Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Information for 2014-15

At the end of the recent legislative session, action was taken that creates some changes in the assessment plan for the 2014-15 school year. This document includes information about the assessment components for the coming school year. Please submit questions via Contact Support on EdTools or via email to TNed.assessment@tn.gov.

This document outlines TCAP information for the 2014-15 school year. The following pages contain more detail on each of the following sections:

- TCAP Achievement and End of Course Tests
- TCAP Writing Assessment
- Other required tests
- K-2
- Special Populations
- Other Assessment Resources

Summary:
- During the 2014-15 school year, the required TCAP will include Achievement and End of Course exams in Reading language arts (RLA), math, and science as well as writing in all grades 3-11.
- The TCAP Mathematics and Reading Language Arts Achievement and End of Course exams will reflect the design of the 2013-14 tests. Items have been designed based on Tennessee Diploma Project State Performance Indicators (SPIs) and narrowed to reflect only content that is covered in Common Core State Standards (CCSS).
- The TCAP Writing Assessment will be administered online via the MIST platform in grades 3-11 and will reflect the general design of the February 2014 Writing Assessment. More information and details of the design will be shared later this summer.
- There will be a field test for new social studies/US History tests based on the standards approved by the State Board of Education last year. These standards go into effect during the 2014-15 school year. The field test will be statewide and will be administered online.
- The K-2 assessment (formerly known as SAT-10) will continue to be an option for districts for the 2014-15 school year.
- There will be no formal administration of the Constructed Response Assessment (CRA) in math, but districts are encouraged to use the tasks that have been developed and released to continue to assess the depth and rigor of the new state standards.
- During the next six months, the Central Procurement Office will conduct a competitive bid process for new math and Reading language arts assessments that will replace the math and Reading/English language arts TCAP Achievement and End of Course assessments. The new assessments will be aligned to CCSS and field-tested. Information about this test will be communicated to districts by January 2015 and it will be fully operational for the 2015-16 school year.
TCAP ACHIEVEMENT AND END OF COURSE

- Per legislation passed by the General Assembly, TCAP Achievement tests will continue to be used as the state’s assessments for math and Reading language arts in grades 3-8, as well as in high school End of Course subjects.
- Windows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Language Arts, Math, and Science</td>
<td>April 27-May 8, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies, US History Field Test</td>
<td>April 13-May 8, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(extended window due to online administration)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Course/Gateway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>December 1-18, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>April 27-May 12, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>July 6-24, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Projected data return timeline from the **Fall 2014** administration:
  - Quick Scores are expected to be delivered in December/January.
  - Individual Profile Reports (IPRs) for tested End of Course subjects will be posted to PearsonAccess by mid-February 2015 and distributed to districts shortly after that.
  - Summary reports will be posted to PearsonAccess in late February 2015.
  - US History will not be tested during the Fall 2014 administration.
  - Gateway results will be available as students are tested in December 2014.

- Projected data return timeline from the **Spring 2015** administration:
  - Quick Scores are expected to be delivered in May.
  - Individual Profile Reports (IPRs) for Achievement Reading language arts, math, and science and for End of Course English I, II, III, Algebra I, II, Biology, and Chemistry assessments will be posted to PearsonAccess by mid-June 2015 and distributed to districts shortly after that.
  - System/School Summary Reports for Achievement Reading language arts, math, and science and for End of Course English I, II, III, Algebra I, II, Biology, and Chemistry assessments will be posted to PearsonAccess by late-June to early July 2015.
  - No IPRs or System/School Summary Reports will be available for Social Studies/US History due to being field tested in Spring 2015.
  - Gateway results will be available as students are tested in May 2015

- Projected data return timeline from the **Summer 2015** administration:
  - Quick Scores are expected to be delivered in August.
  - Individual Profile Reports (IPRs) for tested End of Course subjects will be posted to PearsonAccess by mid-September 2015 and distributed to districts shortly after that.
  - System/School Summary Reports for tested End of Course subjects will be posted to PearsonAccess by late September to early October 2015.
  - US History will not be testing during the Summer 2015 administration.
  - Gateway results will be available as students are tested in July 2015.
**Reading/ English Language Arts**

