

The Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) is the state's standard testing program and is designed to assess students' grasp of Tennessee's academic standards.

The general education assessments for students in grades 3 through 8 and in high school, covering math, English language arts, social studies, and science, are also known as TN Ready tests. They include essay and short answer questions as well as multi-step math problems, which are considered better measures of complex skills than multiple choice questions alone.

In addition to the general education assessments, TCAP also includes alternative assessments for students with significant disabilities and optional assessments for grade 2 students.

TCAP/TN Ready changes from school years 2015-16 to 2021-22

School year 2015-16:

Schools planned to administer TN Ready assessments online, unless they had opted for the paper alternative. Technical and logistical issues resulted in TN Ready cancellations for grades 3 through 8, but high school testing continued as scheduled.

School year 2016-17:

The state transferred to a new test vendor and the assessments were administered primarily using paper format.

School year 2017-18:

Over half of the assessed students took paper versions of TN Ready. The students who took the online version were subject to several technical issues. In 2019, the General Assembly responded by passing legislation requiring the 2019-20 TN Ready tests to be administered in paper format.

School year 2018-19:

The online administration of the TN Ready test occurred without significant issues.

School year 2019-20:

Tennessee switched to a new vendor for administering the tests. Due to the disruption of the normal school schedule by the COVID-19 outbreak, lawmakers removed TCAP testing requirements, allowing the cancellation of spring 2020 assessments.

School year 2020-21:

TCAP tests were administered to students in person, at schools or alternative sites, unless students qualified for an exemption. Testing was in paper format only, using the paper test forms originally produced for 2019-20 that went unused when spring testing was canceled. Each district determined if or how much test results impacted students' final grades. A special session law ensured teachers were not negatively affected by this year's test results.

School year 2021-22:

TCAP tests for high school students will be administered online, while those for students in grades 3 through 8 will be administered in paper format.