



State Board Literacy Subcommittee Meeting

Tennessee Department of Education
September 28, 2021



BEST FOR
ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE
ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION,
NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE

STUDENT READINESS

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE
EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC
AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL
STUDENTS IN THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS

EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR
THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE
THE TOP STATE TO BECOME AND REMAIN
A TEACHER AND LEADER FOR ALL



Agenda

- Special Legislative Session Recap
- TCAP 2020-21: Literacy Outcomes
- Tennessee's Summer Programming 2021
- Updates on Additional Literacy Efforts



Special Legislative Session Recap



Tennessee: Implementing Proactive Solutions for Students

Governor Bill Lee, the Tennessee General Assembly, educators, families and communities have made education a clear priority.

Tennessee has led the nation and already put strategic measures in motion to combat predicted impacts resulting from the pandemic.

Educators have made tremendous efforts to support children and keep on pace. While it will take time to see the full payoffs of these efforts, Tennesseans have demonstrated their commitment to accelerating student achievement.

Now, we can check early progress to help Tennessee students recover from pandemic disruptions and accelerate learning.



Tennessee Governor Bill Lee called a **Special Legislative Session on Education**

The January 2021 special session addressed accountability, learning loss, literacy, and teacher pay

"We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense disruption for Tennessee's students, educators, and districts, and the challenges they face must be addressed urgently."
- **Governor Bill Lee**



TN

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Tennessee Literacy Success Act

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, only one-third of Tennessee third graders were proficient in English Language Arts. **After nearly two years of COVID-19 disruptions in our schools, Spring 2021 TCAP results were consistent with the state's prediction that Tennessee's literacy challenge would persist.** In third grade, Tennessee saw a drop in ELA proficiency from 38% in 2019 to 32% in 2021.

The Tennessee Literacy Success Act set **proactive strategies** in motion to tackle our literacy challenge and combat additional negative impacts of the pandemic:

- Districts must use phonics-based literacy skills to teach reading
- Education Preparation Providers (EPPs) are required to provide training on foundational literacy skills
- Districts are required to create a Foundational Literacy Skills Plan to boost literacy for all students (*plans were due June 1*)
- TDOE is required to provide a free and optional Tennessee universal reading screener to help districts gauge student progress
- Districts and the department are required to report progress to parents, the legislature and the general public.



**Foundational Literacy
Skills Plan Toolkit**

April 2021



Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation & Student Acceleration Act

- Established **three types of summer programming** to help students learn missed content



Summer Learning Camps

2021 & 2022



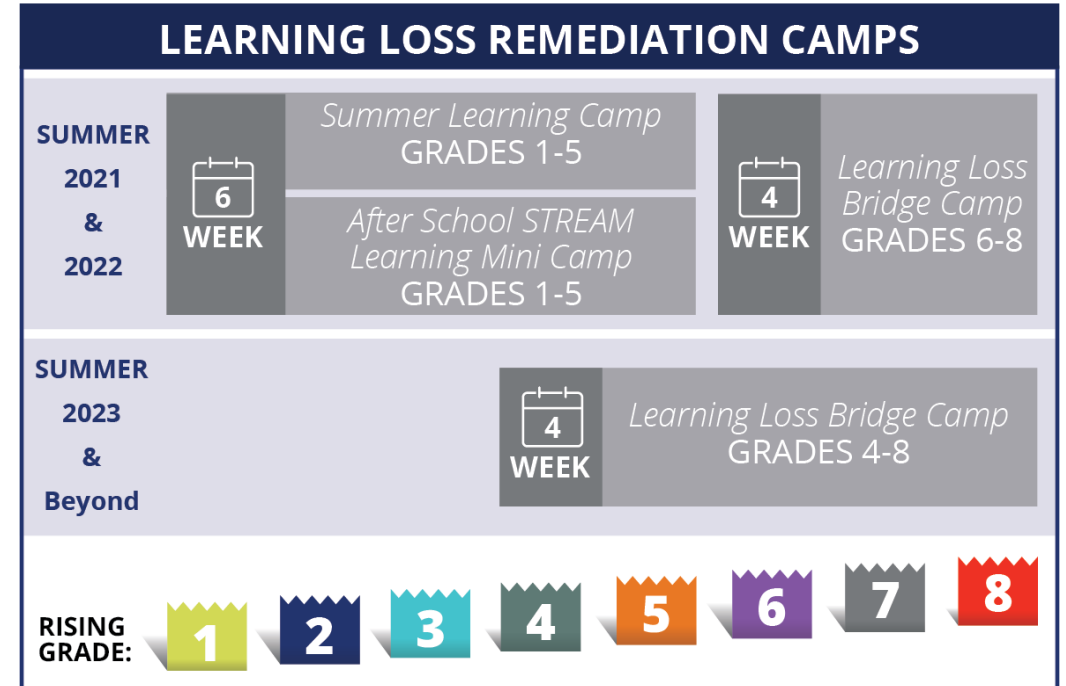
After School STREAM Camps

2021 & 2022



Learning Loss Bridge Camps

2023 & Beyond



- Established the **Tennessee Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps (TN ALL Corps)** to ensure availability of qualified tutors for students, no matter where they live.
- Established a **3rd grade "reading gate"** and provides students with additional time and academic support, such as retesting, participation in a learning loss bridge camp or a tutor through the ALL Corps for the entirety of 4th grade, before retention.

