



# Accountability

## Waiver Application: Assessment Participation Rate *for Districts*

Public Chapter 2 of 2021 (PC 2), passed during the 1st Extraordinary Session of the 112th General Assembly, amended laws regarding educator, student, school, and school district accountability. In addition to other changes, this new law revised how statewide student assessment results may be used for determining student, school, and school district accountability. For school districts and schools, it removes some consequences associated with accountability, if a TCAP participation rate of 80% is met. PC 2 also provides the commissioner of education the following authority to waive the TCAP participation rate requirement:

*"The commissioner of education may, at the commissioner's discretion, grant an LEA or public charter school a waiver from the eighty-percent-participation requirement in subdivision (g)(1)."*

### Waiver Application Instructions

This document is intended to facilitate districts and charter schools in providing the information necessary to document the justification for a waiver. **The next page of this document provides a cover sheet template for waiver requests.**

While suggestions are included, districts and charter schools are not limited to the options outlined in this document. If there are other reasons that would meaningfully contribute to a waiver request, a district or charter school is requested to check "other."

How to submit:

- Waiver requests should be submitted to the department in the form of Microsoft Word documents, pdf files, or similar.
- All materials should be submitted as one attachment, wherever practicable.
- Please email waiver requests to [Education.Waivers@tn.gov](mailto:Education.Waivers@tn.gov) and cc: [Commissioner.Schwinn@tn.gov](mailto:Commissioner.Schwinn@tn.gov).

**Waivers are due no later than 12:00pm CST on June 18, 2021.**



Waiver Request Cover Sheet

District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Charter School Name and Authorizing LEA (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Schools or Executive Director of Charter School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (date that waiver covers): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Basis for Waiver Request (check all that apply):

- Participation rate met with Fall EOC 2020 removed
- Small district (under 500 students)
- Participation rate over 70%
- Significant and unpredicted event
- School-specific issue with disproportionate impact on participation
- Other

For each box checked, above, the district or charter school must provide a **one-page summary of the rationale** for the waiver request. This should include a description of all evidence being provided in subsequent attachments. Districts or charter schools may submit additional evidence or documentation to support their justification or rationale for requesting the waiver and should clearly annotate in places that will support the review process.

In addition to the rationale and additional evidence noted above, all waiver requests must be accompanied by **substantive evidence** of (1) meaningful engagement with families, (2) clear effort (with multiple attempts) to provide a testing opportunity for students, and (3) demonstrate strong communication that reflects significant flexibility afforded to the student for testing times and locations.

**I attest that all information provided in this waiver application, including any attachments, is true and correct.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature (Director of Schools or Executive Director of Charter School)*

*Date Submitted*