



## Adequate Yearly Progress and State Report Card on Pre-K-12 Education 2009-10

Release: January 7, 2011

### Overview:

- The Department of Education is releasing: (1) **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data**, or how well school districts performed in meeting academic benchmarks under the federal No Child Left Behind law and (2) the **State Report Card on Pre-K-12 education**, which includes state, district and school-level information on achievement, demographics and discipline.
- **Across the state, schools and districts faced challenges with increased standards and assessments. During this year of transition, however, many schools and districts have shown improvement and progress. We did not see the drastic increase in schools in high priority status that was anticipated.**
- **This is not an announcement to label schools as failing.** Across the state, schools faced a big hurdle with increased standards and assessments. This data should be viewed as a tool for driving change for those schools that need improvement. We expect to see dramatic gains in student performance on these assessments in the years to come.
- **Tennessee is not standing still.** The \$500 million Race to the Top grant has awarded resources on the state and district levels that will pay for more intensive teacher training to help students reach the standards and make sure that their schools are getting the support they need to excel.
- **Tennessee's First to the Top initiative raises the bar.** Rigorous student academic goals challenge state and local school districts to commit to transformational education reform. Those goals include increased performance in early grades reading, middle grades math and the overall graduation rate.
- **The totality of these changes means our students will be better prepared.** Even though a smaller number of students are in the proficient or advanced levels of performance now, the expected improvements mean our students will be more competitive and successful for their future in a global economy, amongst their peers in Tennessee, and against their peers in high-performing nations across the world.

### Overview of Calculations:

- **This year's data will reflect a baseline year for Tennessee students through the** (1) the use of current year data for AYP and (2) new levels of student performance – "basic" and "below basic"-- as approved by the State Board of Education. Collectively these changes will provide a more accurate picture of student performance and help identify how much students need to progress to attain proficiency.
- **This is a baseline year for calculating Adequate Yearly Progress based on the new academic benchmarks.** The Department of Education consulted with the US Department of Education to amend the state's accountability workbook, the governing document outlining the state's education accountability system. The use of **current year data only** was recommended given the implementation of new standards and assessments.
- Two- and three-year averages will again be used in future year as comparable data is available.



## Adequate Yearly Progress and State Report Card on Pre-K-12 Education 2009-10

- **Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) scores may drop in the short-run as teachers adjust to the higher expectations of how much a student should learn in one year.** TVAAS scores are calculated based on how much growth groups of students make relative to the “state growth standard.” The scores estimate how much districts, schools and teachers influence their students’ academic progress in a given year, thereby helping the state identify its most and least effective districts, schools, and teachers. Just as Tennessee is raising the bar for students about what “proficiency” on our statewide assessments means, we are also raising the bar for our “state growth standard.”
- **Academic Achievement Scores are a measure of average student performance at a single point in time and how well those students performed on a set of standards.** Achievement grades are based on how well the students performed on the TCAP assessments against the curriculum standards. Simply put, it is a measure of how well the students knew the TN curriculum.

### Overview of Timeline:

- **This has been a unique year for education reform in Tennessee.** Several factors influencing the success of our students have converged this year to ultimately impact the public release of Adequate Yearly Progress data and the state Report Card on Pre-K-12 Education.
  - The State Board of Education set new student academic proficiency levels on July 30, 2010. Prior to the State Board’s vote it was not possible to perform our customary summer calculations of student performance.
  - Further information and approval regarding resetting the state’s academic benchmarks under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) required approval from the US Department of Education.
- Tennessee received specific language on how to calculate AYP for this year and future years on Nov. 19, 2010. Based on this guidance, the Department was able to release AYP calculations to all 136 school districts Nov. 22, 2010.
- An appeal process of AYP data occurred through December 2010.
- **This is a one year adjustment.** The AYP information is a critical portion of the state Report Card and thus has delayed the release of this data file as well for this year only.