Accountability

- In typical years, student assessment results are used in evaluation and accountability measures for educators, schools and districts.
- The Accountability legislation set forth that, for those districts that met **at least 80% student participation rate** for spring TCAP assessments, assessment scores from the 2020-21 school year would NOT be incorporated into evaluations or accountability measures *unless* it benefitted the teacher, school or district.
- Though the 2019-20 and 2021-21 school years were disrupted as a result of COVID-19, the state maintained a **strong commitment to assessment** in Spring 2021 to help us understand where our students are.



TCAP 2020-21 Results: Literacy Outcomes

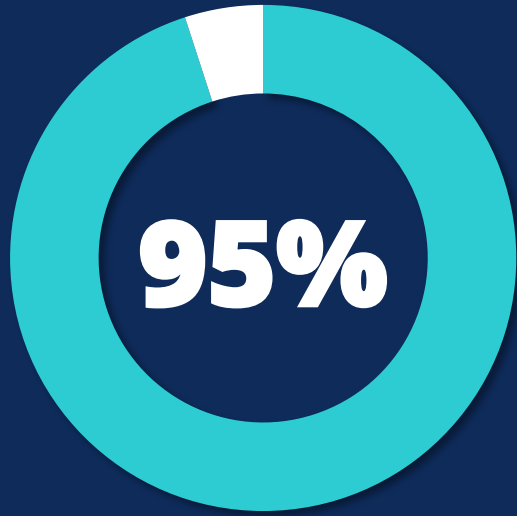
TCAP Results Demonstrate Urgent Need



- Districts and schools across Tennessee worked incredibly hard during the pandemic to provide services to our students.
- Both **schools and families demonstrated a shared commitment** to finding out how our students are performing by achieving a 95% student participation rate on the statewide Spring 2021 TCAP.
- Disruptions to education as a result of the pandemic have led to expected declines in academic proficiency in the state, across all subjects and grade bands. **These declines were mitigated as a direct result of the hard work of our educators and families.**
- While declines in proficiency were expected, families, school systems, and the public need **access to information that will help drive strategic decision-making** to support accelerating student achievement in the years to come.

Tennessee is well-prepared and will continue to focus on doing what's best for our kids.

