

Field Testing for 2016-17

Tennessee districts and schools will participate in required field tests during the 2016-17 school year, as well as have the choice to participate in optional field tests. Field tests, required and optional, will not be included in teacher, school, or district accountability results, and student performance will not be reported. Field tests are very important for informing future test design—the information from field tests is used to development future assessments using authentic student data.

Required Field Tests	Time (min)
ELA Writing (Grades 3–11)	75/85
U.S. History Open Response	50
Social Studies (Grades 3–8)	50

Optional Field Tests	Time (min)
Grade 2 (ELA and Math)*	40/42
Grade 2/Alt (ELA and Math)*	Varies
TCAP/Alt (Social Studies & Science; Grades 3–8)	Varies
TCAP/Alt Biology	Varies

** Grants will be awarded for school participation in Grade 2 and Grade 2 Alternative assessments. See details below.*

Required Field Tests

The following field tests are required for students in identified grades and subjects. These field tests support the development of future assessments, and districts and schools must participate.

ELA (Grades 3-11)

Field Test Window: March 2017 (specific dates TBD)
 Time: 75 minutes (Grades 3–5) 85 minutes (Grades 6–11)

Students in selected districts will participate in ELA field tests outside the operational testing window. The ELA field test will include one subpart featuring a writing prompt. Only one-third to one-half of students will need to participate in this field test, and the group of students selected to participate will rotate each year. Districts and schools selected must participate in this field test. Those districts will be notified in September 2016.

U.S. History

Field Test Window: March 2017 (specific dates TBD)
 Time: 50 minutes

Students in selected districts will participate U.S. history field tests outside the operational testing window. The U.S. history field test will include one subpart featuring an extended response item. Only one-third to one-half of students will need to participate in this field test, and the group of students selected to participate will rotate each year. Districts and schools selected must participate in this field test. Those districts will be notified in September 2016.

Social Studies (Grades 3–8)

Field Test Window: April 17 – May 5, 2016

Time: 50 minutes

There will not be an operational social studies test for students in grades 3–8 in 2016-17. However, all students will participate in a mandatory social studies field test. Testing times for the field test will be approximately 50 minutes. This field test will be administered during the same window as the operational assessments at the end of the school year.

Optional Field Tests

The following field tests are optional for district participation.

The Grade 2 field test is a unique administration in terms of its use to develop an *optional* state assessment. The department understands that most districts have not yet determined if they will participate in the new Grade 2 assessment, and this field test window is at a time during the year that we are not typically completing state assessments in elementary schools. Moreover, we will be asking for third grade teachers and students to engage in this field test to gather information that won't be used for the third grade assessment. For all these reasons, we want to provide those schools that choose to participate a small token of appreciation to acknowledge their additional effort in completing the Grade 2 field test. Therefore, the following **grants** for participation will be awarded:

- Participation in Grade 2 Alternative assessment only: \$100 per school
- Participation in Grade 2 (and Grade 2 Alt, if applicable): \$200 per school for up to 100 students
- Participation in Grade 2 (and Grade 2 Alt, if applicable): \$400 per school for 100 or more students
- Bonus Grant: \$5,000 awarded to one school randomly selected from all participating schools in Grade 2 or Grade 2 Alternative field test.

Grant awards will be determined by actual student participants, based on response documents returned to vendor. Grants will be paid by November 30, 2016.

Grade 2 Assessment

Field Test Window: September 19–23, 2016

Time: 40 minutes for ELA and 42 minutes for math

Elementary schools will have the option to take part in a field test of the new TCAP Grade 2 assessment in September 2016. To help prevent pre-exposure, districts have the option to administer a field test to third grade students based on content standards they learned in the prior school year. Districts may administer the two forms for ELA and math on different days during the five-day window for the assessment.

This field test will be administered on paper by Questar and will help ensure that the assessment vendor has authentic student work from Tennessee students to inform test development and the scoring of the TCAP Grade 2 assessment.

For districts who choose to participate in the optional Grade 2 field test (given to third graders), orders will be placed for participating schools in EdTools. The order window will open Wednesday, July 27, and will close Wednesday, August 17. Districts will need to update pre-ID enrollment information for third grade students participating in the Grade 2 field test (given to third graders) by the end of August. The department will share more details on this process July 27.

Grade 2-Alternative Assessment

Field Test Window: October 24–28, 2016

Time: Varies, based on student needs

Elementary schools will have the option to take part in a field test of the new TCAP Grade 2 Alternative assessment in September 2016. To help prevent pre-exposure, districts have the option to administer a field test to third grade students based on content standards they learned in the prior school year.

This field test will be administered on paper by Questar and will help ensure that the assessment vendor has authentic student work from Tennessee students to inform test development and the scoring of the TCAP Grade 2 assessment. Teachers may administer the test over multiple days during the five-day window and take as much time as required based on student needs. The department estimates that administration may take up to an hour per content area over the course the administration window.

For districts who choose to participate in the optional Grade 2 Alternative field test (given to third graders), orders will be placed for participating schools in EdTools. The order window will open in mid-August. Districts will need to update pre-ID enrollment information for third grade students participating in the Grade 2 Alternative field test (given to third graders) by early-September. The department will share more details on this process on July 27.

TCAP-Alternative for Science and Social Studies

Field Test Window: October 17 – November 4, 2016

Time: Varies, based on student needs

Schools will have the option to take part in a field test of the new TCAP Alternate assessments for science and social studies. To help prevent pre-exposure, students will be tested on the grade level they completed in 2016. Students in grades 4-9 and 11 may use the entire window to complete the test.

This field test will be administered on paper by Questar and will help ensure that the assessment vendor has authentic student work from Tennessee students to inform test development and the scoring of the assessment. Teachers may administer the test over multiple days during the five-day window and take as much time as required based on student needs. The department estimates that administration may take up to an hour per content area over the course the administration window.

For districts who wish to participate in the optional TCAP Alternate field tests (Grade 3–8 science and social studies and high school Biology), orders will be placed for participating schools in EdTools. The

order window will open in mid-August. Districts will need to update pre-ID enrollment information for students participating in the Alternate field test by early-September. The department will share more details on this process on July 27.