



**TENNESSEE**  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

# **TESTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE**

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JANUARY 15, 2021

# AGENDA

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- **State Department of Education Presentations**
  - Fall 2020 End-of-Course Administration Update
  - ACT Graduation Requirement for Class of 2021 in light of COVID-19
  - Review of Standard-Setting Process for Several Assessments
- **SBE Members Discuss Accountability Concerns for 2020-21 School Year**
- **Final Questions, Comments, and Adjournment**



# BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

Casey Haugner Wrenn, Mike Hardy

State Board of Education Subcommittee | January 15, 2021



# BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

## ACADEMICS

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ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL  
HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY  
EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE  
THEY LIVE

## WHOLE CHILD

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TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE  
ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC  
NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

## EDUCATORS

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TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH  
FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION  
AND BE THE TOP STATE TO  
BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER  
AND LEADER

TN

Department of  
Education



# Assessment Update



## A Look Back at 2020:

- Update on Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 testing activities, including formative
- Review of Fall 2020 EOC Testing Window
- ACT Update

## Looking Ahead:

- Preparations for Spring 2021 Testing Windows
- Standard Setting Preview



# A Look Back at 2020



# Spring-Summer 2020

## March

- Tornadoes
- Online Verification Test
- School Closures for COVID-19
- Passage of HB2818/SB2672
- U.S. Dept. of Ed. Waiver
- Assessment Stop Work Order

All but 5 districts successfully participated, overwhelming response from field to return to online testing, particularly for high school EOC.

## June - August

- Develop Checkpoints & Interims
- Launch Schoolnet Platform
- Negotiate Fall Testing options for ACT, WIDA ACCESS
- Award Development RFP to Pearson, contract transition

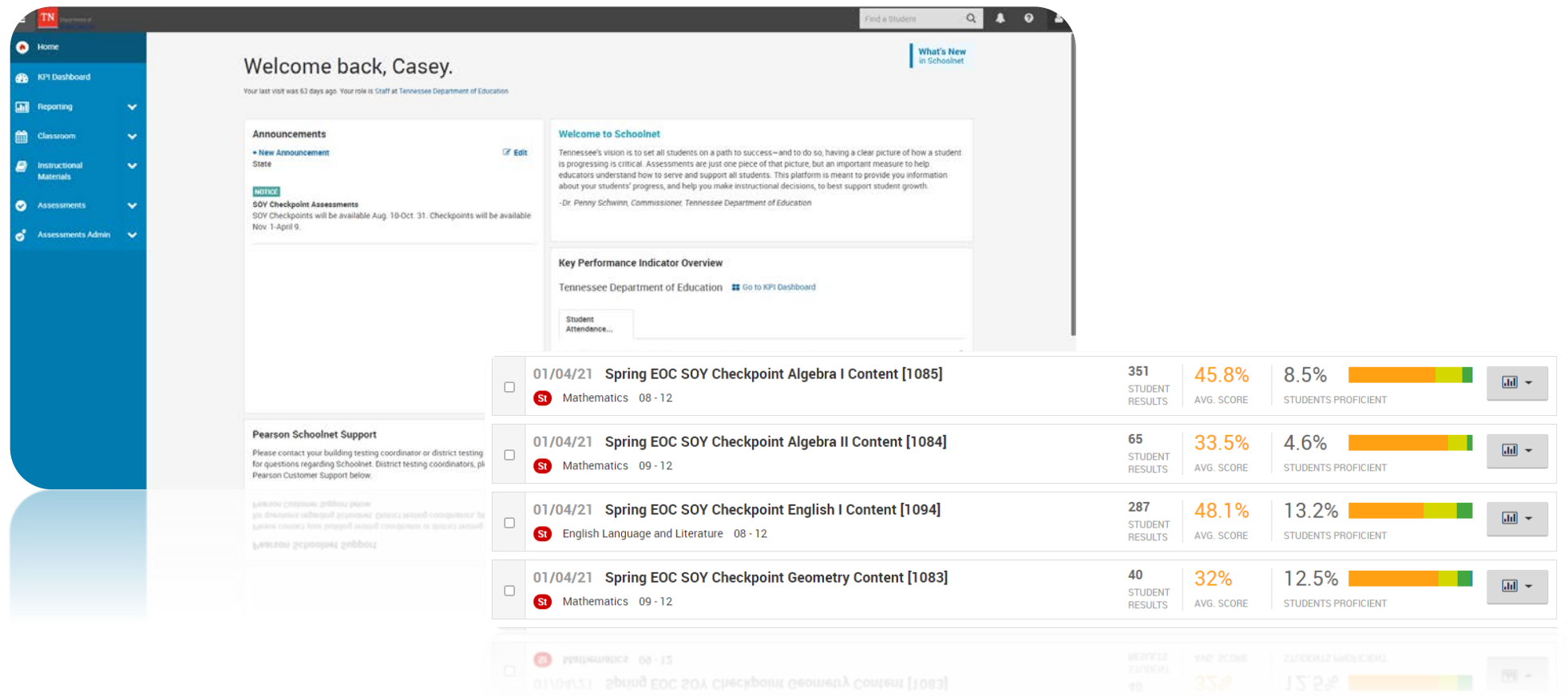
As we discussed last year, new item/form development contract was evaluated over summer, awarded to Pearson, and transition of all testing assets underway.