Student Participation



**State TCAP
PARTICIPATION RATE**



**100% of DISTRICTS
MET THE 80%
“hold harmless” target**

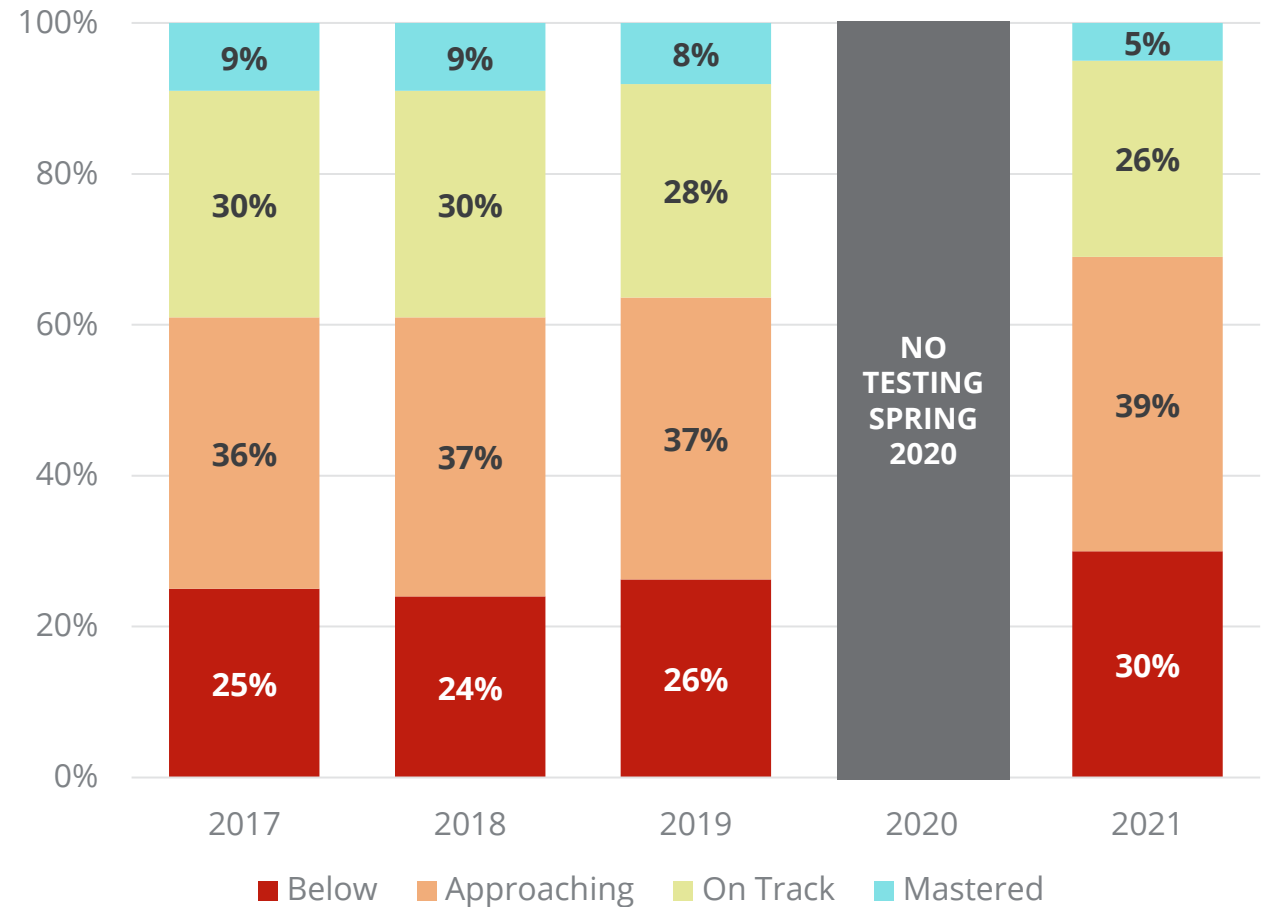


TCAP Spring 2021 Results: Combined Proficiency

OVERVIEW: ALL STUDENTS, GRADES & SUBJECTS

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- 2020-21 TCAP data shows **decreases** in students scoring **Mastered** and **On Track** and **increases** in students scoring **Approaching** and **Below**.
- While this year's results track with state projections, the efforts of our state's leaders, educators and parents helped to prevent proficiency drops that some states have experienced as a result of the pandemic.
- Students whose scores were most negatively impacted were **economically disadvantaged** students, **urban/suburban** students, **English learners**, and **students of color**.
- **Proactive State Solutions:** 2021 Special Legislative Session legislation; Summer programming; Reading 360; TN ALL Corps; Innovative School Models; Student Support Grants; Grow Your Own; Family Resources

