

TVAAS DATA for 2016-17 Frequently Asked Questions

1. What individual TVAAS composites will be provided for the 2016-17 school year?

Where applicable, teachers will receive one of three possible individual TVAAS composites this year in support of the flexibility options described in [this document](#):

1. Single-year composite: includes only individual TVAAS data from the 2016-17 school year
2. Multi-year composite **with** 2015-16 data: weights individual TVAAS data from the 2016-17 school year at 10 percent and any available 2014-15 and/or 2015-16 data at 25 percent
3. Multi-year composite **without** 2015-16 data: weights individual TVAAS data from the 2016-17 school year at 10 percent and any available 2014-15 data at 25 percent

As described in the document linked above, the applicable composite that results in the highest level of overall effectiveness (LOE) for the educator will automatically be used.

2. Is TVAAS stable during testing transitions?

Yes. TVAAS always looks at relative growth from year to year, not absolute test scores. Because students' performance will be compared to the performance of their peers and because their peers are making the transition at the same time, any drops in statewide proficiency rates resulting from increased rigor of the new assessments will have no impact on the ability of teachers, schools, and districts to earn strong TVAAS scores. While there is no set distribution of scores that TVAAS can be expected to produce, we expect to see a relatively stable and balanced distribution of scores through the transition.

3. What grades/subjects will have TVAAS data available for 2016-17?

Grade/Subject	Is data available for 2016-17?
Grade 2 (math/ELA)	Districts who administered the K-2 assessment to first graders last year and who administer the optional grade 2 assessment in 2016-17: Yes** All other districts: No
Grade 3 (science/math/ELA)	Districts whose current third grade students previously took the K-2 assessment as second graders last year and who administer the optional grade 2 assessment in 2016-17: Yes All other districts: No
Grade 4 (all subjects)	No
Grades 5-8 (science/math/ELA)	Yes
Grade 3-8 social studies	No
End-of-Course assessments	Yes
ACT	Yes (school and district)

** 2016-17 will be the final year that TVAAS data is available for second grade teachers based on current TDOE policy to only administer an end-of-year grade 2 assessment.

4. How will TVAAS be calculated this year for grades 5–8?

Due to the suspension of testing in grades 3–8 during the 2015-16 school year, there are no 2015-16 scores available in these grades that can be used for calculating TVAAS data. We worked with our partners at SAS, who calculate TVAAS data, to evaluate and weigh all of the available options for 2016-17 given this lack of scores from the 2015-16 school year. Through this work, we determined that the best option was to calculate scores in these grades using the MRM methodology (see Section 3.1.7 of the technical documentation [here](#)) using prior scores from 2014-15. For example, a fifth grade student's growth expectation in a given subject will be based on the actual performance of fifth grade students this year compared to their peers with comparable performance in that subject in third grade in 2014-15.

5. Why will fourth grade TVAAS not be available this year?

The vast majority of current fourth grade students do not have any prior test scores due to the suspension of testing in 2015-16 when these students were in third grade. Some current fourth grade students do have prior scores in second grade from the optional K–2 assessment administered in 2014-15. That assessment, however, did not include all of the same subject areas as this year's fourth grade assessment. As a result, the methodology described above that will be used in grades 5–8 would not be possible. Additionally, any alternative method for calculating TVAAS data based on available prior scores from the K–2 assessment would require reports on the TVAAS site to look different than what fourth grade educators are accustomed to seeing in the past and will see in the future. As a result, fourth grade TVAAS will not be calculated this year to ensure consistency across educators and methodology over time. Given the completion of third grade assessments in spring 2017, fourth grade TVAAS will be available for the 2017-18 school year.

6. Are there any changes this year to how End-of-Course TVAAS will be calculated?

There will be no major changes this year in how TVAAS data is calculated in End-of-Course subjects. The only adjustment is that prior scores from the EXPLORE assessment, which was administered for the last time in 2015-16 to eighth grade students, will be used along with the rest of students' prior testing histories in TVAAS calculations. Where available, this will provide additional information about students' prior achievement in their final year of middle school, given that there are no other eighth grade scores available from 2015-16. For more information, please see Section 3.2.5 of the technical documentation available [here](#).

7. What early grades TVAAS data will be available this year and in future years?

TVAAS data for second grade will only be available this year for districts that previously administered the K–2 assessment to their current second grade students when they were in first grade **and** that also administer the optional grade 2 assessment in 2016-17. Note, however, that second grade TVAAS will not be available beginning in 2017-18, as second grade students will no longer have prior scores due to the elimination of assessments in kindergarten and first grade.

TVAAS data for third grade will only be available this year in districts whose current third grade students previously took the K–2 assessment as second graders **and** that also administer the grade 2 assessment this year. In future years, third grade TVAAS will be available for all districts whose third grade students previously took the grade 2 assessment **and** that continue to administer the grade 2 assessment in that school year.

8. How will 2016-17 TVAAS data be used in educator evaluations?

The Tennessee legislature passed a bill in April that provides additional flexibility for the use of this data in educator evaluations. Please see the FAQ document [available here](#) for a description of the use of this data in educator evaluations this year. This flexibility includes the provision that 2016-17 TVAAS data will count for a maximum of 10 percent of a teacher's overall evaluation within the growth component of their evaluation unless it benefits the teacher for 2016-17 data to be weighted at the full 35 percent.

9. How should 2016-17 TVAAS data be used, including for personnel decisions?

Please see the memo available [here](#) for guidance about the use of 2016-17 evaluation data, including TVAAS data, in personnel decisions. As addressed in the memo, we encourage district and school leaders to thoughtfully consider all available information and not rely on any single data point upon which to base a personnel decision, including TVAAS data from a single year.

10. Where can I find more information about TVAAS or have specific questions answered?

The TVAAS page on the department's website ([here](#)) and the landing page for the TVAAS site ([here](#)) house a variety of resources. The technical documentation for 2016-17 TVAAS ([here](#)) contains technical details about all aspects of TVAAS calculations and business rules.

Most TVAAS questions are best directed to TVAAS User Support ([here](#)). Submitting a question to TVAAS User Support will open a support ticket, which will route the question to the best person to answer it quickly and comprehensively.