## April - May

- Halt of any preparations for spring
- Return of unused alternate testing materials
- Planning for formative begins

# Fall 2020 Formative Supports

## Successful Launch of Schoolnet Platform in August





# Fall 2020 Formative Supports



## New Formative Assessment Tools

- *Start of Year Checkpoints*: Math, ELA, Grades 3-EOC
- *Mock Interims*: All tested subjects, grades
- *Item Bank*: Released TCAP items educators can use to create classroom assessments
- *Assessment Builder*: Educators can create/upload questions into Schoolnet for online testing, automatic scoring of classroom assessments



**677,996** students  
in platform



**111,384** state assessments  
taken as of Jan. 12

# Preparing for Fall 2020 TCAP EOC Testing

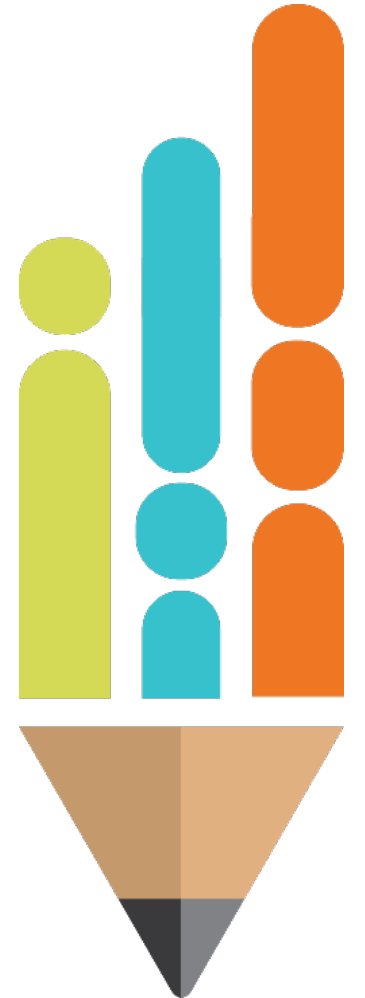
## Gathered Feedback

- Met with Directors of Schools and District Testing Coordinators
- Identified most frequently asked questions, concerns

## Issued Guidance to Support In-Person Testing

- Expanded available use of off-site testing locations, flexibility of testing schedules, training proctors
- Issued Guidance on use of Medical Exemptions for COVID-impacted students, including legal guidance
- Provided peer support and profiles of district solutions

