



Accountability

Overview


for Charter Schools

Bill Number	Senate Bill 7001/House Bill 7003
Familiar Name	Accountability Bill
Purpose	To ensure that schools, teachers, principals, and students of LEAs and charter schools are not penalized for student assessments administered in the 2020-21 school year, and that assessments are used only for improving scores/grades.

What are the key provisions of this legislation?

Teacher and Principal Evaluations

- If a teacher's or principal's student growth data reflects an achievement level of "at expectations," "above expectations" or "significantly above expectations," then that growth data shall comprise the full 50% student achievement data portion of the teacher's or principal's evaluation, if it results in a higher level of overall effectiveness score ("LOE," referred to in the legislation as the "final evaluation score") for the teacher or principal.
- If a teacher's student growth data reflects an achievement level of "above expectations" or "significantly above expectations," then that growth data may, at the discretion of the LEA or charter school, and upon request of the teacher, comprise 100% of the teacher's final evaluation score. If an LEA or charter school implements this provision, it must do so for all qualifying teachers.
- A teacher's most recent year's student growth data shall comprise the full 35% student growth portion of the teacher's evaluation if it results in a higher final evaluation score for the teacher.
- Student performance on assessments of readiness for post-secondary education (including the ACT) administered in the 2020-21 school year must be excluded from the evaluation of a school principal, unless the principal and evaluator mutually agree to include these measures and they result in a higher final evaluation score for the principal.
- For the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 school years, student growth evaluation composites generated by assessments



conducted in 2020-21 must be excluded from the student growth measure of a teacher's evaluation unless it results in a higher final evaluation score for the teacher.

- The State shall not require teachers in non-tested grades and subjects to be evaluated using an alternative growth model for 2019-20 or 2020-21. However, an LEA or charter school may choose to do so, in which case it must notify the department by **March 1, 2021**. Data generated from the alternative growth model shall not comprise the student growth portion of a teacher's evaluation unless it results in a higher final evaluation score for the teacher.
- The State shall not require pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers to be evaluated using the pre-k/kindergarten growth portfolio model or an approved alternative measure for 2019-20 or 2020-21. However, an LEA or charter school may choose to do so, in which case it must notify the department by **March 1, 2021**. Data generated shall not comprise the student growth portion of a teacher's evaluation unless it results in a higher final evaluation score for the teacher.
- Teachers eligible for tenure who do not have evaluations during the last 2 years of their probationary period due to cancellation of TCAP tests as a result of the pandemic may use the most recent 2 years of available evaluation scores achieved during the probationary period.

Impact: Educators will be able to select the LOE score that most benefits them if multiple LOE options are available OR they may elect to nullify the LOE.

Additional Supporting Documentation: [Teacher Evaluation Guidance](#); [Teacher Evaluation FAQs](#)

Student Grades

- Each local board of education may choose the percentage of a student's final grade, ranging from 0% to 25%, that will be determined by TCAP scores administered to students in grades 3-12 in the 2020-21 school year.

School Performance

- If 80% or more of an LEA's or charter school's students enrolled in grades 3-12 participate in TCAP tests administered in the 2020-21 school year, then student performance and student growth data generated from those TCAP tests shall not be used to:
 - assign a letter grade to a school;
 - identify a school as a priority school; or

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- assign a school to the Achievement School District.

This is referred to as the “hold harmless clause”. Note that students who have a documented medical exemption will not be included in the calculation of the participation rate. The Commissioner of Education may grant a waiver to an LEA or charter school of the 80% participation requirement.

- The department shall not issue letter grades or other ratings for schools that are held harmless or receive a waiver in the state report card for the 2020-21 school year, but will provide student performance and growth data to LEAs.
- Student performance and student growth data generated from TCAP tests administered in the 2020-21 school year may be used to determine priority exit status for priority schools.
- Student performance on assessments of readiness for post-secondary education administered in the 2020-21 school year must be excluded from the performance goals and measures required for schools and LEAs, unless including these measures result in a higher performance designation for the school or LEA.

Additional Supporting Documentation: [District and School Accountability Hold Harmless FAQs](#)

What does this legislation require charter schools to do?

1. Revise the school’s systems, policies and procedures for evaluating teachers and principals in compliance with these provisions, ensuring that, if used, student growth and performance data will only result in a higher evaluation score for the teacher or principal.
2. Determine whether student growth data reflecting an achievement level of “above expectations” or “significantly above expectations” will comprise 100% of a teacher’s final evaluation score. If the school determines that it will comprise 100%, (a) inform teachers that they must request this percentage, and (b) approve all qualifying teachers that submit a request.
3. Determine whether the school will be evaluating either (a) teachers in non-tested grades or subjects using an alternative growth model or (b) pre-kindergarten or kindergarten teachers using the growth portfolio model or an approved alternative. If the school decides to evaluate either category, the school must notify the department by **March 1, 2021** by completing this survey: [Evaluation Opt-In Survey](#).
4. Facilitate discussions between principals and their evaluators regarding the inclusion of post-secondary readiness assessments in principal evaluations.



5. Ensure that at least 80% of the school's students enrolled in grades 3-12 take the TCAP in school year 2020-21. Ensure that students who are prevented from testing due to a medical issue receive and complete a [Medical Exemption Form](#).
6. If at least 80% of the school's students are unable to participate in testing, seek a waiver from the Commissioner of Education.
7. Contact the school's LEA to learn the percentage of a student's final grade that will be determined by TCAP scores.
8. Communicate these new policies and procedures to teachers, principals, families and students.

For more information, visit the [2020-21 Special Session Legislation Webpage](#).

For questions, please email charter.schools@tn.gov.