## 2023 State Test Score Results: TENNESSEE

## STATE HIGHLIGHTS

- Overall 2023 Results: Tennessee students have made gains in both math and ELA proficiency following the COVID-19 pandemic. Students have surpassed 2019 proficiency rates in ELA ( $36.6 \%$ proficient in $2023 \mathrm{vs} .33 .7 \%$ in 2019), though they have not fully recovered in mathematics ( $38.1 \%$ proficient in 2023 vs. $40.8 \%$ in 2019).
- Results by Race/Ethnicity: Across all years, TN achievement data reflects variation by race/ethnicity. In 2023, the widest achievement gap appeared for students identifying as Asian and Black or African American, both for ELA (56\% vs 20\%) and math ( $61 \%$ vs. 19\%).
- Results by District Poverty Level: ELA and math proficiency results vary by district poverty level across all years. Compared to 2019, the achievement gap in 2023 between districts with the highest and lowest levels of poverty for school-age children has widened in both subject areas.

TENNESSEE 2023 ELA \& MATH RESULTS, GRADES 3-8


Note. In 2023, $36.6 \%$ of students in Gr 3-8 included in the analysis reached proficiency or above in ELA ( $n=157,349 / 429,936$ ), compared to $38.1 \%$ of students who did so in mathematics ( $n=160,532 / 420,882$ ). Reflects October 2023 update to correct earlier calculation error.

## TENNESSEE 2023 PROFICIENCY BY RACE/ETHNICITY, GRADES 3-8



Note. Each student subgroup varies in total students tested each year. In 2023, 56\% of students identified as Asian reached ELA proficiency ( $n=6,359$ ), compared to $20 \%$ of students who were Black or African American ( $n=21,164$ ), $25 \%$ of students who were Hispanic or Latino ( $n=14,225$ ), $44 \%$ of students who were white ( $n=112,837$ ), and $36 \%$ of additional student subgroups (American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Two or More; $n=157,793$ ). Data labels with similar values may affect visibility. Reflects October 2023 update to correct earlier calculation error.

TENNESSEE 2023 PROFICIENCY BY DISTRICT POVERTY LEVEL, GRADES 3-8


Note. School district poverty data are drawn from the 2021 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates program (SAIPE) of the U.S. Census Bureau. Categorizations are based on overall U.S. quartiles. In 2023, $54 \%$ of students in TN districts in which less than $10 \%$ of school-age children lived in poverty achieved ELA proficiency ( $n=41,634$ ), compared to $39 \%$ of students in which $10-15 \%$ of school-age children lived in poverty ( $n=33,931$ ), 34\% of students in which $15-25 \%$ of school-age children lived in poverty ( $n=63,876$ ), and $25 \%$ of students in which $25 \%$ or more of school-age children lived in poverty ( $n=17,196$ ). Data labels with similar values may affect visibility. Reflects October 2023 update to correct earlier calculation error.

## STATE ASSESSMENT DATA



The student outcome data used in this State Brief come from Tennessee's TNReady assessment as part of the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP). The data represent outcomes for students in Grades 3-8 in math and ELA.

## Measuring Proficiency

The state's ELA and math assessments include four proficiency levels: Below Expectations, Approaching Expectations, Met Expectations, and Exceeded Expectations. In this report, "proficient" = the percent of students meeting or exceeding expectations.

## Years Included in Analysis

This report reflects school years (SY) 2017-18 through 2022-23. Data for SY 2019-20 are not available, as the assessment was not administered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Participation Rate Data

In Spring 2021, the U.S. Department of Education waived the requirement that $95 \%$ of all students complete the state's annual academic assessment, leading to varied participation rates by state. In Tennessee, statewide TCAP participation reached 95\% in 2021. In Spring 2022, districts were again required to measure the achievement of not less than $95 \%$ of all students and students in each subgroup on its annual statewide assessments in math and ELA.

## Additional Information

More information about the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) can be found at https://www.tn.gov/education/districts/lea-
operations/assessment/tnready.html.


## ABOUT THE

 DATA SERIESThe State Test Score Results Data Series explores state-level trends in ELA and math proficiency outcomes on state standardized assessments, both before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the Data Series presents math and ELA proficiency trends on state assessments between Spring 2018-Spring 2023, as available. Results are presented for the state overall, by race/ethnicity, and by district poverty levels for school-age children.

Data presented in this State Brief are specific to this state's assessment and are not comparable to other states.

For any questions, please email covid19schooldatahub@gmail.com.