**Offered Two Testing Windows: December and January**



# First Fall 2020 Testing Window: By the Numbers

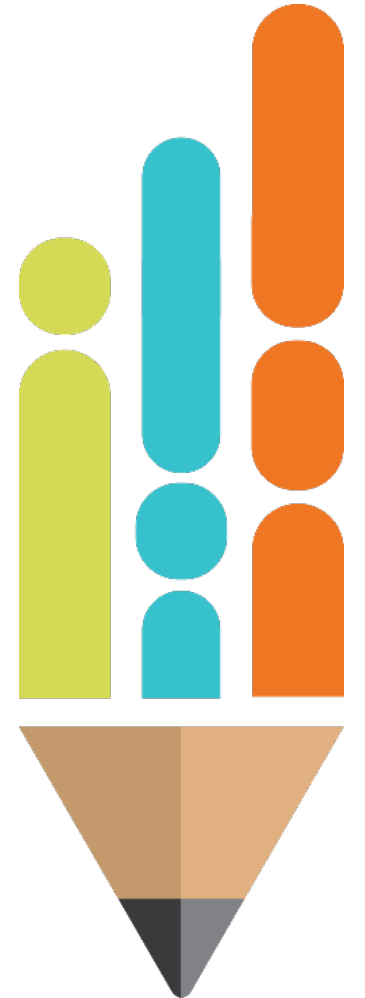


**124,089** secure test materials printed and over **300,000** seals applied by hand

**2,987** boxes shipped to districts to fulfill **535** orders

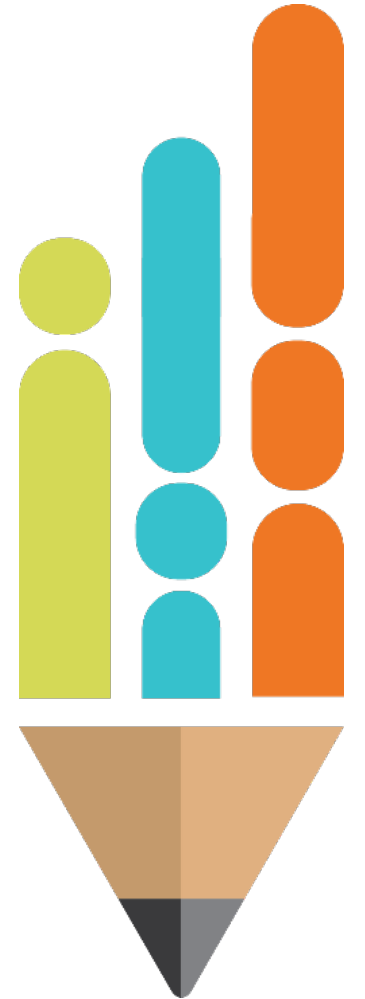
**63,066** tests taken by **49,935** unique students

**0** tips submitted to test security tip-line



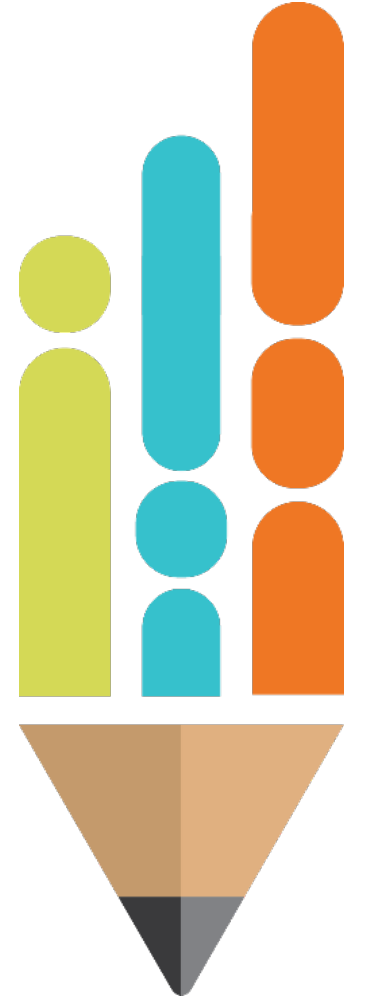
# First Fall Testing Window: Successes

- **Active Partners:** District testing coordinators participated on daily webinars to hear best practices and troubleshoot challenges.
- **Excellent Service:** Pearson customer support maintained 100% service level throughout window.
- **Flexibility for Districts:** As questions arose, department responded with additional supports (including make-up exam opportunities in January or Spring windows).
- **Shipping & Scoring:** Districts delivered materials to Pearson much earlier than last fall, hand scoring was smooth.