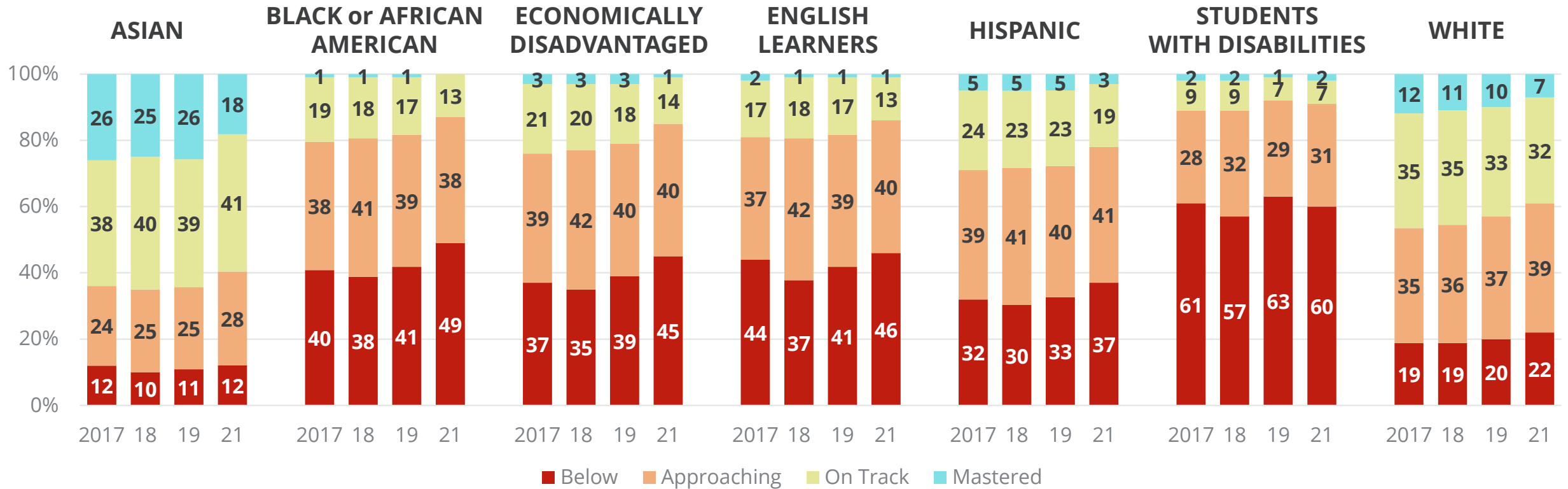


SOURCE: Tennessee Department of Education, 2021



TCAP Spring 2021 Results: Combined Proficiency

RESULTS BY STUDENT GROUP

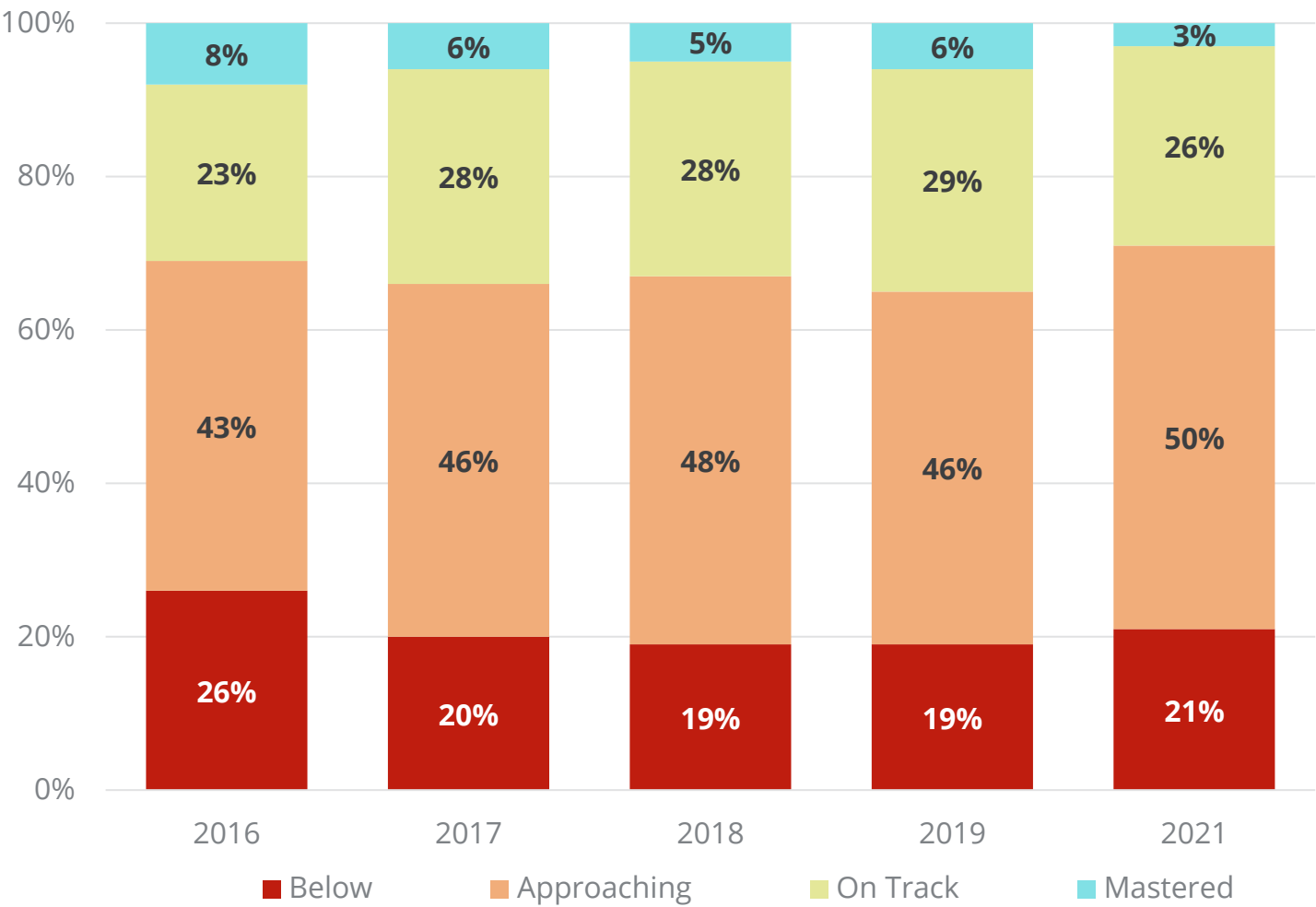


Declining proficiency rates over the past five years have been a challenge across most student groups. Because children across the state experienced the pandemic differently, learning supports should be tailored and targeted to individual student needs.

