

Assessments for Special Populations

Alternate Assessments – 2022-2023 Test Dates Will Be Released When Received from the TDOE.

Alternate assessments are designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities for whom participation in the regular state assessment would be inappropriate, even with the use of extensive accommodations (about one percent of the student population). The structures of alternate assessments are designed around the students' physical and cognitive disabilities in a way that allows them to answer test questions and participate in the test as independently as possible. For example, a variety of accommodations are built into the test design in order to accommodate each student's personal mode of communication (e.g., sign language, eye gaze, augmentative communication devices, etc.).

A student eligible to participate in the alternate assessment will be assessed on all four content areas—ELA, math, science, and social studies—with the exception of the *optional* Grade 2 TCAP-Alt, which only assesses ELA and math.

Tennessee currently offers the following alternate assessments:

- [Required] The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) in ELA/writing and mathematics (Grades 3–8, 11)
- [Required] The TCAP-Alt for Science and Social Studies (Grades 3–8, Grade 10 Science)
- [Optional] The TCAP-Alt for ELA and math (Grade 2)

Grade Level	None	MSAA for ELA & Math	TCAP-Alt for Math and ELA	TCAP-Alt for Science	TCAP-Alt for Social Studies
Grade 2			X (optional)		
Grades 3–8		X		X	X
Grade 9	X				
Grade 10				X	
Grade 11		X			
Grade 12	X*				

**Unless student has not previously completed the alternate assessment.*

Results of the MSAA and the TCAP-Alt are provided to each student's teacher. These results are not used as a part of a student's final grade. Reports are also shared with the student's family.

English Learner (EL) Assessments – 2022-2023 Test Dates Will Be Released When Received from the TDOE.

Per federal law, states are required to assess the English proficiency of all English learner students. Additionally, states are required to annually measure English learners' progress in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

English learners (ELs) are assessed each year with an assessment called ACCESS 2.0. *(Note: Tennessee has partnered with a non-profit organization called WIDA since 2014-15 in order to measure the English proficiency levels of EL students. ACCESS 2.0 is a WIDA-developed assessment.)*

The results from ACCESS 2.0 are used in accountability measures and to provide districts with information to determine EL placement in courses; student results on ACCESS 2.0 guide decisions regarding student participation in content area classrooms, as well as their need for English as a Second Language (ESL) services. Results from this assessment also provide districts and schools with valuable information to evaluate the effectiveness of their programming and support for ELs. Individual teachers utilize the results from ACCESS 2.0 to determine individual supports needed for the EL students in their classrooms. Results are also shared with parents of EL students.

In addition to ACCESS 2.0, all English learners must also participate in regular state testing for their grade level and content area.