

**UPDATED: Oct. 18, 2016**

### **Department Proposes to Reduce Impact TNReady has on Student Grades**

*Three-year phase-in period will give high school students time to adjust to higher standards, more rigorous test*

At the State Board of Education meeting today, Commissioner McQueen announced the department's proposal to phase TNReady scores into high school student grades over the next three years as the state continues to transition to a new, more rigorous test that is better aligned to breadth and depth of the standards in Tennessee.

"We want to support our teachers and students as they become comfortable with this tougher assessment that is tied to our higher expectations," McQueen said. "As we have been saying for several years, we expect scores to dip as we set a new baseline aligned with the expectations of our colleges and employers, but we also know scores will rebound and rise over time. This more rigorous assessment will better support our ultimate goals: providing better information about student progress so we can ensure all our children are ready for each step on their academic journey."

The phase-in proposal for high school students is part of the state's High School Policy and was presented to the State Board on Oct. 14. Prior to the proposal, End of Course exams counted as 25 percent of a students' final grade. The proposal phases in TNReady results for student grades in high school as follows:

- 2016-17: 10 percent of final grade
- 2017-18: 15 percent of final grade
- 2018-19: 15-25 percent (district decision within range)

The State Board passed the grade proposal on its first (and final) reading, and the overall high school policy will go through a second reading at the January State Board meeting, during which the Board will vote on its approval.

Last year, the State Board approved a policy that allowed scores to be excluded from students' grades if results were not available within five days of the end of the school year. Because there is an extended scoring process in the first year of any assessment, no TNReady scores factored into students' grades in 2015-16.

TNReady was suspended last spring for students in grades 3-8, but high school students took the full assessment. This year, high school End of Course assessment results will be returned on a regular, early summer timeline that would be closer to the end of the school year. Today's proposal aims to reduce anxiety those students may feel about the impact TNReady could have on their final grades as they adjust to the higher expectations of the new assessment.

High school results from the first year of TNReady will be available in the coming weeks. More information on the assessment is available at [TNReady.gov](http://TNReady.gov).