



Accountability

Summary of New Accountability Hold Harmless Law *for Teachers*

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in disruptions and challenges for students and teachers throughout the state. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to support students throughout the pandemic, and it is critical to assess our students so that we can provide targeted resources and supports to students and teachers. At the same time, this has been a year like no other, and common-sense flexibilities are needed to reduce any negative accountability consequences from state testing.

On January 21, 2021 the Tennessee state legislature took action to ensure there would be no negative accountability consequences for teachers, students, or schools from 2020-21 TCAP testing results.

- **Student growth composites:** Excludes student growth data generated by the 2020-2021 TCAP assessments from a teacher’s evaluation, unless such inclusion results in a higher overall higher final evaluation score for you, the teacher.
- **Alternative growth model evaluations for teachers in non-tested grades and subjects, and pre-K and kindergarten portfolio/portfolio alternatives:** The state shall not require teachers in untested grades or subjects to be evaluated using alternative growth models or the pre-k and kindergarten portfolio or portfolio alternatives. If district decides to evaluate teachers in non-tested grades and subjects, the evaluations shall not be used in a teacher’s final evaluation, unless such use results in a higher final evaluation score for you, the teacher.
- **Incorporation of TCAP scores in student grades:** For the 2020-2021 school year, each school district may choose to lower the percentage to 0% (and no higher than 25%) that scores from the TCAP assessments shall count on students’ final grades.
- **School-level accountability:** Student performance and growth data generated by TCAP assessments administered in the 2020-2021 school year shall not be used to assign a letter grade to your school, to identify a school as a priority school, or to place a school in the achievement school district, so long as your district administers assessments to at least 80% of eligible students or receives a waiver from the Commissioner of Education.