

Standards Setting for Social Studies

The Background:

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(2), it is the duty of the State Board of Education to “set policies for evaluating individual student progress and achievement, evaluating individual teachers, and measuring the educational achievement of individual schools.”

The Department of Education administered the new social studies TNReady assessment, which is part of the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP), for grades 3-8 in 2017-18. In order to complete the reporting of test scores for grades 3-8 social studies, it is necessary for the State Board to adopt cut scores that will be used to assign students to performance levels on the social studies TCAP assessments. The cut scores recommended by the department are based on the recommendations of educator panels who participated in a standard setting process.

Standard setting is a qualitative review of content standards with panels of educators who are content-area experts. Each panel completes three rounds of ratings and a process of vertical articulation to ensure alignment, consistency, and reasonableness across grades. During the week of July 16, 2018, panels of Tennessee educators convened in Nashville to recommend cut scores for the grades 3-8 social studies TCAP assessments. The attached document provides the department-recommended cut scores.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.