

Understanding Tennessee's State Assessment System

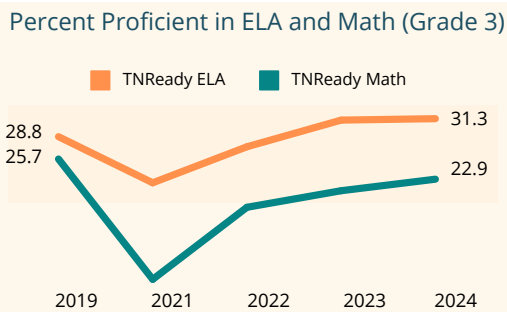
Federal law requires all states to implement assessments aligned with academic standards for specific grade levels in English/language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science. These assessments provide valuable feedback on individual and student subgroups' progress, highlight schools where students are excelling or underperforming, and determine where additional funding and resources are needed for improvement. Read on to learn more about state assessments and how they can be used to make meaningful changes in education.

What exactly is the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program?

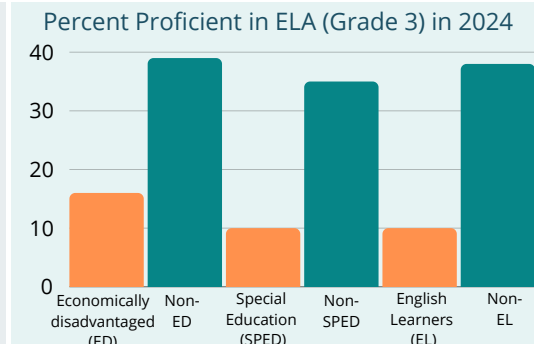
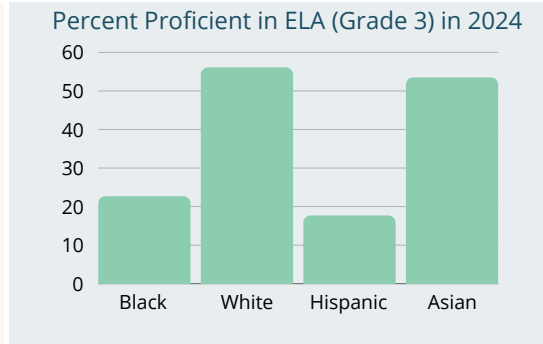
	Term	Definition	What It Is Used For
TCAP	TNReady	An assessment for grades 3-8 in ELA, math, social studies, and science	Informs school and district accountability ratings
	EOCs End of Course Exams	End-of-year assessments administered for specific math, English/Language Arts, science, and history courses in high school	Informs school and district accountability ratings and may count up to 15% of a student's grade in the EOC course
Growth Model	TVAAS Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System	Statistical tool that measures how much a student has grown academically over time	Informs school and district accountability ratings and teacher evaluation scores
National Tests	NAEP National Assessment of Educational Progress	National assessments tested biannually for 4th and 8th graders in reading and math	Allows policymakers and educators to detect learning trends and compare performance across states

How do MNPS students perform on state assessments?

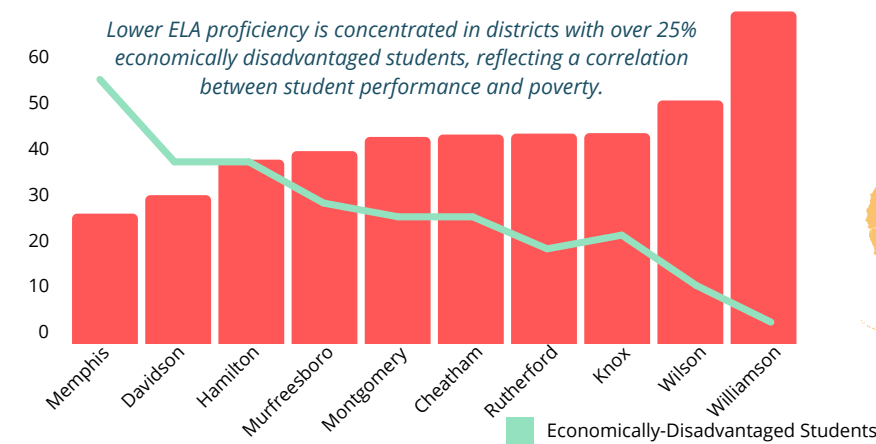
ELA proficiency exceeds pre-pandemic levels, Math still below



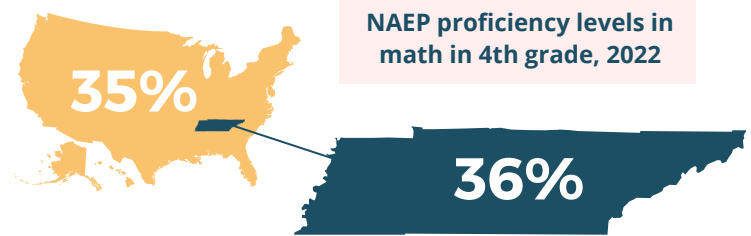
Significant achievement gaps across student subgroups in all subjects and grades



How do MNPS and Tennessee students compare to others?



While MNPS results are not yet where we want them to be, the state as a whole exceeded the national average for fourth grade math proficiency and almost met the average for fourth grade reading.



What can we learn from other states?

Through-Year Assessments



At least 11 states including Florida are piloting through-year testing models, offering multiple testing opportunities throughout the year that can provide **more timely, actionable feedback** on student learning in place of a single end-of-year assessment.

Performance-Based Assessments



Colorado and a handful of other states use performance assessments that measure academic progress through **hands-on and/or real-world projects**. The approach allows students to apply knowledge and demonstrate growth through feedback cycles.

Graduation Equity Initiative



New Mexico has replaced its test-based graduation requirement with a months-long **capstone project** that requires students to engage in self-directed learning and produce a body of work to determine competence.

Sources: TN State Report Card, The Nation's Report Card, The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) 2024, Overview of Testing in Tennessee: TN Department of Education, The New Mexico Graduation Equity Initiative - Education First, Pierce, "3 Trends in K-12 Assessments Across the Country," 2024.