# First Fall Testing Window: Challenges

- **COVID Spread:** While first week testing went extremely well, as the window progressed, more and more schools went virtual due to local COVID spread, making testing in-person more difficult.
- **Navigating Two Windows:** Ensuring accurate student data across both windows adds new steps for our team, IT, and Pearson.

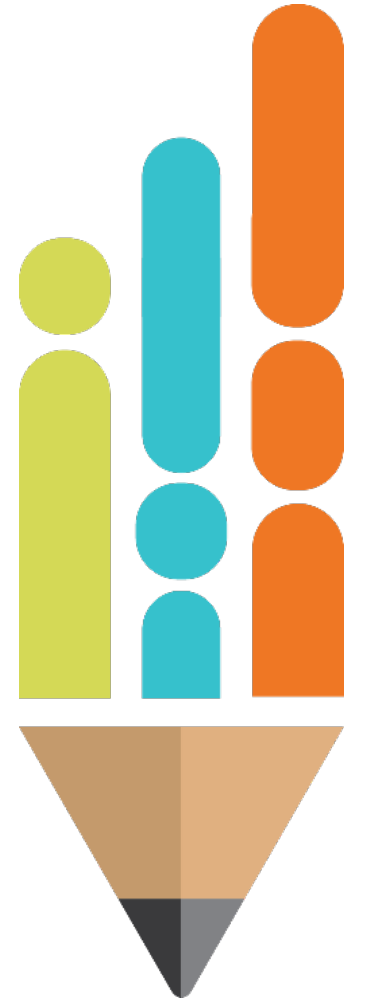


# Second Fall Testing Window

## January 4 – 21 Testing Window

- 6 Districts testing completely during this window
- 40 Districts using window for make-up exams
- Daily webinars are continuing
- No test security or urgent issues to date
- Raw scores expected to districts February 8
- Many schools still virtual due to COVID

**Full results of both windows due to districts in March**



# ACT Testing



# ACT Testing for 2021 Seniors

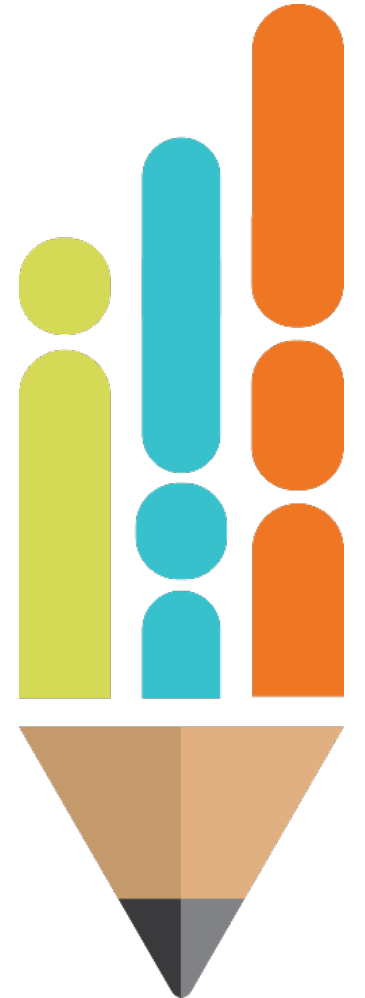
## 2021 Graduating Class is most impacted by pandemic

Majority of Spring 2020 testing for Juniors was cancelled

- Only about **1,700 students were able to test** on March 17, just prior to statewide school closures
- ACT and Department acted quickly to issue **vouchers for summer testing** to districts who requested this support, testing another **825 students**

Fall 2020 testing (typically “Senior Retake”) continued as planned

- Three in-school days offered (Sept. 22, Oct. 6, Oct. 20)
- Even virtual districts (such as Metro Nashville, Shelby) offered at least one testing day for seniors to participate
- **58,713** students participated (86% of cohort)





