

# AT A GLANCE

## Achievement School District

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The Achievement School District (ASD) was created as part of Tennessee's First to the Top Act of 2010 as an intervention the Commissioner of Education may require for the state's lowest performing schools. The ASD is an organizational unit of the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE). It is a state-run school district that operates similarly to a local school district, providing operational oversight to the schools assigned to it or schools which the ASD itself authorizes. Any of the state's designated priority schools are eligible to be placed in the ASD. The Commissioner of Education selects priority schools to be placed in the ASD based on a number of factors, including overall performance of the school, years of underperformance, and lack of district capacity to serve the school. Input from the community and neighborhood advisory council processes may also be considered by the commissioner. The ASD may either directly operate a school or recruit charter operators to manage it; as of the 2022-23 school year, all ASD schools are administered by one of seven charter operators.

Priority schools are schools in the bottom 5 percent of TCAP data or schools with a graduation rate of less than 67 percent for the most recent school year. For the 2021-22 school year, 99 schools were identified as priority.

If schools placed in the ASD do not meet or exceed growth expectations (level 4 or 5 growth, as measured by the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System, or TVAAS) by their third year in the ASD, the current charter school operator may be replaced with a new charter school operator. Charter school operators may be replaced through this process up to three times (at years three, six, and nine) if the ASD school continually fails to meet growth expectations. Schools may stay in the ASD for a maximum of 10 years.

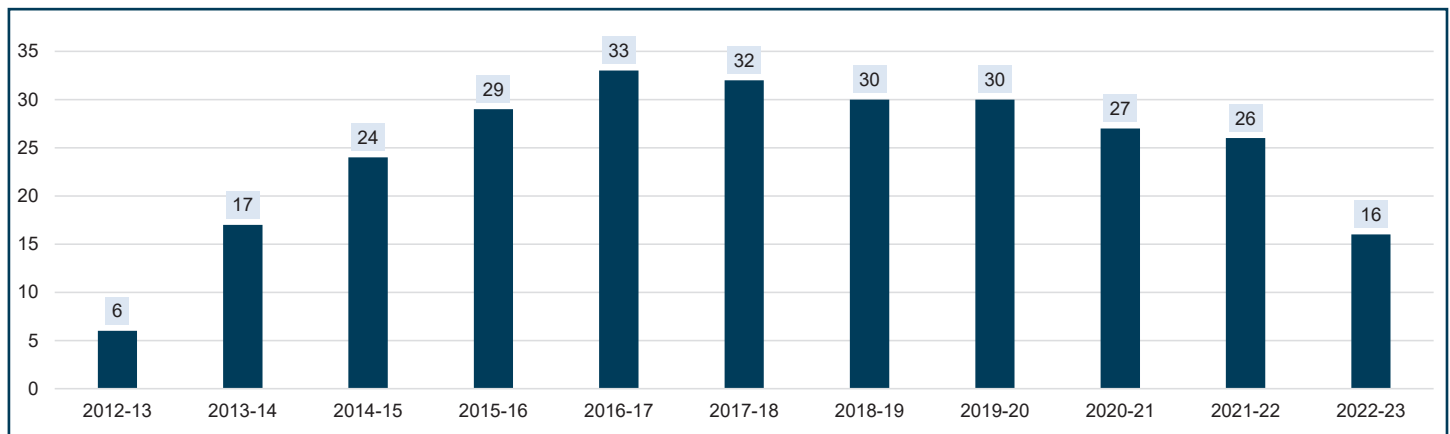
An ASD school may begin transitioning back to its original school district if it does not appear on the priority school list (issued every three years) for two consecutive cycles or with approval by the Commissioner of Education. Since 2019, six ASD schools have earned priority exit status. Additionally, an ASD school may apply to be authorized by the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission (TPCSC) upon earning priority exit status.



During the 2021-22 school year, the ASD served over 8,300 students in 26 schools: 24 in Shelby County and two in Davidson County. Following that school year, three schools closed permanently, four schools transitioned out of the ASD and returned to Memphis-Shelby County Schools, and three schools transitioned to the oversight of the TPCSC. For the 2022-23 school year, there were 16 schools in the ASD. Two more ASD schools will transition to the TPCSC beginning with the 2023-24 school year, and one school will return to Memphis-Shelby County Schools.



### Number of ASD schools by year



Source: Tennessee Department of Education.

This infographic is one in a series of infographics explaining education terminology. For definitions of over 200 education terms, visit: <https://tncot.cc/glossary>