learning camp AND/OR participate in 4th grade tutoring in their path to promotion to 4th grade. We had 199 students take the 3rd grade TCAP this year.

Our teachers have continued to work hard this year to provide our students with access to grade level standards established by TDOE. This was our third year of implementation of high-quality instructional materials that are aligned to state standards and state assessments for ELA.

Grainger County expanded our participation with TN ALL Corps and use of tutors this year to support our third-grade students. Ten retired teachers were hired and began working with the students in October and continued through May. Many classroom teachers also tutored groups of students during their planning time. Students attended tutoring sessions two or three times a week for 30 to 45 minutes. During the sessions, students worked on a specific standard or skill that they had not mastered.

Our system also utilized an online platform designed to support every learner on their path toward grade level success. By connecting to actionable, intuitive data provided by the platform, teachers know where to focus based on identified student needs and students become more capable and engaged. Classroom teachers and students used the information to plan instruction to meet the needs of students.

These initiatives are part of our system wide plan to increase student ownership of their learning. We've focused on what students are doing in the classrooms and making sure they know what is expected of them—and why it matters. We are proud of the accomplishments of our students, teachers, and leaders.

Mark Briscoe, Director of Schools

May 26, 2023