

TISA Accountability Report Frequently Asked Questions

On August 8th, the Tennessee Department of Education (department) released a [template](#) to support LEAs in complying with the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Act for the LEA accountability report, as required by [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-3-112](#) that establishes goals for student achievement and explains how the goals can be met within the LEA's budget.

This document outlines many of the questions LEA staff have shared with the department since the release of this template. The department hosted a series of office hours sessions throughout the month of September to answer questions and share additional guidance on how to complete the report. Many of these questions, in addition to others received during superintendent presentations, are shared below.

As a reminder, in accordance with [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-3-112](#), all LEAs are required to present a TISA Accountability Report for public comment and local board approval before submitting the report to the department on November 1st of each year. Public comment must occur at the local level and documentation of how the public comment requirement was met by the LEA should be included with the report submitted by the LEA. For additional information on what is required in the report, please contact tnedu.funding@tn.gov.

Are LEAs required to include five goals?

LEAs must have multiple goals but five are not required. One of the goals must be the 3rd grade English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency goal.

Must the goals in the report align to the achievement goals in the annual LEA plan?

LEAs are not required to align the goals in the TISA Accountability Report to the achievement goals of the LEA plan. However, the department encourages LEAs to consider the achievement goals and associated strategies and action steps prioritized in the LEA plan to determine the amount of alignment that is appropriate for the LEA and how that may support completion of the report.

Should retake assessment data be included when determining the 3rd grade ELA proficiency goal?

The TCAP retake opportunity is a pathway to promotion for 4th grade students who score “below” or “approaching” on the ELA portion of their spring Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) assessment. The retake assessment may be used to determine the appropriate intervention path for these students. Though the retake assessment is generally representative of the overall 3rd grade ELA TCAP Blueprint, it does not include the writing portion of the spring TCAP assessment. For this reason, goal setting should only include original 3rd grade ELA TCAP information.

Are goals required to be 5 years?

The LEA will determine the length of the multiyear goals set within their report.

If an LEA's 3rd grade ELA proficiency rate is already at or above 70% should the LEA include a plan to increase proficiency by 15% of the gap?

No, this is not a requirement if the LEA is already meeting 70% or more of 3rd grade students proficient in ELA. In this case, the LEA should establish a goal to maintain or increase the 3rd grade ELA proficiency rate.

Is it required that our local board of education approve the plan?

Yes, reports should be approved by the board and documentation should be submitted with the report by Nov. 1. However, the department recognizes that some LEAs may require additional flexibility this year given the report timeline. Therefore, if a LEA does not have a local board meeting prior to Nov. 1, documentation is required indicating when board approval will be acquired. The department will accept revisions to the TISA Accountability Report based on local board approval after Nov. 1. Revised reports should be uploaded into ePlan.

Will the LEA have a chance to revisit the report each year?

Yes. Reports are due annually by November 1.

What do you consider acceptable methods for public input?

Various methods can be used to collect public comments, such as surveys, presentations in local board meetings, or posting on the LEA website with an email address to submit public comment. The LEA should ensure they are seeking comments from parents, educators, and local community members. As noted on the report, the LEA is expected to provide a description of the public comment collection and implementation.

How long does the report need to be up for public comments?

The law does not specify a length of time. LEAs should ensure they provide notice of the opportunity for public comment and time to respond that is adequate in their community prior to submission to the department. LEAs may consider using how they provide notice for local board of education meetings as a guide.

How will accountability be monitored for this report?

The law requires submission of the report and creation of a TISA progress review board which will review these reports yearly to see progress made toward stated goals. For additional details see [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-3-114](#).

In the funding section, can we include strategies funded through sources other than TISA?

The budget description column is focused on the TISA funding. You should include strategies and action steps funded through TISA dollars. If it's helpful to provide additional high-leverage strategies and action steps to understand the improvement work toward the goals the LEA may do so. However, the budget description should clearly differentiate how strategies and action steps are funded.

How will the financial reporting aspect of this report change in future years?

The current report does not include dollar amounts. There will be further conversations about the financial reporting components with more information to come on requirements for future years.

How do we submit our TISA Accountability Report?

Reports should be uploaded to the TISA Accountability Report section of the LEA Document Library in ePlan.