

Third Grade ELA TCAP Retake Guidance for Districts and Public Charter Schools

Overview

Since 2011, Tennessee has had a student promotion and retention law in place. During the 2021 Special Legislative Session, the Tennessee General Assembly updated state law to ensure that all students have the support to read and perform on grade level by the 3rd grade. If a student receives an *approaching* or *below* score on the 3rd grade ELA TCAP, students have multiple opportunities for support to demonstrate their mastery of 3rd grade standards and readiness for grade level ELA lessons in the 4th grade.

In addition to the several other opportunities for promotion, all students who receive an *approaching* or *below* score on the ELA section of the 3rd grade TCAP can choose to retake a shorter ELA TCAP assessment as a pathway to promotion. The following guidance outlines the design and administration of the 3rd grade TCAP retake assessment for summer 2023.

Student Participation in the 3rd Grade Retake Assessment

Beginning in 2023, 3rd grade students who score *approaching* or *below* on the ELA section of the spring TCAP assessment will have the opportunity to complete a retake assessment. If a student does not have a valid spring ELA TCAP score, that student **must** complete the retake assessment to ensure he or she has a valid score to serve as the summer pre-test for the purposes of determining adequate growth in summer camps.

Districts and public charter schools are directed to send home literacy reports to families three times per year to ensure ongoing communication regarding their students' reading development in advance of the spring TCAP assessment. Districts and public charter schools will have access to 3rd grade TCAP raw score results and a single proficiency cut score on May 19 to begin identifying students who did not reach the proficiency cut score for the purposes of the retake. Raw scores and accompanying cut score information will be available to districts and public charter schools in PearsonAccess^{next}. The release of official scale scores for all grades and performance levels will occur on May 26.

Districts and public charter schools are expected to communicate directly with families about their local TCAP retake testing window. The department will provide TCAP results and a sample letter for districts and public charter schools that can be customized to explain the retake options and dates.

TCAP Retake Student Testing Window May 22 – June 5

The 2023 TCAP retake window of the ELA portion of the 3rd grade assessment is **May 22 – June 5**. Districts and public charter schools may choose when they will administer the TCAP retake assessments for their students. If a district or public charter school chooses to administer the retake assessment during summer programming, students will need to make up the missed instructional time.

TCAP Retake Results

The department will provide retake results to districts within 48 hours of test administration. Students completing the retake will receive one of three performance levels: *meets expectations*, *approaching*, or *below expectations*. The retake will not differentiate between *meets* and *exceeds expectations*. Students performing at the *meets expectations* level on the retake may be promoted to 4th grade without further intervention. The department will provide a template letter to districts and public charter schools to share the TCAP retake results with families.

The district may use retake results for students scoring in the *below* or *approaching* performance levels to determine the appropriate interventions and available pathways for those students. For example, if a student scored below on the 3rd grade TCAP but scored approaching on the retake, the district may provide interventions, including the opportunity to demonstrate adequate growth for promotion, consistent with the approaching performance level.

TCAP Retake Assessment Design

The TCAP retake assessment has been designed to assess the same type of information as the ELA section of the 3rd grade TCAP and uses passages and items drawn from the operational bank of TCAP materials. The retake assessment will be taken fully online and will **not** include constructed response items.

The retake assessment will consist of two subparts, taking 75 minutes of standard testing time. In total, the assessment should take 85 minutes to complete the two subparts with a ten-minute break between sessions.

The retake assessment may be used to determine the appropriate intervention path for students scoring *below* or *approaching*. However, TCAP retake results will **not** be used for district or school accountability, including determining district TCAP participation rate or TVAAS results. For students who did not receive a valid score on the spring ELA TCAP, the student **must** take the retake to serve as the pre-test score for the calculation of adequate growth.

The TCAP retake will not be used for teacher evaluation.

TCAP Retake Administration

The TCAP retake assessment will be administered to students using the Schoolnet platform with the Secure Tester app. Prior to each retake administration, each student will be set up with a username and password. Student rosters can be reviewed and verified in Schoolnet prior to administering the TCAP retake. Teachers and administrators will be able to login to Schoolnet using Orion accounts to administer the retake assessment.

District and public charter school administrators will adhere to all standard secure assessment procedures, following the same procedures as in the full TCAP assessment (test security, accommodations, etc.). The results of the TCAP retake will be available in Schoolnet within 48 hours.

Additional Information

For information about 3rd grade promotion policies, please see this [third grade promotion overview](#). Click [here](#) for additional information about learning acceleration opportunities.