



## State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

For Immediate Release: Oct. 25, 2011

### **Legislative Brief Examines Tennessee's Report Card on the Effectiveness of Teacher Training Programs**

Tennessee, one of the nation's leaders in developing bold education reforms, is refining its methods for evaluating teacher preparation programs. Today, the Comptroller's Offices of Research and Education Accountability released a legislative brief, *A Review of Tennessee's Report Card on the Effectiveness of Teacher Training Programs*, which addresses those efforts.

The legislative brief reviews the *Report Card on the Effectiveness of Teacher Training Programs* (the report card), which is annually prepared by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to evaluate teacher preparation programs in Tennessee. The report card is required by state law to include information on each teacher training program's graduates in three areas – teacher effectiveness as measured by Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) scores, Praxis (teacher candidate test) results and data about teacher placement and retention.

The legislative brief includes a review of information in the current report card, as well as limitations of the report card, including:

- The report card does not include teacher effectiveness data on all teachers in Tennessee classrooms.
- Data for placement and retention rates do not include all teachers from Tennessee teacher preparation programs or any Tennessee teachers who graduated from out-of-state programs.
- Teacher candidate Praxis test results provide little information for policymaking decisions since nearly every teacher candidate who takes the exams passes them.

The report card also does not evaluate the overall quality of or provide a ranking system for Tennessee's teacher preparation programs. According to THEC, the "report card should not be used to rank programs. It does provide useful information for evaluating programmatic quality in specific areas."

The legislative brief also outlines ongoing Race to the Top initiatives aimed at redesigning the report card. The purpose of the redesign is to ensure that teacher preparation programs have the

data and information needed to evaluate their programs and work towards improvement. According to THEC, the redesigned report card is scheduled for release on Nov. 1.

The legislative brief may be downloaded from: <http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/OREA/>

OREA supports the General Assembly, the Comptroller and the public with accurate and objective policy research and analysis.

OREA has issued reports covering a wide range of policy topics since 1994, from education to health care to criminal justice. OREA reports have led to changes in state law, sparked the creation of state initiatives to address critical needs and informed policy debates within the state legislature and across the state.

The National Legislative Program Evaluation Society has recognized the significant impact (in terms of dollar savings, program improvements or increased legislative awareness) of select OREA reports every year since 2002.

-30-

Media contact: Blake Fontenay, Communications Director, (615) 253-2668 or [blake.fontenay@tn.gov](mailto:blake.fontenay@tn.gov)

[Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury](#)  
State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone: (615) 741-2501  
Email: [comptroller.web@tn.gov](mailto:comptroller.web@tn.gov)