ALL STUDENTS OVERVIEW

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

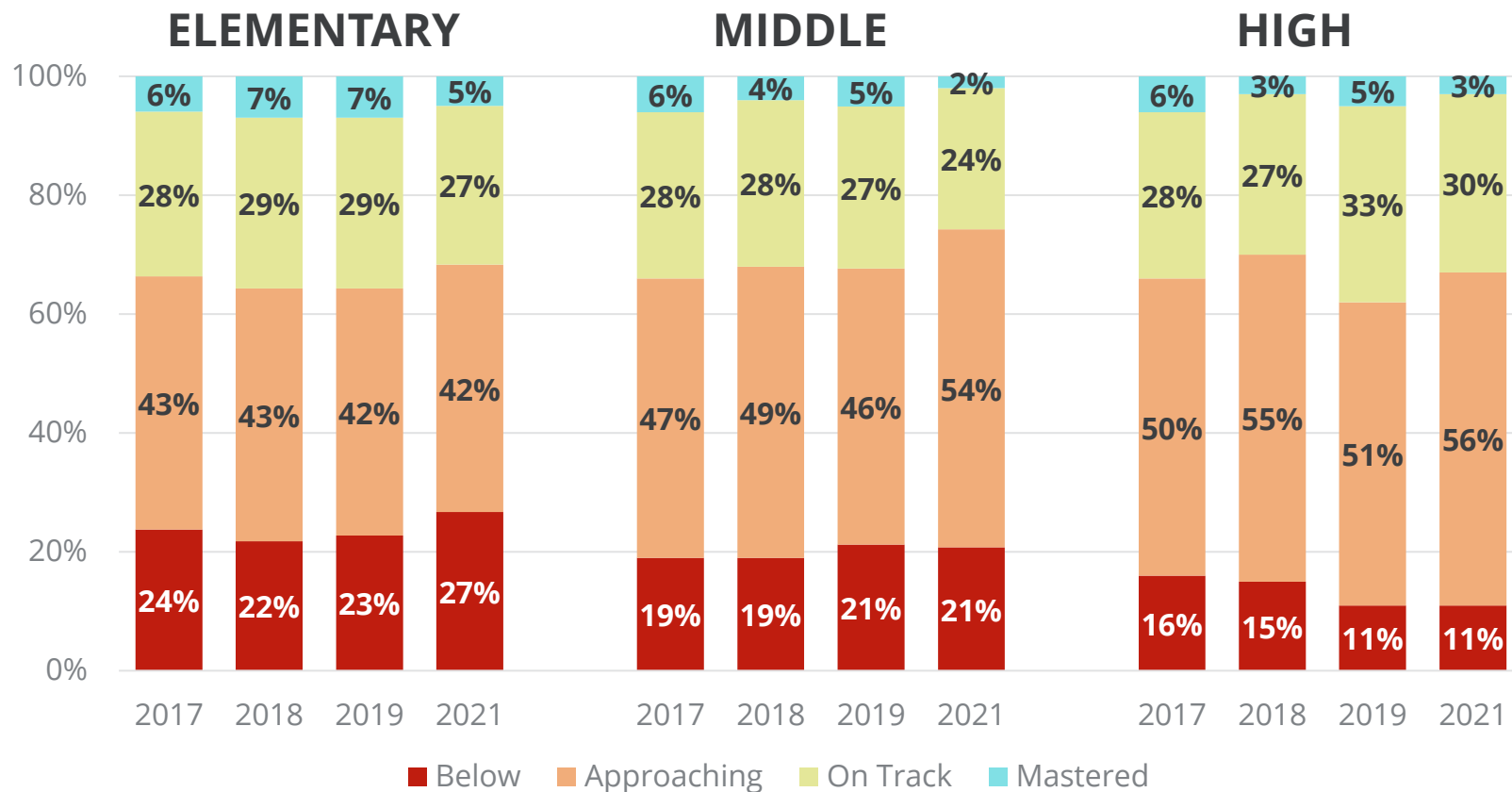
- 3 in 10 Tennessee students are meeting grade level expectations in English Language Arts (ELA).
- Overall proficiency in ELA dropped 5 points from 2019.
- **Proactive State Solutions:** Summer Programming; TN Literacy Success Act and Reading360; TN ALL Corps; personalized reading supports with district networks