- Tests will be administered in Reading language arts (ELA) for grades 3-8, as well as End of Course for English I, II, and III.
- The design will mirror the design of the 2013-14 tests.
- SPI information is available here for Achievement and End of Course.
- A list of SPIs that have been and will continue to be dropped from ELA assessments are available here. The list has not changed and is exactly the same list used in 2013-14.
- All Achievement RLA and EOC tests will be continue to be administered via paper and pencil.
- Testing time information is available here.
- Practice tests for Achievement and EOC tests in Reading language arts and mathematics are available in three formats – Electronic Practice Assessment Tests (ePATs) available on PearsonAccess (www.pearsonaccess.com), PDF available on TDOE’s website, and printed hardcopy test books available for school/district purchase.
  - How to access ePATs from PearsonAccess:
    - Go to www.pearsonaccess.com
    - Select Tennessee from the dropdown box
    - Click on the Support tab
    - Under Resource Categories select ePATs
    - Under Resources and View By select the radio button for the desired ePAT assessment
    - Select Practice Test, Item Sampler, or Teacher Guide from the tabs shown
    - Scroll down and select the desired option.
  - How to access PDF versions of the practice tests and item samplers:
    - Go to this website: http://www.state.tn.us/education/assessment/index.shtml
    - Under Resources select Practice Tests and Item Samplers.
    - Select the assessment.
    - Select the grade or content area.
    - Select the practice test or item sampler you wish to view.
  - School/district purchase of printed hardcopy practice tests
    - Practice tests may be ordered from the EdTools website during the order/entry window for 2014-15 materials.
    - Schools/districts will be required to purchase these materials at their own expense.
    - TDOE will remit an invoice to the school/district. Payment must be received by the TDOE prior to shipment of any practice materials.
    - Pearson will only ship purchased practice materials to district offices.

**Mathematics**

- Tests will be administered in mathematics for grades 3-8, as well as End of Course for Algebra I and II. Pursuant to the State Board policy on high schools, students enrolled in Core Math I, II, and III will not be required to take an End of Course assessment as there is not an End of Course assessment explicitly tied to the approved standards for the courses. For more information click here.
- The design will mirror the design of the 2013-14 tests.
- SPI information is available here for Achievement and End of Course.
• A list of SPIs that have been and will continue to be dropped from mathematics assessments are available here. The list has not changed and is exactly the same list used in 2013-14.
• All Achievement mathematics and EOC tests will be continue to be administered via paper and pencil.
• The calculator policy will remain the same as the 2013-14 tests.
• Testing time information is available here.
• To assess the fluency expectations of the new math standards, a timed section that includes grade-level appropriate items will be included in the grades 3-6 Math Achievement test. Calculator use will not be permitted on these items. This section is expected to last roughly 10-15 minutes. Student results for this section will be available but will not be factored into their final TCAP score.

Social Studies

• The new social studies standards, which were passed by the State Board of Education in July 2013, will go into effect as planned during the 2014-15 school year. They are available here. As previously communicated, there will not be TCAP Achievement or End of Course assessments in social studies/US History during the 2014-15 school year.
• There will be a TCAP field test in 2014-15 that will be administered online as the operational social studies/US History assessments in 2015-16 will be administered online. Operational social studies/US History testing will resume in the 2015-16 school year. Results from the field test will be used to inform and improve the new operational assessments, and will not be shared with districts.
• More information will be shared about the design of the new social studies/US History assessments by Aug. 1, 2014.

Science

• TCAP Science assessments will continue during the 2014-15 school year in grades 3-8, as well as End of Course for Biology I and Chemistry.
• The State Board of Education recently formed a committee to evaluate the current science standards in Tennessee and proposed a direction for future standards. This committee concluded the first phase of work and directed the department to propose a set of revised Tennessee standards for science education. If adopted, new Tennessee science standards would go into effect during the 2016-17 school year.
• No information is currently available about development of new assessments, but it will be shared once a direction is determined.

Accommodations

• The Read Aloud accommodation is intended to provide access to text for students with a visual impairment, including blindness, and those students with a specific skills deficit that severely limits or prevents them from decoding text at any level of difficulty as determined by a diagnostic tool or instrument that was administered at the school level. Students with disabilities who are simply having difficulty reading text and/or are reading below grade-level should not need the Read Aloud accommodation to access text.
• Additional Considerations for IEP Teams or 504 Teams for use of Read Aloud:
In making decisions whether to provide the student with this accommodation, IEP and 504 teams are instructed to consider whether the student has either:

- Blindness or a visual impairment and has not learned, or is unable to use, braille
- Student has a specific skills deficit in the area of reading decoding, reading fluency, or reading comprehension that severely limits or prevents him/her from accessing printed text.

Additionally, the student must have:

- an intervention provided at Tier III or Special Education in the identified area of deficit
- the area of deficit must be identified in the present level of educational performance in the IEP, if served under an IEP. If served under a 504 plan, the specific area of deficit must be documented.
- a Measurable Annual Goal is written to address the specific area of deficit, if served under an IEP.

Refer to the Accommodations Manual for 2014-15 for additional accommodation guidance.

