

MSCS Assessment Rationale 2026-2027

Assessment	Purpose and Use of Assessment
ELPA21 Dynamic Screener	Students new to the district who have a Non-English Language Background (NELB), as determined by the Home Language Survey, are required to be screened to determine English proficiency.
Alt ELPA21 Screener	Students with significant cognitive disabilities who are new to the district and who have a Non-English Language Background (NELB), as determined by the Home Language Survey, are required to be screened to determine English proficiency.
ASVAB	The ASVAB assessment is offered in MSCS high schools, but the test is optional. The test measures aptitude in a number of areas including math, reading comprehension, and science. The test results are used for career exploration. For students interested in a military career, the test can be used as a military entrance exam.
i-Ready Inform, Characteristics of Dyslexia Screening, and Written Expression	i-Ready is an online intervention tool that includes a diagnostic assessment. The diagnostic assessments meet the state requirement of a universal screener and provide information that helps tailor intervention to a student's needs. The state also requires screening
Performance Matters Common Formative Assessments and Interim Assessments	Formative and interim assessments are used to measure student mastery of Tennessee curriculum standards at regular intervals during the school year. These assessments provide teachers and school administrators with results that can be used to inform instruction.
Vantage Learning Writing Assessments	The formative writing assessments are administered throughout the year to measure students' mastery of writing standards. These assessments provide teachers and school administrators with results that can be used to inform writing instruction.
DLM: TCAP Alternate Assessments ELA and Math	The TCAP Alternate (ALT) assessments are given to students with significant cognitive disabilities. These students do not take the traditional TCAP or EOC exams and need an alternate assessment to
ACT- Grade 12	The ACT is used to measure college readiness and HOPE scholarship eligibility. ACT will offer an opportunity for seniors to test at their school during a regular school day in the fall.
ACT- Grade 11	The ACT is used to measure college readiness and HOPE scholarship eligibility. ACT will offer an opportunity for juniors to test at their school during a regular school day in the spring.
PreACT	Students in grades 8, 9, and 10 will take PreACT tests. PreACT tests provide students with practice prior to the ACT test and also provide teachers with data to inform instruction.
PSAT 11th Grade	The PSAT is available for 11th grade students to take in the fall. The PSAT is a standardized test that provides practice for the SAT®. It also gives 11th grade students a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools.

MSCS Assessment Rationale 2026-2027

Assessment	Purpose and Use of Assessment
ELPA21 Summative Assessment	K-12 English Learners receiving direct or indirect ESL services are required to take this English Language Proficiency Assessment
Alt ELPA21 Summative Assessment	K-12 English Learners receiving direct or indirect ESL services who qualify for alternate state assessment per their IEP are required to take this English Language Proficiency Assessment annually instead of the ELPA21 Summative Assessment.
TCAP Alternate Assessments Science and Social Studies	Some students in grades 3-11 with significant cognitive disabilities take the alternate assessments in science and social studies (TCAP ALT) instead of the regular TCAP assessments.
Grade 2 TCAP ALT Assessment	The Tennessee Department of Education provides a 2nd grade alternate test for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
aimswebPlus	Taking aimswebPlus provides third grade students with another potential promotional pathway. Scores at or above the 50th percentile, when combined with tutoring for the duration of the 4th grade year, will allow students a promotional pathway if needed.
TCAP Grades 2-8 and End of Course (EOC)	Students in grades 3-8 and students in EOC courses are required to take state-mandated assessments in English language arts, math, science and social studies. Note: Grade 2 testing is not state-
State-Wide Dual Credit Challenge Exams	All students enrolled in a statewide dual credit course take the online challenge exam, which is used to assess mastery of the postsecondary-level learning objectives. Students that meet or exceed the exam cut score receive college credit that can be applied to any Tennessee
Advanced Placement Exams	High school students who are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses will take AP exams. These exams are required for all students who are enrolled in AP courses, and results from these assessments will be used to help determine eligibility for college credits.
Grade 3 TCAP ELA Retake	Third grade students who did not score proficient on the TCAP ELA test participate in the third grade retake test which provides an additional opportunity to meet the proficiency requirement.