



State announces district achievement results

The State of Tennessee has released [limited district academic achievement results](#) for the 2011-12 school year. Released data includes aggregate grade 3-8 scores on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) and End of Course (EOC) exams for school systems across the state.



"Our results show that we are continuing to make solid, steady academic progress, and we are grateful to our teachers, students, parents, and staff for their tremendous focus on academic achievement."

Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent, Knox County Schools

Highlights from the 2011-2012 data for the Knox County Schools include:

- Gains in overall proficiency rates for all four tested subject areas on the TCAP for grades 3-8 (reading/language arts, math, science, social studies)
- Gains in proficiency in 7 of 10 of the achievement measures (4 TCAP subjects for grades 3-8 and 6 EOCs) publicly released today
- A slight regression in the U.S. History EOC, where KCS's proficiency rate was over 95 percent*

- While gains were made in Algebra I and English I EOCs, there were slight declines in Algebra II and English II

- Preliminary data indicate an increase in proficiency in 3rd grade reading/language arts from 47.8 percent to 51.1 percent

“Our results show that we are continuing to make solid, steady academic progress, and we are grateful to our teachers, students, parents, and staff for their tremendous focus on academic achievement,” said Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools.

“There is much to be proud of in our 2011-12 academic achievement results, and a few areas to focus some additional attention. We will use these diagnostic data to inform our educational and instructional decisions in order to continuously improve, and achieve our ambitious academic goal of Excellence for All Children.”

District TCAP results come on the heels of Tennessee Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman’s recent announcement of statewide TCAP results, which showed the largest growth in TCAP history.

*Per State Board of Education policy, Advanced Placement (AP) students are no longer permitted to take the exam, which could have had an impact on results in this area

Knox County Schools Achievement

	% Proficient/Advanced		
	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
Grade 3-8 Reading/Language Arts	55.1	57.0	1.9
Grade 3-8 Math	47.6	52.1	4.5
Grade 3-8 Science	60.1	64.8	4.7
Grade 3-8 Social Studies	83.1	84.6	1.5
English I	72.9	73.2	0.3
English II	70.3	68.4	-1.9
Algebra I	46.7	56.8	10.1
Algebra II	51.8	48.9	-2.9
Biology I	60.6	66.2	5.6
U.S. History	97.8	97.2	-0.6

Tennessee School Districts Show Significant Growth on Statewide Assessments



NASHVILLE (July 26, 2012)- The Tennessee Department of Education announced today that

student performance on the 2012 Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program improved significantly in school districts across the state.

Nearly all of the state's 136 districts saw proficiency levels increase, and two-thirds improved in every subject of the 3-8 TCAP Achievement tests.

The district-by-district results follow unprecedented gains on the statewide level, where student scores saw the largest growth in TCAP history as Tennessee continued to implement its First to the Top Education reforms.



"The widespread improvements show that efforts to raise student outcomes are working in many districts," said Education Commission Kevin Huffman. "Our students, teachers and administrators worked incredibly hard, and we are gratified that so many districts were able to significantly grow results."

District proficiency levels reveal major improvements in math skills. More than 50 districts saw double-digit growth over last year in Algebra I, with some reporting gains greater than 30 percentage points. Additionally, 23 districts saw double-digit growth in grades 3-8 math.

District-by-district TCAP results can be accessed on the [education department website](#), where they are posted in sortable spreadsheets. Statewide [TCAP results, released last month, are also on the site.](#)

For more information, contact Kelli Gauthier at [\(615\) 532-7187](tel:6155327187) or Kelli.Gauthier@tn.gov.

Here are 2012-13 calendar and listing of start and dismissal times

Students' first day of school is Tuesday, August 14 which is a half-day. Here are the 2012-13 School Year Calendar and a listing of the start and dismissal times for the system. Some schools and some programs have different dismissal times, so please check for your school.



Knox County School Nutrition Program Implements federally mandated meal price increase

Due to the "Equity in School Lunch Pricing" guidelines set by the federal "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," a 25-cent increase in meal prices throughout the KCS district will be reflected in the 2012-2013 school year. The KCS School Nutrition Department continues to operate in a fiscally responsible manner and receives no local education dollars to meet its operational activities and financial goals. The additional revenue obtained will be utilized in offering even more fresh

fruits and vegetables, more servings of whole grains, and reducing our carbon footprint. In addition to this, efforts will be made to update our School Nutrition infrastructure and invest even further in the development and training of our School Nutrition Team Members.

Online cafeteria payments, tracking available

PayPams is a provider that allows parents to electronically view their student's cafeteria account balance, their meal purchases, set up automatic payments, or make one-time payments. To learn more, or to set up a PayPams account, visit www.PayPams.com.



Meal prices for the 2012-2013 school year are as follows:

Breakfast Prices:

Student \$1.75

Reduced Student \$.30

Adult KCS Personnel \$2.00

Adult Visitor \$2.25

Lunch Prices:

K-5 student \$2.50

6-12 Student \$2.75

Reduced Student \$.40

Adult KCS Personnel \$3.25

Adult Visitor \$3.75

Milk \$.50

Ice Cream \$.50

Student Schedules available on [Parent Portal](#) August 9

All student schedules will be available online by Thursday, August 9, 2012 through Parent Portal ([Parent Portal Information](#)). If you have your username and are unable to log in, please contact the Help Desk at (865) 594-1852 or helpdesk@knoxschools.org. If you do not have your username, please call your child's school. ([Parent Portal](#))



More information about [Parent Communications](#).

