

PARENT FAQs

Are students required to take state tests this year?

Yes. The State is requiring that students in all Tennessee public schools take the TCAP and End of Course (EOC) tests. This includes all students in grades 3 - 8 and high school tested subjects.

Will the tests be given in person or virtually?

The State requires the paper tests to be given in person. Tests will begin in SCS schools May 3.

Why is it necessary to give the test?

In addition to being a state and federal requirement, state tests have not been administered since 2019. Test scores are also very important because they provide information parents and teachers can use to support each student.

- Tests show how well students are mastering state standards and grade level learning expectations.
- Tests show how a child is progressing compared to peers in the District, as well as their strengths and opportunities for growth.
- Test scores are used to determine eligibility for placement in honors/advanced courses, as well as entry into the Optional or C.L.U.E program.
- The tests help teachers determine additional personalized learning supports and interventions that may be needed to help a student succeed.
- The tests hold schools accountable for ensuring equity in our instruction and serving all students fairly.

What steps are schools taking to make sure it is safe for all students to take the test in person?

We are prioritizing student health and safety as we prepare to administer the required in-person tests.

- Social distancing during testing, including use of large spaces like the gym, cafeteria, library and multi-purpose room
- Enhanced cleaning and ventilation systems
- Temperature checks, PPE usage and hand sanitizer stations

Will transportation and meals be provided for students who are currently learning virtually?

Yes. Transportation will be available for eligible students who live beyond the Parent Responsibility Zone (PRZ) during normal pick-up and drop-off times. Parents of virtual students also have the option to drop off and pick up virtual students at designated testing times or allow students remain in-person the entire day. Meals will be provided to all students during in-school testing days, and students will have a relaxed dress code (no uniforms).

What happens if a student does not come to school for testing?

Attendance counts on testing days, and only students who come to school in person will be counted as present. Students who attend school on testing days will also receive a 100 class participation grade in every tested subject. Additionally, if all students do not come to school on testing days, it could result in accountability measures, including state takeover of the school. Funding for the school and District could also be impacted, which could cause us to have fewer teachers and staff and/or fewer resources to support our students.