

# Guidance on School and District Accountability

## Spring 2020 School Closures

Tennessee’s accountability system has been foundational to driving student growth and school improvements over the last several years. The accountability system drives student growth and performance by evaluating the performance of Tennessee schools and districts. As a part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the department has worked with many Tennessee stakeholders to develop this system that holds schools and districts accountable for setting students on a path to success.

Under the current circumstances, school and district leaders have to balance decisions for the safety and education for the students they serve. These decisions have impacts on 2019-20 school and district accountability. The department is actively working to ensure that no schools, districts, or students are adversely affected by this spring’s school closures. For more information, you may view Tennessee’s waiver request for flexibility with ESSA accountability requirements [here](#).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Accountability

Question	Answer
Will there be accountability this year for schools or districts?	No. Designations, letter grades, indicator scores, or partial scores will not be completed for the 2019-20 school year. TDOE has submitted a waiver to the US Department of Education to remove all accountability-related requirements for one year.
How will the suspension of testing affect school and district accountability rating?	Due to the suspension of testing, schools and districts will not receive indicator scores or accountability ratings for the 2019-20 school year.
How will this impact priority, CSI, and TSI /ATSI designations?	USED requires that 2018-19 designations are maintained through the 2020-21 school year. You may view USED's waiver response <a href="#">here</a> for more information.
How will this affect federal funding tied to accountability?	TDOE will be seeking to extend support found under current federal school designations.
Will districts, schools and teachers receive TVAAS scores for the 2019-20 school year?	No. Districts, schools and teachers will not receive TVAAS scores for the 2019-20 school year. Without assessment results from across the state, we cannot produce valid TCAP or TVAAS scores. We will not be creating TVAAS scores for fall EOC administration, as these scores and students are not representative of assessments from across the state.

Question	Answer
How will this impact the results that are shared in the online School Report Card?	We will not update the online School Report Card with results from the 2019-20 school year. The Report Card site will still be available, but it will continue to display results from the 2018-19 school year.
Will districts receive lagged accountability files?	We will still be producing and releasing files related to the <i>Ready Graduate</i> indicator for graduates from the previous school year. These files are informative and for district planning purposes only. Additionally, districts received in Sept. 2019 Graduate Rate indicator data, so no additional files will be released for this indicator in the summer of 2020.
Will districts be expected to submit appeals or waivers to <a href="mailto:TNED.Accountability@tn.gov">TNED.Accountability@tn.gov</a> ?	Districts will not need to submit a formal “appeal” or “waiver” regarding data for 2019-20 accountability, as all of the data will be waived.  Please note, the appeals window is still open for the <i>Ready Graduate</i> indicator (lagged data). Districts may continue to submit these appeals through the Cohort application, and these final files will be released to districts for informational purposes.
How will this impact school and district accountability in the 2020-2021 school year?	Currently, no changes to accountability have been planned, but TDOE recognizes that there will need to be alterations. Requisite changes to calculations, business rules, and/or indicators within the accountability model will be investigated and considered after the full impact of the current pandemic is fully understood.  The most important thing right now is for districts to make decisions that are in the best interests of their students.

## Additional Resources

### Accountability Contacts

Contact Information	Topics
<a href="mailto:TNED.Accountability@tn.gov">TNED.Accountability@tn.gov</a>	Accountability Requirements, Designations, Reporting Deadlines, Support Resources
<a href="mailto:TNED.Graduates@tn.gov">TNED.Graduates@tn.gov</a>	Cohort, <i>Ready Graduate</i> , Grad Rate
<a href="mailto:Data.Management@tn.gov">Data.Management@tn.gov</a>	Data Use, TN Report Card, InformTN
<a href="mailto:School.Directory@tn.gov">School.Directory@tn.gov</a>	School Directory Updates, SDE Contacts

- [2019-20 Accountability Protocol](#)
- [2019-20 School Directory Submission Guidance](#)
- [2020 Graduation Cohort Protocol](#)
- [2019-20 ACT Appeals Guidance](#)

***Important Links***

- [TDOE District and School Accountability Webpage](#)
- [TDOE Update on Coronavirus Webpage](#)
- [Early Postsecondary Opportunities](#)
- [Accountability Biweekly Update Signup](#)