



## OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

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### 2023 RESEARCH RECAP: A GUIDE TO OREA PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



#### OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

**Russell Moore** | *Director*  
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
**615.401.7866**  
[www.comptroller.tn.gov/OREA/](http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/OREA/)



**Jason E. Mumpower**  
*Comptroller of the Treasury*

# PreK-12 Education

## Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Collection *(November 2023)*

In 2022, the General Assembly approved a new state funding formula for K-12 schools to replace the Basic Education Program (BEP). The Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) is a student-based funding formula first used to allocate state funds to school districts with the 2023-24 school year. Like the BEP, TISA is a funding formula rather than a spending plan.

This special online collection contains 11 resources about TISA, including an interactive dashboard, a video tutorial, a flowchart, infographics, and other documents. [tncot.cc/TISA](https://tncot.cc/TISA)



## Graduation and Dropout Rates in Tennessee *(December 2023)*

This report details the federal and state criteria for calculating high school graduation rates and dropout rates in Tennessee. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 requires states to use the adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) formula for calculating graduation rates. The report includes data on graduation and dropout rates for the state of Tennessee and disaggregated student groups, and details the four phases of the graduation cohort process administered by the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) each year. [tncot.cc/gradrate](https://tncot.cc/gradrate)



## Review of Literacy Success Act: Second-year implementation *(November 2023)*

In 2022, the General Assembly passed a law requiring the Comptroller’s Office to review the implementation of the Tennessee Literacy Success Act (TLSA) each year. This report is the second such review, and it also includes the third annual review of district and charter school foundational literacy skills plans required by the TLSA. [tncot.cc/LSAreview](https://tncot.cc/LSAreview)

## What’s Changing in School Security for the 2023-24 School Year? *(October 2023)*

This publication reviews recent school security changes made by the General Assembly. Key changes include additional state funding for school resource officers, grant funding for both public and nonpublic schools, more school-based behavioral health liaisons assigned to public schools, and other changes.

A separate one-page document explains Tennessee’s School Safety Index. The index is an annual reporting of the number of violent or disruptive incidents at each public school, shown as a percentage of the school’s enrollment. [tncot.cc/schoolsecurity](https://tncot.cc/schoolsecurity)



## Charter Schools Collection *(September 2023)*

The Tennessee General Assembly first authorized charter schools to operate in the state in 2002. As of the 2023-24 school year, more than 100 charter schools operate in the state under six authorizers. This collection includes a number of resources about charter schools in Tennessee. [tncot.cc/charterschools](https://tncot.cc/charterschools)



## Career and Technical Education Collection *(July 2023)*

Over the past several years, Tennessee has increased financial investments in the state’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. The primary goal of these investments is to increase the skilled workforce available to high-demand industries in the state. Another goal is to help students learn about, experience, and consider potential careers and the associated education pathways.

This collection includes six resources about career and technical education in Tennessee. [tncot.cc/CTE](https://tncot.cc/CTE)

## Student Retention Policies: Tennessee and Other States *(April 2023)*

In 2021, the General Assembly passed legislation updating 4th grade promotion requirements for 3rd graders. Under this law, 3rd graders who do not achieve grade-level proficiency on the English Language Arts (ELA) portion of the spring TCAP assessment are identified for possible retention. This legislative brief examined recent retention legislation in Tennessee, considered the experiences of other states that have also passed retention requirements, and identified the variables that influenced how many 3rd graders were retained in 2023. [tncot.cc/retention](https://tncot.cc/retention)



## K-12 Education Portal *(June 2023)*

This portal includes four interactive data resources and provides a variety of data on schools and school districts in Tennessee. Data for public and non-public schools can be filtered in the maps and dashboards to provide more detailed information.

[tncot.cc/mappingeducation](https://tncot.cc/mappingeducation)



## Update: Chronic Absenteeism in Tennessee *(June 2023)*

This update takes another look at student attendance in Tennessee public schools. The COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on recent school years has been significant, affecting chronic absenteeism rates and disrupting the collection of attendance data and related accountability measures. Tennessee’s chronic absenteeism rate rose by 7 percentage points (55 percent) between 2019 and 2022.

[tncot.cc/absenteeism](https://tncot.cc/absenteeism)



## English Language Arts Textbooks in School Districts and Charter Schools *(May 2023)*

State law requires OREA to review the ELA textbooks adopted and used by districts and charter schools to assess compliance with state law. This review found most school districts and charter schools were compliant. [tncot.cc/textbooks](https://tncot.cc/textbooks)

# Higher Education

## Tennessee Promise Evaluation *(January 2024)*

Established by the General Assembly in 2014, the Tennessee Promise Scholarship gives recent high school graduates the opportunity to earn an associate degree or technical diploma free of tuition and mandatory fees.

OREA is required by state law to study and evaluate the effectiveness of Tennessee Promise every four years. OREA completed its first extensive evaluation of the program in 2020.

OREA’s 2024 evaluation of the program identifies policy changes that could be made to increase the number of students who become Promise students, remain in the program, and earn a credential. [tncot.cc/promise](https://tncot.cc/promise)



## Update: Tennessee’s Higher Education Outcomes-Based Funding Formula *(September 2023)*

This update describes the formula’s history and components, details the timeline of the most recent changes made to the formula, and provides an overview of how those changes are proposed, reviewed and approved. [tncot.cc/OBF](https://tncot.cc/OBF)

# Other Topics

## The Past and Future of Weighted Caseload Studies in Tennessee *(February 2024)*

[tncot.cc/weightedcaseload](https://tncot.cc/weightedcaseload)



Visit the OREA website for other publications, one-page infographics, and more resources at: [tncot.cc/orea](https://tncot.cc/orea)