OVERVIEW

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- In ELA, 2nd & 3rd grades scores show **large increases in students scoring Below**.
 - The rate of 2nd graders scoring **Below** increased 68%
 - The rate of 3rd graders scoring **Below** increased 47%
- Students scoring **Below** in 2nd and 3rd grades are typically those who are **not able to read proficiently**.
- The largest categorical drops in ELA across each test were in **writing and conventions of writing**.

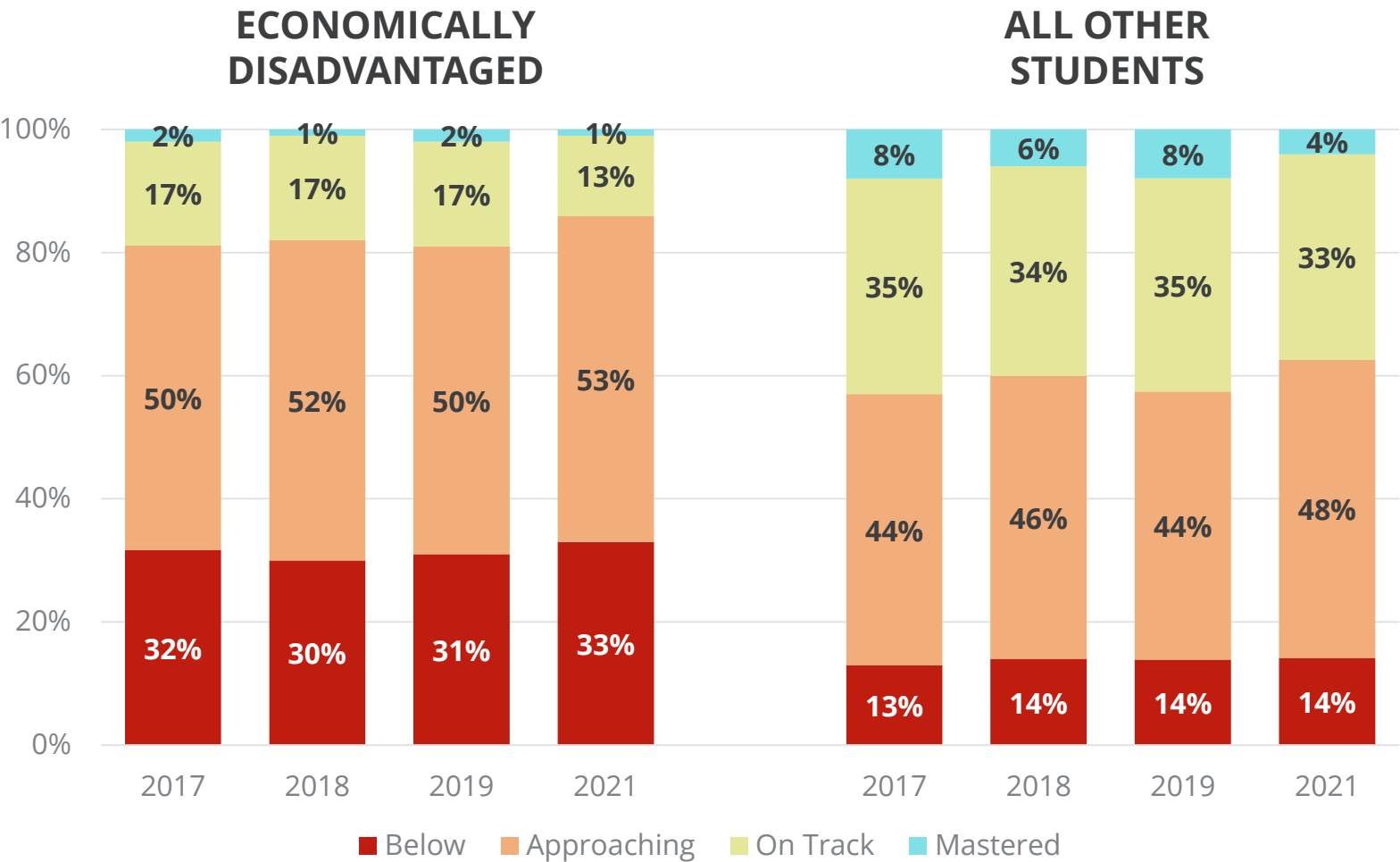


RESULTS BY INCOME

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

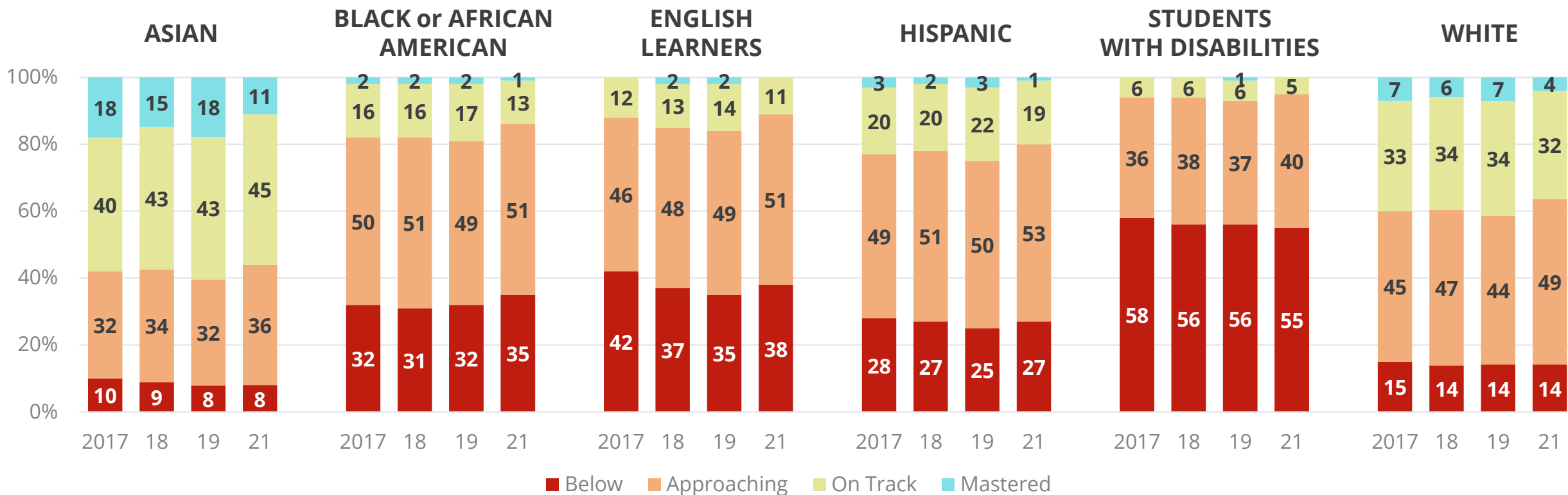


1 in 7
economically disadvantaged students
is meeting grade level expectations in English Language Arts.



