



# At-A-Glance: Achievement School District



**December 2017**

The Achievement School District (ASD) was created by Tennessee's First to the Top Act as one of three interventions that the Commissioner of Education may require to turn around the state's lowest performing schools.

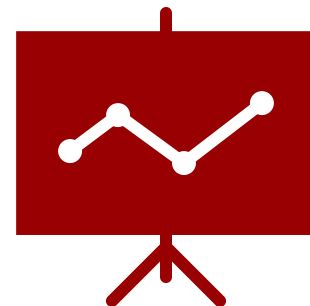
An organizational unit of the Tennessee Department of Education, the ASD provides oversight for the operation of schools assigned to it or schools which the ASD itself authorizes. Priority schools, those schools with performance levels that place them in the bottom 5 percent in the state, are eligible to be placed in the ASD.



The ASD selects priority schools to place in its jurisdiction based in part on community input and neighborhood advisory council processes. The ASD may either directly operate a school or recruit charter operators to convert an existing traditional public school that has been identified as a priority school.

If schools placed within the ASD do not meet or exceed growth expectations (level 4 or 5 growth, as measured by the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System or TVAAS) by the third year, the current operator will be replaced with a new operator, a process that could repeat itself up to three times, at years three, six, and nine, if the school fails to meet growth expectations.

Schools may stay within the ASD for a maximum of 10 years. Schools may begin to transition out of the ASD and back to their original district if they do not appear on the priority school list – run every three years – for two consecutive cycles.



As of the 2017-18 school year, 32 schools operate in the ASD: 29 in Shelby County and three in Metro Nashville.