**WRITING ASSESSMENT**

- The TCAP Writing Assessment will be required for all students in grades 3-11. It will be administered online and centrally scored by Measurement, Inc.
- It will have the same general design as the 2013-14 Writing Assessment, including two passages and two essays, and the rubrics used to score will remain the same. Administration times will remain the same. More information about data return and details of the design will be shared later this summer.
- There will be a four-week testing window from **Feb. 2 – Feb. 27, 2015**. For scheduling purposes and to balance load on servers, districts will be given the opportunity to select a testing window at the time of order entry.
- Accommodations for the Writing Assessment will be consistent with the 2013-14 administration. Refer to the Accommodations Manual for 2014-15 for additional accommodation guidance.

**OTHER REQUIRED TESTS**

- Districts will continue to be able to order PLAN, EXPLORE and ACT for students in grades 8, 10, and 11. For more information click [here](link).
- Windows-
  - ACT – **March 3, 2015** with make-ups on **March 17, 2015**
  - PLAN/EXPLORE – Dates are to be determined and will be communicated by July 1, 2014

**K-2**

- The K-2 assessment (formerly known as SAT-10) will continue to be an option for districts for the 2014-15 school year.
- The assessment measures basic reading and math skills. It is a norm-referenced assessment designed to measure individual student achievement compared to national norms. Click [here](link) for more information on the design and content of the assessment.
SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Portfolio

- Tennessee field-tested the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) assessment as a possible replacement for Portfolio in the areas of English language arts and mathematics. Currently, the department is reviewing with districts their experience on the assessment and considering the options for assessment of the students with the most severe cognitive disabilities. More information will be shared with districts by July 1, 2014.
- The TCAP Alternate Science assessment is now in development and will replace the TCAP Alternate Portfolio Science. This alternate assessment will be administered in grades 3-8 and 10 and will be scored locally and reported to the state. Additional information will be shared regarding the scoring and reporting process.
- The TCAP Alternate Social Studies assessment is now in development and will replace the TCAP Alternate Portfolio Social Studies. More information will be shared as soon as it is available.

MAAS

- Tennessee will no longer use the Modified Academic Achievement Standards (MAAS) assessment, and will instead have supports in place to help students with disabilities access the rigorous, grade-level academic achievement standards through the general TCAP.
- Tennessee was one of the last remaining states to have an alternate assessment like MAAS, and, like Tennessee, each of these states has worked with the U.S. Department of Education to transition students to standard assessments.

ELSA

- Students classified as English Learners will continue to have the TCAP English Linguistically Simplified Assessment (ELSA) version of the TCAP Achievement and End of Course assessments as an option for the 2014-15 school year.

ELDA

- Tennessee will transition from the current English Language Development Assessment (ELDA) to the ACCESS for ELLS for measuring English language proficiency. Information concerning ACCESS for ELLS may be found on the wida.us website. Information on logging in to the website, as well as training opportunities is forthcoming.
ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

CRA

• There will be no formal administration of the Constructed Response Assessment (CRA) but districts are encouraged to use the tasks that have been developed and released to continue to assess the depth and rigor of the new state standards. All Tasks and scoring guides will continue to be available.

NAEP

• A sample of students in fourth and eighth grade in math and English language arts will participate in the 2015 administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The tentative window is Jan. 26-March 13, 2015.
• Click here for the NAEP Questions Tool that contains sample questions and data from items included in past administrations.
## 2014-15 Assessment Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Name</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Ordering/ Availability</th>
<th>Delivery</th>
<th>2014-15 Administration Window</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievement with ELSA, RLA, Math, &amp; Science K-2 (Participation in K-2 is a district choice)</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Sept. 22 - Oct. 3</td>
<td>Approx. three weeks prior to test schedule**</td>
<td>April 27 – May 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-8 Social Studies and US History Field Test</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TestNav</td>
<td>April 13 – May 8 (extended window for online admin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Course/Gateway</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Sept. 29 - Oct. 10</td>
<td>** See Ach</td>
<td>Dec. 1 – 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Jan. 12 - Jan. 23</td>
<td>** See Ach</td>
<td>April 27 – May 12 (Tue.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>May 18 – May 29</td>
<td>** See Ach</td>
<td>July 6 – 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assessment (Grades 3 thru 11)</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Sept. 29-Oct. 17 (test window will be scheduled during order entry)</td>
<td>MIST literacy portal</td>
<td>Feb. 2 – 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCAP-Alt</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
<td>ACT (Weekday Test Dates)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Late February</td>
<td>March 3 (Make-ups March 17, 2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT Explore, PLAN</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Approx. 2 weeks prior to test window</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCESS for ELLs</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAEP</td>
<td>Winter/Spring</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Jan. 26 – March 13 (Tentative)</td>
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</tbody>
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