

If a student is not proficient on the 3rd grade English language arts (ELA) section of the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) assessment, what are the pathways for promoting them to 4th grade?

Attend Promising Scholars during the summer and/or Accelerating Scholars throughout the 4th grade year.

Who determines whether an individual student meets one of the exceptions in relation to retention?

Schools in conjunction with MNPS personnel must determine whether an individual student meets one of the circumstances that exempts the student from retention. All decisions regarding exemptions must be made on a case-by-case basis considering the unique needs and circumstances of the individual student and documented in the student's file.

Is there an appeal procedure available for a 3rd grade student who has been determined to not be proficient in ELA and therefore may not be promoted to the next grade level?

Yes, for students who have achieved the performance level of "approaching" on the ELA portion of the TCAP. Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-6-3115(d), the State Board of Education promulgated rules to establish an appeals process, to be administered by the department, for a student who is identified for retention in 3rd grade based on the student's achieving a performance level rating of "approaching" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test. The law and subsequent rules require that if an appeal is filed, the filing must be made by the student's parent or guardian.

If a student elects to attend Promising Scholars as a condition to being promoted to 4th grade and does not attend at least 90% of the days of the program, will they automatically be retained?

The law requires a student to maintain a 90% attendance rate as a condition of being promoted to the next grade. However, MNPS is determining how to offer make up services as needed in the event a student falls below 90% through no fault of their own.

What does the TCAP retake entail and when will it be available?

The TCAP retake assessment will be multiple choice/multiple choice select to allow for immediate scoring of the assessment. It will be administered on a computer and pre-equated, to allow for a scale score to be produced for the LEA within two (2) business days. The retake window will take place between May 30 and June 5.

The last day of school in MNPS is May 25. MNPS is working to determine the best way to provide a retake option to all families that wish to participate.

What information is available regarding the pre-test and post-tests for summer programming?

The TCAP will serve as the "pre-test" for summer programming. The "post-test" will be comprised of TCAP-aligned items and is designed to take less than one hour to complete. The assessment will be administered online and will allow for accommodations.

How will adequate growth be measured for summer programming?

The Adequate Growth Measure will be determined based on growth between the “pre-test” and the “post-test.” The calculation of what constitutes adequate growth will be determined annually using a standard psychometric process, as is also done with the TCAP. The calculations will be reviewed by the department’s Technical Advisory Committee (a group of national assessment experts and psychometricians who also provide feedback and consultation on the state assessment).

What are the dates for Promising Scholars?

Promising Scholars will be held from June 1 to June 30. Registration and additional information for Promising Scholars can be found at <https://promisingscholars.mnps.org>.

If I have additional questions, what do I do?

Please send your question to the following email address: retentionquestions@mnps.org. Someone will be able to respond to your question within 48 hours.