
Annual Performance Goals and Objectives for Achievement and Achievement Gap Closure

The Background:

Based on the Every Student Succeeds Act signed into law in December 2015, Tennessee may use 2016-17 as a transition year to develop a state plan that aligns with all the required school and district accountability metrics as required in the new law. In the meantime, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) will continue with its accountability framework as described in its 2015 ESEA Flexibility Waiver renewal approved by the US Department of Education.

Through this waiver renewal, Tennessee had the opportunity to create a new accountability system. The new accountability system has two overriding objectives: growth for all students every year and closing achievement gaps by ensuring faster growth for those students who are furthest behind.

The TDOE will determine district performance through evaluating multiple metrics for both achievement and gap closure. In grades 3-8, 2016-17 will be the first year of the updated TCAP assessments for English Language Arts and Math and will set a new baseline for student performance. For high school End of Course (EOC) subjects, updated assessments for English and math were successfully administered in 2015-16, and the TDOE will use that baseline data to set Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for grades 9-12, as has been the case in prior years. Therefore, the achievement data for high school EOCs will be available in early fall, and the TDOE will present these specific AMO targets to the SBE at that time.

Thus, during the 2016-17 school year, district accountability will be determined based on up to three pathways for achievement and gap closure: AMOs (for high school metrics only), relative rank (compared to other districts) and TVAAS growth. The methodology the department is using to determine district accountability will accommodate the delayed assessment transition in grades 3-8 and will not depend on setting performance targets based on historical TCAP achievement for those grades.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education 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.