# ACT Testing for 2021 Seniors

## We are committed to providing 2 opportunities to test

### Increased fall opportunities

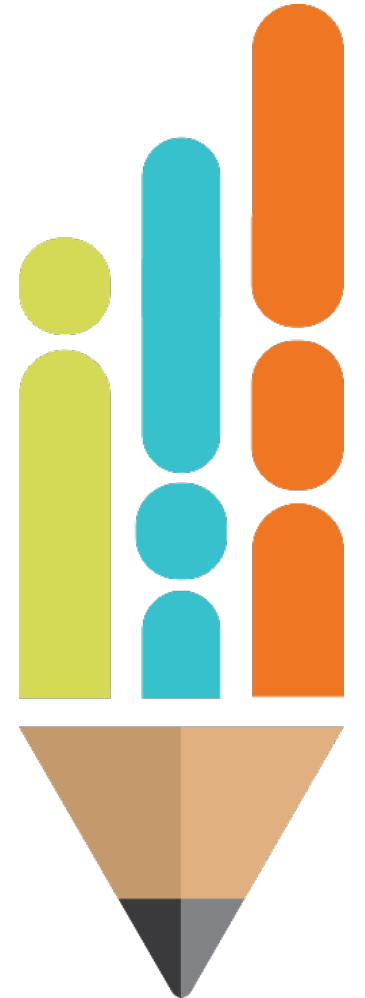
- Districts received vouchers for all students for national test dates
- ACT worked to expand testing sites, offering our high schools the ability to offer “closed sessions” on October, December test dates (results not yet provided)
- **11 total opportunities** already for this cohort from March 2020 to Jan. 2021

### Flexibility for spring tests will be offered

- **24 remaining opportunities** to test including National and State testing days
- Includes the ability for high schools to test online, providing 18 in-school opportunities rather than just 3

Current estimated cohort participation rate: **88%**

**60,304** have valid ACT scores from any test date



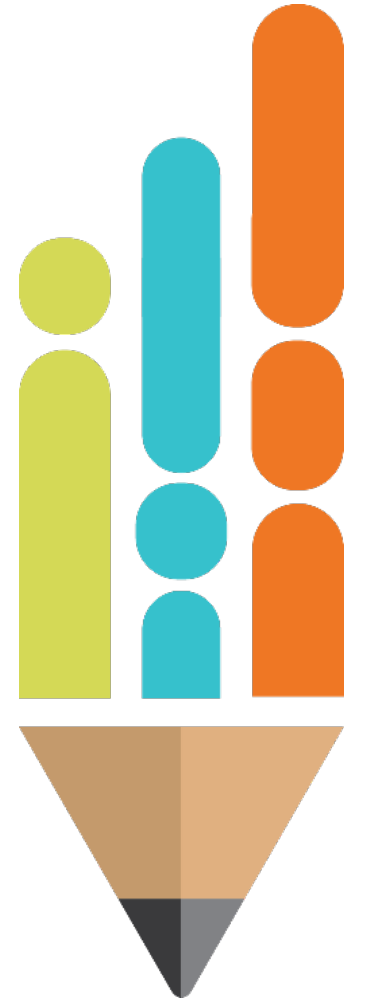
# Looking Ahead: Spring 2021 and Beyond



# Preparing for Spring 2021 Testing

Changes underway between fall and spring administrations:

- ❑ Updates to state data platform to ensure more accurate student provisioning
- ❑ Changes to test administrator manuals and building testing coordinator guides to address lessons from fall
- ❑ Expansion of testing windows to provide choice to districts with different instructional schedules
- ❑ Individualized support of districts for ACT and WIDA ACCESS testing



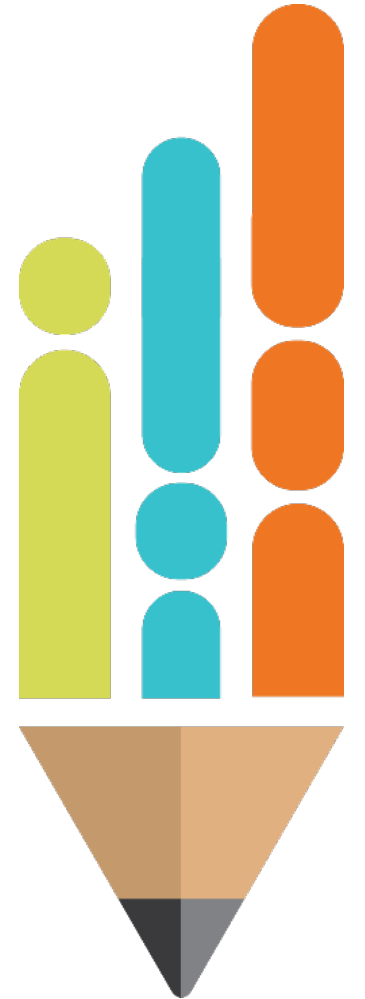
# Preparing for Spring 2021 Testing

## Gathered Feedback

- Met with Directors of Schools and District Testing Coordinators
- Lessons learned from Fall 2020