SOURCE: Tennessee Department of Education, 2021

RESULTS BY STUDENT GROUPS



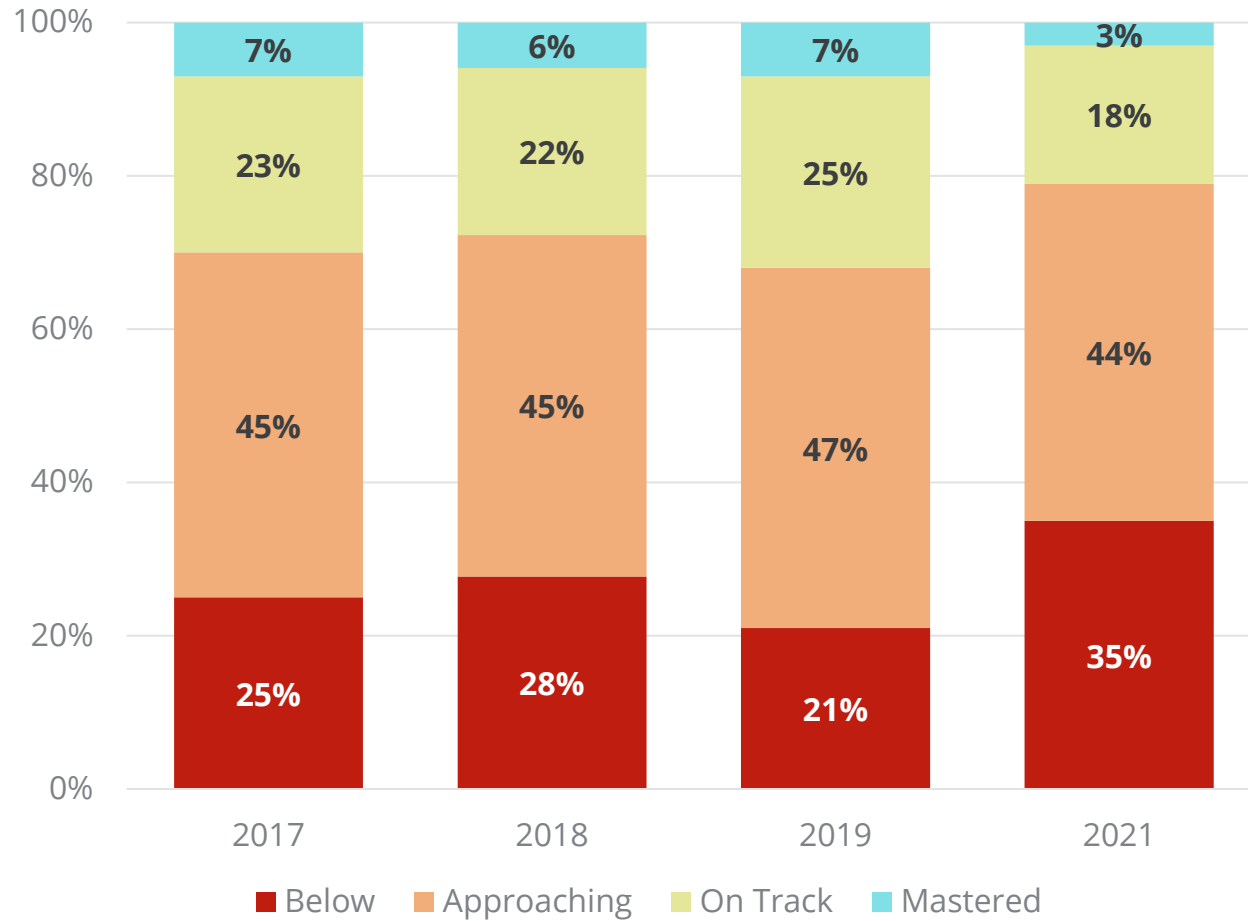
KEY TAKE-AWAYS

ELA proficiency rates dropped 4 - 6 points across racial and ethnic lines.

Achievement gaps present before the pandemic have persisted or widened.



SPOTLIGHT: GRADE 2 ELA



****Grade 2 ELA TCAP is an optional test and data represents about half of all TN 2nd grade students.***

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- Districts report that the ***youngest students struggled the most with remote learning.***
- While all grade levels' performance in ELA decreased, the **drop was most significant in 2nd grade TCAP***.
- These declines suggest that the state-required **universal screening data for reading**, to begin being reported in Fall 2021, will be critical for educators to screen and diagnose gaps for our youngest learners.
- **Proactive State Solutions:** Strong investments in summer programming; Reading 360 initiative with family resources; TN ALL Corps tutoring supports; personalized online math and reading supports for students; district support networks.

SOURCE: Tennessee Department of Education, 2021

ELA Priority Areas of Concern Statewide



Early Elementary Reading/ELA is an area of concern, especially in those grades that do not have assessments or where public data is not shared. Significant declines are likely in kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade reading, which creates more urgency in providing these students with additional literacy supports to ensure they are on-track to reading proficiently by 3rd grade.



Widening achievement gaps between student groups are clear, exacerbating a historical gap that has not significantly closed even as the state had seen performance increases. Specifically, economically disadvantaged students saw significant declines in proficiency, which has traditionally been more difficult to recover from. Students with Disabilities and English learners also reflected increased challenges as a result of the pandemic disruptions.





Tennessee's Summer Programming 2021



Department of
Education

Accelerating TN Tour 2021: Summer Programming in Action



- The Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act set forward a path for students to receive **additional instructional time and supports through summer camps** beginning in summer 2021.
- In June 2021, Commissioner Schwinn, department staff, state and local elected officials, and community partners connected directly with students, educators, and stakeholders on the **Accelerating TN Tour 2021** to learn more about how schools are accelerating student achievement and where additional supports and resources could be helpful.

Summer Camps: Attendance & Enrollment

- **More than 120,000 students** enrolled in first-ever statewide summer camps

Attendance	ED	Non-ED	Total
Summer Learning & STREAM Camps	95.49%	96.96%	96.34%
Learning Loss Bridge Camps	94.39%	95.85%	95.19%
ALL	95.21%	96.70%	96.06%

- Engaging families for student attendance was a district priority

Enrollment	ED	Non-ED	Total
Summer Learning & STREAM Camps	38,535	52,302	90,837
Learning Loss Bridge Camps	13,375	16,131	29,506
ALL	51,910	68,433	120,343

- Districts saw higher attendance in elementary grades, compared to middle school grades

Summer Learning & STREAM Camps: 1st- 5th grades
Learning Loss Bridge Camps: 6th-8th grades



Summer Camps: Pre- & Post- Tests



Districts are required to give participating students a pre- and post-test to gauge student progress in English Language Arts and math. Districts must report the results to the department by September 1 of each year.

ELA	Math
• Overall, data showed an improvement of 5.97 percentage points • Elementary grades saw a 7.34 percentage point improvement • Middle school grades saw a 0.66 percentage point improvement • No discernable difference in improvements between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students • Improving ELA, compared to math, typically takes longer.	• Overall, data showed an improvement of 10.49 percentage points • Elementary grades saw an improvement of 11.66 percentage points • Middle school grades saw an improvement of 6 percentage points • Compared to elementary school students, economically disadvantaged students in middle school improved more than their non-economically disadvantaged peers



Summer Camps: Budgets

Summer Camps: \$116,820,000

Districts have drawn down a little over one-third of funds for summer camps. This is not unexpected, as the timing for many camps overlapped FY21 and FY22 and districts are still processing end of year close for FY21.

