

In 2003, Tennessee set state growth standards for each tested academic subject based on the progress rate of the state's students in 1998. Since that time, all TCAP Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) scale scores have been converted into state normal curve equivalents (NCEs) consistent with the base year. This conversion provided a way for the TVAAS analyses to measure achievement and academic gain for each system and each school against a consistent metric, expressed in 1998 state NCEs as students moved from grade to grade. Over this past decade the state has made some progress in raising academic achievement and this progress has been documented, not only in the TVAAS results, but also in the state's student performance on NAEP and ACT®. And over time, many systems and schools have regularly met the state's growth standard.

However in 2010, the state is implementing new curriculum and assessment standards more reflective of national and international student performance in the 21st Century. To meet these standards new expectations for student academic progress will be necessary. Therefore, in the delivery of the 2009 TVAAS results, the Tennessee Department of Education has reset the growth standard to reflect the state's average student performance in 2009. These new standards should be viewed as the minimal expectation for student academic progress.

For the 2009 TVAAS analyses, prior scale scores from the 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 administrations, as well as those from 2009, were converted to state NCEs within the administration year. In subsequent years, the scale scores will be converted into state NCEs that reflect the performance of the state's students in 2009. This will allow the possibility for all schools to meet these new and higher standards in the future years.