Kindergarten is FULL DAY this year

Kindergarten students throughout Knox County Schools will benefit from a full day of instruction beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. This means that Kindergarten will follow the traditional elementary school hours by beginning at 7:45 a.m. and dismissing at 2:45 p.m.



Age requirements do not change this year.

([More Information](#))

7th graders must have current immunizations before school starts

The Tennessee Department of Health immunizations and Immunization Certificate are required for entry into school. The form is available from your medical provider or local health department beginning. All vaccinations must be up-to-date and documented on the form prior to enrolling in Pre-school, Kindergarten, Seventh grade or as a new student entering Knox County Schools.

Students without the required immunization and correct certificate may not attend school. This includes grades Kindergarten, seventh and new students to KCS. Parents should contact the Knox County Health Department at [\(865\) 215-5150](tel:8652155150) or their primary care physician for the form.

Tennessee Department of Health immunization requirements for students

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Who's affected:

New students to KCS

Kindergarten

7th Graders

Anyone who is not current on immunizations

Here are the required immunizations:

Pre-School requirements:

- DTaP or DT
- Hepatitis B (HBV)
- Poliomyelitis (IPV or OPV)
- H.influenzae (HiB) : age younger than 5 years only
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR)
- Pneumococcal (PCV): age younger than 5 years only
- Hepatitis A

Kindergarten requirements:

- DTaP or DT

- Polio (IPV or OPV): (final dose on or after the 4th birthday)
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (2 doses of each, usually given together as MMR)
- Varicella (Chickenpox): 2 doses or history of disease
- Hepatitis B (HBV)
- Hepatitis A (2 doses): effective July 1, 2011

Seventh grade requirements:

- Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis booster (Tdap)
- Verification of immunity to varicella (2 doses or history of disease)

New student requirement:

- DTaP or DT
- Hepatitis B (HBV)
- Polio (IPV or OPV): final dose on or after the 4th birthday
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (Chickenpox): 2 doses or history of disease

For additional information, please contact the Knox County Health Department at [\(865\) 215-5150](tel:865-215-5150) or Knox County Schools Health Services at [\(865\) 594-3643](tel:865-594-3643).



Bus stops, school zones, and parent responsibility zones

Knox County Schools contracts with independent service providers who operate more than 350 buses on all instructional days. Buses travel in excess of 3,000,000 miles each year. Approximately 36,000 students reside outside of the parent responsibility zone and are eligible for transportation services.

Who is eligible for transportation services? Elementary students (grades K-5) who reside greater than one mile from their zoned school, by the shortest route, are eligible for transportation services. Students in grades 6-12 residing greater than one and one-half miles from their zone school, by the shortest route, are eligible for transportation services.

Bus routes and bus stops: To find the closest bus stop please use the KGIS mapping system. The system will ask you for house number and street name, then provide a list of bus stops to the schools near you. ([Find my student's bus route](#))

School Zones: If you are unsure where your student will attend school check this KNOX Net Where link to locate school zones. ([Find my student's school zone](#))

State Integrates New Common Core Standards

TNCore

Tennessee is moving into a higher set of academic standards known as, Common Core. These encompass a set of standards for math and English/Language Arts which are adopted by 45 states that helps

ensure every student graduates high school prepared for college or the workforce. Instructional time will have a greater emphasis on thinking, problem solving, and creativity. This will better support future assessments that will give students, parents, and educators better information about college- and career-readiness based on performance beyond multiple-choice tests.

To learn more about Common Core in Tennessee, visit www.tncore.org. If parents have questions regarding the new Common Core standards, feel free to visit with your child's teacher or you can email us at commoncore@knoxschools.org.

PTA Education Forum "The 21st Century Classroom" is August 30

The Knox County Council PTA will hold its annual Education Forum , "The 21st Century Classroom" on Thursday, August 30, 2012. It will be held at The Andrew Johnson Building, 912 South Gay Street.



It will begin at 11:30a.m. with a meet and greet and a complimentary lunch. The featured speaker will be Dr. Mark Edwards of Mooresville, N.C. Also a representative from the State of Tennessee will speak about the new common core standards and what it means to your child.

Dr. Edwards is currently serving as superintendent of the Mooresville Graded School District. He is a native Knoxvilleian, graduate of the University of Tennessee and received his doctorate in educational leadership from Vanderbilt University.

He is currently leading his districts [laptop initiative](#), equipping more than 5,400 students with 21st century tools via laptops, interactive boards, and iPads. The forum will conclude with a question and answer session. All parents, teachers, community leaders and PTA members are invited to attend. Please RSVP to unitliaison@knoxcountyppta.org by August 27.



Tennessee Sales Tax Holiday helps cut school costs

The Tennessee Sales Tax Holiday starts each year at 12:01 a.m. on the first Friday in August and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the following Sunday. The dates will be August 3 - 5. ([More Information](#))

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett holds "Back to School Bash" August 14, 3-6 p.m.

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett is hosting a "Back to School Bash" for Knox County students on Aug. 14, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Merchants/I-75 Expo Center on Clinton Highway. ([More Information](#))

ONE NUMBER – Knox County Schools' Customer Assistance

The Public Affairs Office at Knox County Schools' receives district-wide phone calls. If you need assistance in finding the appropriate person or department, please call the Knox County Schools main number at (865) 594-1800. With the exception of weekends and holidays, it is answered yearlong from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.