Camp	Pending	Total Spent	Grand Total
Summer Learning Camps	\$41,423,977.55	\$28,596,363.43	\$70,020,340.98
After School STREAM Mini Camps	\$14,079,527.62	\$5,317,328.36	\$19,396,855.98
Learning Loss Bridge Camps	\$16,576,461.34	\$10,826,341.71	\$27,402,803.05
Grand Total	\$72,079,966.51	\$44,740,033.50	\$116,820,000.01

Transportation: \$18,500,000

In total, 134 districts opted to participate in transportation grants, and approximately 35% of the funds have been requested for reimbursement. (*Note: 7 districts that opted to participate did not submit budgets in ePlan.*) Districts were clear that transportation funding helped ensure access to learning for students who otherwise would not have been able to attend the camps.

Data as of 9/15/21.



Updates on Additional Literacy Efforts

TN

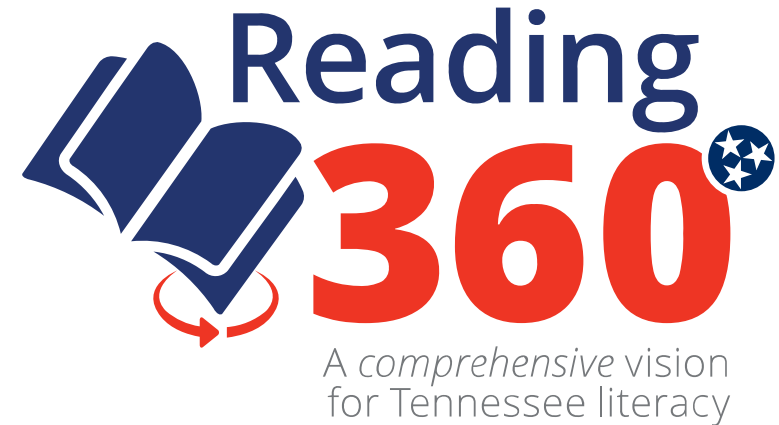
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Reading 360 Summer Trainings

As part of Reading 360, the department offered a free two-week Early Reading Training to any Pre-K-5 teacher.

- The goal of the trainings were to ensure that any Tennessee educator who helps young children learn how to read will have access to the latest research, implications for instruction, and practical tools to show them how to apply new learning.
- K-5 teachers were eligible for \$1,000 stipends, and K-2 teachers also received “classroom kits” of fun and engaging materials to utilize in their classrooms.





Early Literacy Trainings: Participation

Number of Teachers Trained:

- 12,067 educators completed Course 1 (offered online in April 2021)
- 10,000 educators completed Course 2 (offered in-person in June/July 2021)

Completion Rates

- For Course 2, 98% of educators who registered for the course completed it.

Both courses were optional. The department allowed educators to take either course or both, if desired.



Early Literacy Network

The Reading 360 **Early Literacy Network** allows districts to engage in regional communities of practice and receive access to a series of advanced learning modules that teachers can view at their own pace.

96 districts participating in the Early Literacy Network to date

Benefits and flexibilities within the Network:

- Grant funds to provide tailored focus for school leaders and district leaders on Pre-K-2 Foundational Skills
 - \$40,000 for two years, total of \$80,000. Districts with over 20,000 students received \$50,000 for two years for a total of \$100,000
- Leader-Focused Communities of Practice (sign up optional statewide supports)
 - Foundational Skills Instructional Practice Guide (IPG)
 - Lesson Prep and Unit Prep
 - Teacher Feedback
 - Focusing on all learners
- Access to teacher implementation coaching videos, support resources, and model kits



Reading 360 Virtual Summit

The **Reading 360 Virtual Summit** occurred September 21-23.

The opportunity was available to all Tennessee educators, district and school leaders, higher education partners, and education stakeholders, and featured sessions related to foundational literacy skills instruction, high-quality materials implementation, family-community partnerships, and educator preparation.

Total Registration Number:

1,960 educators from LEAs and public charter schools

Universal Reading Screener Selection

Pursuant to the Literacy Success Act, LEAs and public charter schools are required administer an approved universal reading screener to all K-3 students during three administration windows.

LEAs and charter schools indicated their chosen universal reading screener on their Foundational Literacy Skills Plans. Approved screeners are listed in [State Board Policy 3.302](#).

Universal Reading Screener	Percentage of LEAs and Charter Schools Using Screener
Tennessee Universal Reading Screener/aimswebPlus	39%
Dibels, 8 th Edition	6%
EasyCBM	31%
FastBridge Suite/FAST	8%
i-Ready Suite	15%
Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Suite	15%
STAR Early Literacy	10%



Timeline for Reading Screener Administration

Screener Benchmark Window	Window Administration Dates	Due Date for Accurate Data in Vendor Platform
Fall	August 2 – October 1	October 15
Winter	January 1 – February 4	February 18
Spring	April 11 – May 20	May 27

Districts must ensure that data is entered within ten calendar days of the close of the screening window. Vendors will upload finalized screening data into the state database using state unique student IDs.

The department will then provide districts with an accountability report of assessed students and linked teachers within two weeks of the required state submission deadline.



Thank you!

Questions?

