

## Tests and Assessments

Tests are a vitally important part of education. Assessing students throughout the year helps teachers identify strengths and areas of need in each student. Teachers and administration also utilize assessment data in determining future needs and trends for the Hardin County School System. Upon the disaggregation of data each year, members of the administration plans professional development for teachers and the adoption of instructional materials to address the system's needs.

### Test Information

#### **TCAP (Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program)**

TCAP is a state-mandated test that is administered to elementary and middle school students during the spring semester each year.

- **TCAP Achievement Test**

Students in Grades 3-8 take the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Achievement Test each spring, usually in late April and/or early May. The Achievement Test is a timed assessment consisting of multiple choice items, short answer, and a writing component that measures a student's skills in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Student results are reported to parents, teachers, and administrators. TCAP Achievement Test results count as 25% of a student's second semester grade in the content areas of Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

- **TCAP Achievement English Linguistically Simplified Assessment (ELSA)**

ELSA is an accommodated version of the TCAP Achievement Test. ELSA is provided for all English Learner (EL) students, even those who are Transition 1 (T1) or Transition 2 (T2). The content areas tested on TCAP ELSA are Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The test questions are the same as the TCAP Achievement Test but feature simplified language to reduce linguistic barriers. Allowable EL accommodations can be provided to students taking ELSA.

- **TCAP Alt-Portfolio**

This test is designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities and is based on alternate content standards. It may be used to evaluate a diverse population of students pursuing individual goals, reflect skills that should be taught in the classrooms, and measure how closely each student's program comes to meeting ideals that would be good for most children. The ideals reflected in the dimensions measured by the TCAP-Alt PA are Content, Choice, Settings, Supports, and Peer Interactions. TCAP-Alt PA participation is an IEP team decision based on the needs of the individual student. All student work contained in a portfolio assessment must be performed by the student and in the presence of a teacher and/or paraprofessional.

### **End – of – Course Exams (EOC)**

End – of – Course exams are administered to high school students in 10 content areas:

Algebra I	Algebra II	English I	English II
English III	U.S. History	Biology I	Chemistry

Results of these tests count for 25% of a student’s second nine weeks grade. Results of Algebra I and English II are used in determining a school’s accountability status.

An EOC English Linguistically Simplified Assessment is available for English Learner students.

### **ACT and SAT**

These are the traditional college-readiness exams we all remember from high school. Every high school student in Tennessee is required to take the ACT. Students typically take it in eleventh & twelfth grade. The SAT is not required, but some students choose to take it in addition to the ACT for college application purposes.

To better prepare students to take the ACT, ninth and tenth grade students will be administered the pre-ACT. Results from the Pre-ACT are used to identify students that need additional instruction before they are administered the ACT as eleventh graders.

### **EasyCBM**

The EasyCBM screener assesses early literacy skills and mathematics comprehension from kindergarten through eighth grade. These tests are designed to be short (one minute) fluency and comprehension measures that are used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills as well as math comprehension.

