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# UPDATE

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## TENNESSEE EDUCATION GLOSSARY

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The Tennessee Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) has completed an update of the online version of its Tennessee Education Glossary. OREA created the glossary to provide legislators and the general public with a tool for understanding education terms and their relevance to Tennessee. Glossary entries define terms as well as provide pertinent data, explanations of relevant legislation, and links to related OREA reports. The glossary is updated regularly to maintain accuracy and keep up with policy changes.

The 2024 update revised **30 of the over 240 existing glossary entries** with up-to-date definitions, data, and related legislation, where applicable. Updated entries include *career and technical education*, *education savings account*, *school safety*, *Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA)*, and *virtual school*.

OREA also added **three** new entries to the online glossary:

- *alternate academic diploma (AAD)*: high school diploma offered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Students who obtain an AAD count as graduates in the state's adjusted cohort graduation rate calculation.
- *financial literacy*: having the ability to effectively manage money in order to participate and thrive in an increasingly complex economy. The General Assembly passed two bills during the 2023 legislative session to help promote financial literacy among Tennessee students.
- *released time course*: a period of time during which a student is excused from school to attend a course in religious moral instruction taught by an independent entity off school property. In 2023, the General Assembly passed a law allowing local boards of education to award students one unit of elective credit for attending a released time course, up from the half unit of credit offered in previous years.



To view the glossary, visit the Comptroller's OREA website at [tncot.cc/orea](https://tncot.cc/orea).