

Response to TNReady Listening Tour Report

Changes to Assessment Delivery for 2018-19



Real World Verification of Testing Platform

- On October 23, 2018, the TDOE orchestrated a successful online verification test involving nearly 50,000 students.
- As expected, the platform was able to manage a high volume of students logging in and submitting practice tests.
- Districts who participated will receive score reports aligned to standards, which can be used to inform instruction.



Quicker Return of Assessment Results

- Jan 4: Return raw scores for fall End-of-Course (EOC) assessments*
- May 20: Return raw scores for all spring EOCs and grades 3-8 testing*
- June/July: Return all scores to districts in online format, followed by hard copy reports to students.



Better Educator Training Opportunities

- Video-based, online modules and in-person training delivered to teachers by testing coordinators.
- Day-long trainings and online message boards for district testing coordinators.
- Additional support and training from new TNReady Ambassadors.

Additional Changes for 2018-19

1. Earlier Access to Test Administration Documents

For fall testing, the test manual has already been provided online and hard copies were provided to testing coordinators in September. In addition, the manual and proctor scripts will be printed and delivered to schools for the spring.

2. Clarity and Consistency in the Test Administration Documents

The test manual and proctor scripts will be thoroughly reviewed by the state's new TNReady ambassadors to ensure instructions are clear and consistent.

3. Sturdier Test Delivery Boxes

The vendor has purchased sturdier boxes that have been examined and approved by the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE).

4. Size of Student Test Tickets

The assessment vendor will offer two size options (1x2.6 or 2x4) for districts that found the tickets were too small and easy for students to lose.

5. Less Paper to Manage

Beginning spring 2019, grades 4-8 will have combined math and english language arts (ELA) booklets to reduce the number of documents. Also, paper tests will be distributed so each school only has to manage one version.

6. Fewer Subparts

In 2018-19, ELA will be reduced from four to three subparts. Additionally, two end-of-course exams have been eliminated and the social studies test has been paused for grades 3-5.

7. Earlier Delivery of Materials

Printing materials will now be shipped from Missouri instead of the Northeast to mitigate shipping delays due to winter weather.

8. More Responsive Help Desk

TDOE has strengthened response time requirements in the current contract and will have a full-time TDOE staffer focused on customer service.

9. Caching in Case of Submission Errors

The Nextera testing platform will be able to automatically cache submissions in the event of a problem at the time the student attempts to submit.

Assessment Delivery for 2018-19



- **Grades 3-4:** Paper only assessment
- **Grades 5-8:** Paper assessment for all subjects, except for the field test in science
- **High School End-of-Course:** Online only assessment

*This assumes that all constructed response items are completed and tests are shipped by the dates specified [here](#).

Changes to Assessment Delivery Beginning in 2019-20

"I am grateful to educators from all across the state who actively participated in the TNReady listening tour discussions and submitted real solutions on how to improve the delivery of future assessments. We must get this right, and the changes we are implementing based on educator feedback will help us get there."

-Governor Bill Haslam

Greater Access to Technology

Pursue implementation of the Tennessee Student Technology Enrichment Program (TNSTEP) to provide districts with more affordable options for obtaining technology devices beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

- Through TNSTEP, TDOE will identify vendors who can provide high-quality devices at competitive rates. Districts will be able to choose from a purchase option, finance option, or an operating lease.
- Under the lease option, districts will be able to rent technology for a period of three years, during which time the devices are supported by the manufacturer.
- This model could reduce the total cost of ownership to the district by as much as 40%.

Smarter Delivery

- Grades 3-4: The annual assessment will remain paper-only.
- Grades 5-8: The science assessment will remain computer-based, and other subject areas will move online upon vendor demonstrating readiness.
- High School End-of-course (EOC): These assessments will be administered online, but we will prioritize offering the reading passages in paper copy.

Faster Results

Priority will be given to an assessment vendor that can create an online login so that teachers and families can get access to results once they are available to the district. Electronic delivery will cut the lag time associated with districts disseminating paper reports.

Better Preparation

- The state will provide additional TNReady test questions to teachers to prepare students for the exam and strengthen their everyday classroom instruction.
- Additionally, the state will pursue an option with the assessment vendor that would allow districts to deliver optional benchmark tests that mirror the expectations of TNReady.

More Tennessee Partnerships

Evaluation criteria for the assessment vendor will award additional credit to those vendors who plan to partner with Tennessee companies and universities to procure test materials and score tests.