## Changes for Spring

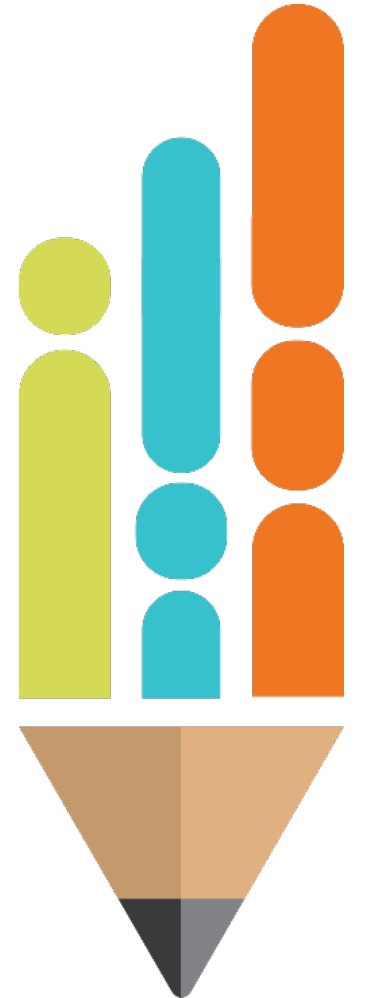
- Expanding WIDA ACCESS Testing Window by 2 Weeks
- Providing 4 Options for Test Windows for TCAP/EOC
- Allowing districts to test Grade 2, Grades 3-8, and/or EOC separately, based on local need
- New formative *Testlet* exam pilot will join other existing formative tools (Math, ELA, Science, selected grades)



# Preparing for Spring 2021 Testing

## What to Expect

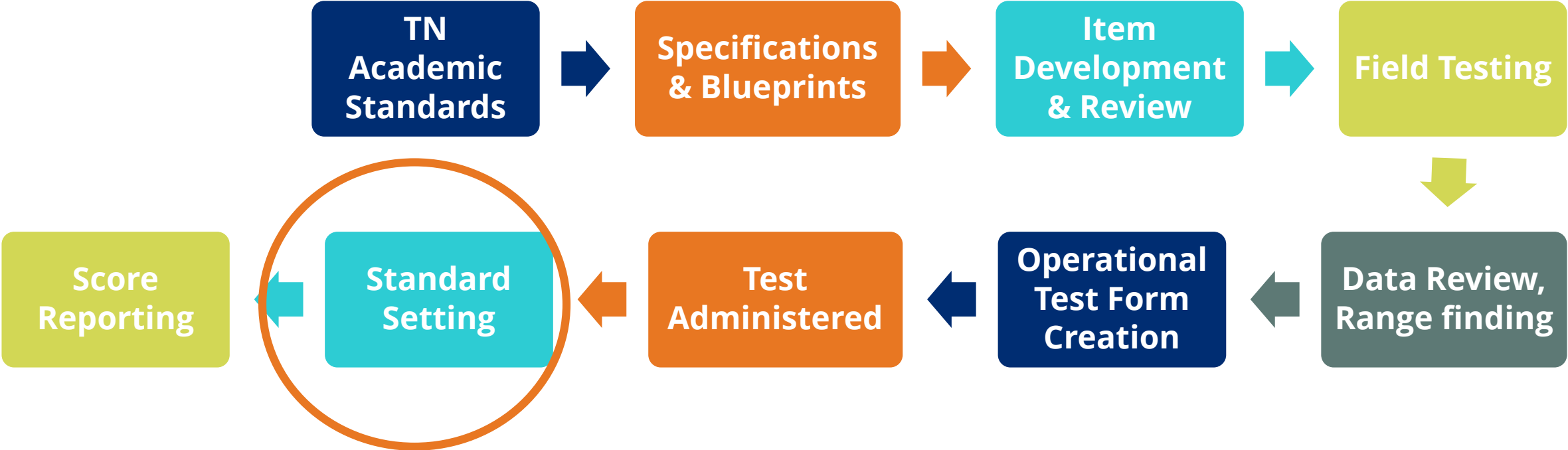
- **Longer overall testing window** will require increased support from department assessment logistics staff and stronger focus on test security training and precautions.
- **Change in results return date** due to longer testing window and updated equating procedures to account for pandemic.
  - Districts testing early will still receive raw score files on rolling basis to use as needed. Final printed score reports will be delivered when all testing is complete.



