

Glossary

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): AYP is a measure of each school's and district's year-to-year progress in achieving state NCLB standards for reading/language arts/writing, mathematics and a third measurement: attendance rate for grades K-8, and graduation rate for grades 9-12. (Source: MCS)

Gateway Exams: Since 2001-2002, students entering ninth grade are required to pass three Gateway Exams in order to earn a Tennessee regular high school diploma. The three exams are mathematics (Algebra I), science (Biology I) and language arts (English II). Results of student performance on the Gateway mathematics exam and Gateway language arts/writing exams are used in determining AYP for grades 9-12. (Source: MCS)

Graduation Rate: A federally required benchmark that calculates the percentage of on-time graduates with a regular high school diploma. GED and special education diplomas are not allowed to count as a regular high school diploma under regulations from the U.S. Department of Education. (Source: TN Report Card)

Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT): Any public elementary or secondary school teacher who holds at least a Bachelor's Degree, is fully-licensed in Tennessee and submits the required documents to demonstrate competency in the content area(s) being taught.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB): This federal act was signed into law in January 2001 and reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The law requires each state department of education to submit to the U.S. Department of Education an accountability plan for measuring AYP. This plan must meet federal requirements regarding testing and other criteria and must be approved by the U.S. Department of Education in order for the state to receive federal education funds. NCLB imposes sanctions on schools and districts that do not make AYP. NCLB requires 100 percent of students to be proficient in mathematics and reading/language arts/writing by 2013-2014. Overall performance of a school is determined by whether or not the students in that school met the State of Tennessee benchmarks for determining AYP. Meeting the state's standards requires that most of the students in the school score proficient or advanced in reading/language arts/writing and mathematics as measured by either the TCAP Achievement Test, for elementary and middle schools, or the Gateway exams, for high school students. In addition, elementary and middle schools must have an

attendance rate of 93 percent for the year, and high schools must have a low dropout rate (less than 5 percent), or a dropout rate that is declining substantially. (Source: MCS)

Below Proficient, Proficient or Advanced: Student performance on state assessments is compared to state standards and is determined to be in one of three categories: below state standards (Below Proficient), meeting state standards (Proficient) or exceeding state standards (Advanced). NCLB standards require increases in the percentage of students who are Proficient or Advanced with the requirement that all (100 percent) students be Proficient or Advanced in mathematics and reading/language arts by 2013-2014. (Source: MCS)

TCAP Achievement Test: The Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Achievement Test is given statewide to all students in grades 3-8. It is a timed, multiple choice assessment in reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Results of student performance on the reading, language arts and mathematics sections are used in determining Adequate Yearly Progress for grades 3-8. (Source: MCS)

Safe harbor: Safe harbor is met by significantly reducing the percentage of below proficient students within a targeted student subgroup over a one, two or three year period in the content area(s) of mathematics and/or reading. To qualify for safe harbor, the student subgroup must also meet or exceed benchmarks for additional indicators such as attendance rate, drop-out rate, or graduation rate. (Source: MCS)

State Benchmarks: Tennessee has established a proficiency benchmark that schools must obtain in reading/language arts, math, and attendance in order to meet AYP. The benchmark is a target percentage students must achieve in order to be considered proficient in each area. The state benchmarks will continue to increase through the year 2014 until students are 100% proficient in all areas. Tennessee's target benchmarks for the 2006-2007 academic year are:

School Level (2006-2007 Benchmarks)	Reading/ Language Arts	Math	Non Academic Standard
Elementary & Middle Schools	83%	79%	Attendance Rate 93%
High Schools	90%	75%	Graduation Rate 90%

(Source: TN BOE website)