

2015 TCAP Social Studies/US History: Design and Administration Information

The new content standards for social studies and US History, which were passed by the State Board of Education in July 2013, will go into effect during the 2014-15 school year. They are available [here](#). As announced in the June 3 Director Update ([here](#)), there will be a field test for new TCAP Achievement and End of Course social studies/US History tests based on these standards in spring 2015 and operational testing will begin in the 2015-16 school year. This memo includes detailed design and administration information.

Please contact tncore.questions@tn.gov with any questions about test design and tned.assessment@tn.gov with any questions about test administration.

Design and Administration	
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a TCAP field test in 2014-15. Operational social studies/US History testing will resume in the 2015-16 school year. • The field test will be statewide and will be administered online. Results from the field test will be used to inform and improve the new operational assessments, and will not be shared with districts. • The field test will include both multiple choice and extended response items (essays.) Essays will be scored both for the Tennessee Social Studies content and literacy expectations. The final design of the operational assessment may or may not include these essays, but we will be testing these items on the field test. A decision on the inclusion of extended response items on the operational assessment will be made after field test results have been examined. • There will be an extended testing window to allow districts to schedule and complete online testing from April 13 – May 8. • For scheduling purposes and to balance load on servers, districts will be given the opportunity to select a testing window during order entry. Information on scheduling will be provided in a separate communication via EdTools. <p>Total time will include both the multiple choice and extended response sections and will be determined and communicated by the field test results. The expectation is that both sections will be administered during the same session.</p>
Format	The Spring 2015 field test will be administered online to all students on the TestNav8 platform.
Grade bands	<p>Students currently assessed on TCAP-Alternative Portfolio will not participate in the Spring 2015 field test. Beginning in 2015-16, a separate alternative social studies assessment will be administered. Additional information regarding the alternative social studies assessment is forthcoming.</p> <p>For students participating in the field test, test forms will be written for the following grades and subject areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 3-8 • US History <p>No additional content areas, World History included, have been added to the list of field tested subjects.</p>
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students in Grades 3-8 and US History will respond to both multiple choice and extended response item(s). We will be sharing more detailed test design information (e.g. number of test

	<p>items) later this fall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoring will include both the multiple choice and extended response sections of the test. More details about reporting will be available following the field test. • For the extended response portion, students will engage with a written or visual stimulus. • Texts will be chosen based on a variety of factors, including quality, style, and subject matter, and will be reviewed by teachers for content and sensitivity.
<p>Educator Review Meetings</p>	<p>Educator Content and Bias and Sensitivity Meetings for Social Studies Achievement Grades 3-8 and End of Course US History will be taking place in Nashville November 3-7, 2014. More information will be forthcoming from TDOE.</p>
<p>Scoring and Accountability</p>	
<p>Scoring Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spring 2015 TCAP Achievement and EOC social studies/US History field test will be centrally scored by Pearson. Like previous field tests, results will be used to inform and improve the new operational assessments. Results from the field test will not be shared with districts. • We expect the following for the scoring of the operational test beginning in 2015-16. Please note that this is subject to change based on the Spring 2015 field test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both sections of the assessment, including the multiple choice items and extended response items will be scored centrally. No local scoring will be required. ○ The scoring process will be robust and driven by Tennessee students and educators. Educators will participate in a process called rangefinding using actual student work from Tennessee classrooms. Decisions made by the rangefinding committee will directly inform how the testing vendor trains their scorers. • The vendor will closely train and monitor their scorers to ensure validity. Scorers must meet minimum education requirements, participate in extensive training, and successfully score several rounds of qualification sets built from actual TN student responses before they are permitted to score live student responses. Scorers are also closely monitored by scoring leadership with the vendor and the Department of Education throughout the scoring window to ensure validity in scoring and identify and correct potential validity issues.
<p>Scoring Rubrics & Performance Level Descriptors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoring rubrics for the extended response section are trait-based, which means that student writing will be scored according to a number of specific and separate criteria instead of a single group of indicators. The rubrics will assess two traits: content and literacy. The rubrics have been designed to focus on how well a student has mastered and can communicate content knowledge. • Scoring rubrics have been developed by the department to assess the extended response portion of the test. The rubrics are built directly from the language of the new Tennessee social studies/US History content and literacy standards. For grades without social studies literacy standards, the rubrics incorporate the Writing Strand from the new Tennessee standards for English language arts • Rubrics are differentiated by the following grade bands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grades 3-5 ○ Grades 6-7 ○ Grade 8 and US History • In spring 2014, Tennessee educators in grades 3-8 and US History drafted Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) to broadly describe the content knowledge, skills, and practices students performing at a given level should be able to demonstrate at each particular grade level. The PLDs outline the expectations about what type of performance is needed to demonstrate that students are prepared to engage successfully in further studies in the content area. These PLDs will serve as the basis for standard setting following the first operational administration.

	Both the scoring rubrics and PLDs will be released for each grade band this fall to help teachers and students better understand the expectations of the new test.
Data Return	Results from the Spring 2015 field test will not be shared with districts. As with all new assessments, standard setting will need to occur before data from the first operational administration is returned. More information about the timeline for standard setting and 2016 operational data return are forthcoming.
Reporting and Accountability	The Spring 2015 field test will have no effect upon district or school level accountability including AMOs, and will not be used for TVAAS. Results from the field test will be used to inform and improve the new operational assessments, and will not be shared with districts. Operational social studies/US History testing will resume in the 2015-16 school year. Following the field test, more information about what student, school, and district reports will look like will be shared.
Technology	
TestNav 8 Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows XP; 7 or later • OS X 10.6 or later • Linux Ubuntu 12.04 or later • iOS 7 or later • Chrome OS 35 or later
Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPad2 or later • Chromebooks • Windows 8 tablets
Bandwidth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 kb/s per student • 150 kb/s per student for audio accommodations
Technical Support	All questions should be submitted via Contact Support tickets on EdTools. The department will provide phone support details with administration information specific to the field test.
Tools, Accessibility Features, and Accommodations	
For more details about accommodations, please see the Accommodations Manual	
Features for all Students	The following tools will be provided to <u>all</u> students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glossed word feature – students can use in instances where a word or phrase may need a definition
Accommodations	Accommodated forms (e.g. Braille) will not be included in the Spring 2015 field test. Accommodated forms will be available for operational testing beginning in 2015-16. At that time, these forms will be reserved <u>only</u> for students with the accommodation listed in his/her IEP or 504 plan. More information is forthcoming about accommodations that will be available for the Spring 2015 field test and operational test (e.g. text-to-speech).
Support Plan	
Practice Materials	In early spring 2015, the department will make at least one practice test available for each grade/subject area to help teachers and students prepare for the new assessments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These practice materials will illustrate the various types of items used to evaluate the student's mastery of the new social studies/US History standards. • Practice tests will be released as Electronic Practice Assessment Tests (ePATs) and available on PearsonAccess
Professional Development	Summer 2014 Direct Teacher Training Series (materials here) focused on supporting K-12 teachers in understanding the new expectations for student learning in social studies and instructional strategies that will support student success.