# Standard Setting Preview



# Assessment Life Cycle: 3 Year Process



# What is Standard Setting?

“Standard setting is the methodology used to **define levels of achievement** or proficiency and the **cut-scores** corresponding to those levels.

A cut-score is simply the score that serves to classify the students whose score is below the cut-score into one level and the students whose score is at or above the cut-score into the next and higher level.”



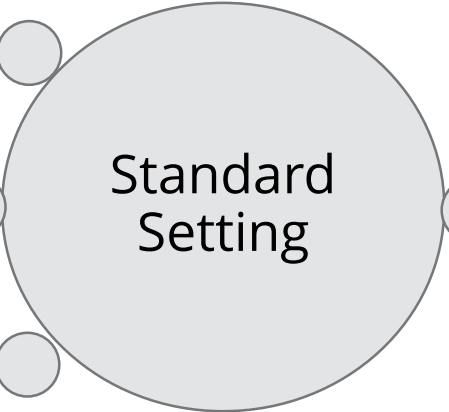


# What is Standard Setting?

Student Expectations

Assessment

Content Expertise



Standard Setting

Mastered

On Track

Approaching

Below



# What is Standard Setting?



Cut Scores



Below

Approaching

On Track

Mastered



Performance

Lower

Higher

# What is Standard Setting?



## Mastered

Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has an **extensive** understanding and has an **expert** ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.

## On Track

Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has a **comprehensive** understanding and has a **thorough** ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.

## Approaching

Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has an **approaching** understanding and has a **partial** ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.

## Below

Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has a **minimal** understanding and has a **nominal** ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.

# Why do a Standard Setting?



## Revised Science Standards

- Grades 3-8 and Biology
- Developed following recommendations found in *A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts and Core Ideas*
- Adopted by State Board in October 2016 for implementation during 20218-19 school year
- Aligned with revised TCAP science assessments in place starting in 2019-20 which require standard setting to determine levels

# Why do a Standard Setting?



## Revised Social Studies Standards

- Grades 6-8 and U.S. History
- Reviewed and revised in 2019
- Test design was adapted to remove constructed response item and align to revised standards
- Aligned with revised TCAP social studies assessments in place starting in 2019-20 which require standard setting to determine levels

# What to Expect



## Cancelation of 2020 Standard Setting Meetings

- Lack of spring testing in 2020 meant no student data was available to review as part of standard setting methodology
- Cancelation of in-person events in Summer 2020 was required to avoid spread of virus.

# What to Expect



## First of Multiple Educator Committees Held in Nov.

- Conducted virtually (utilizing proprietary Pearson platform)
- Included educators from across Tennessee, diversity of backgrounds, years of experience, school characteristics
- Reviewed Fall and Spring assessment items in comparison to standards and policy level descriptors (PLDs)
- Utilized Extended Modified Yes/No Angoff method (Davis & Moyer, 2015) instead of Bookmark methodology
- Alternate assessment not yet included

# What to Expect

## Remaining Educator Meetings

- Educators assist in ensuring vertical alignment between grade levels
- Special education educators will be convened to conduct standard setting for TCAP-Alt
- Expect full report on all committees as we present recommended cutscores in July 2021
- Student results will be prepared after board approval





# Questions?



# We are here for you!

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# **2020-21 ACCOUNTABILITY CONCERNS**

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BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

# QUESTIONS?

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