

## 2009 Jefferson County Schools State Report Card

The Tennessee Department of Education has announced changes that have been made to Value Added and Achievement scores on the 2009 Report Card. The method of determining scores and the grading scale used to determine letter grades has been revised so comparison of the 2009 Report Card data with previous years' scores will not be possible or valid. The 2009 Tennessee Report card provides data for every district and school in Tennessee.

Two major changes have effected the calculation of scores on the Report Card. First, the baseline year for comparing student achievement has been reset using 2009 test scores. Previously, all students were compared to students who took state tests in 1998. Throughout the years, students in all subgroups have shown tremendous gains compared to 1998 however, new learning standards require the state to adopt a new baseline for determining achievement grades.

Next, a new grading scale will be used. The scale used to determine grades A through F has been dramatically revised. In past years, Tennessee defined student proficiency in subject matter as a very basic understanding of the knowledge required. The Tennessee Diploma Project requires that the state realistically assess proficiency of subject matter. Going forward, students will be expected to have mastered a concept to be considered proficient. It is important to remember that changes in grades on this report do not reflect a loss of teaching or learning.

### **Profile**

The report card's profile section provides a breakdown of demographics based on enrollment. 2009 Report Card for Jefferson County Schools shows an enrollment of 7,330 students in grades K-12. Local population shifts from the previous school year include a slight increase in the Hispanic population which is now at 3.1%, a 4% increase in "Economically Disadvantaged," and a slight decrease in the "Students with Disabilities" population (from 12.2% in 2008 to 11.6% in 2009). The district's per pupil ADA expenditure is \$7,456, over \$1,000 below the state average ADA expenditure of \$8,518.

### **NCLB**

The NCLB or AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) section demonstrates how effectively the district has met the requirements of No Child Left Behind. NCLB was implemented during the 2002-2003 school year. It requires schools to move toward the goal of 100 percent proficiency among students in math, reading and language arts by 2014. They must also meet graduation and attendance standards. Systems and schools that fail to meet these requirements are listed as targeted for the first year and move to the high priority list if that same area does not meet the requirements in the second year.

For a district to be targeted, both grade configurations (elementary and secondary) must fail to meet the requirements for one or more content area. Jefferson County School district was not targeted as a whole; however, the district did not make AYP in the elementary grade section for the Students with Disabilities subgroup in the area of reading and math for grades 3-8. Jefferson County Schools did not make an increase in the performance of these subgroups over the past two years in elementary math but did make an impressive gain for

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the Students with Disabilities subgroup in the area of reading. The district made AYP for secondary grades in both of these content areas, thus the entire district is not on the target list for this subgroup. Secondary grade students made a 28% increase in the number of Students with Disabilities that were reported proficient/advanced in the area of math and a 14% increase in the number of Students with Disabilities that were proficient/advanced in the area of reading.

The other NCLB indicator for secondary grades is graduation rate. That rate is based on the previous school year's (2008) performance. Jefferson County was targeted for graduation rate, however the 2009 rate has improved and the district will not be targeted for graduation rate on the next year's report card.

The 2009 report card shows three schools as targeted, or not making the requirements of NCLB for the first year: Jefferson Elementary in the area of reading for the economically disadvantaged subgroup, Dandridge Elementary in the area of reading for the Students with Disabilities subgroup, and Jefferson County High School for graduation rate based on the 2008 graduating class.

### Achievement

Tennessee has implemented new achievement benchmark requirements for this report card. The 2009 achievement scores and all grades connected with these scores are considered a new baseline for future reporting. An "A" in achievement on the 2009 report card is not equal to an "A" on a previous report card, thus achievement grades cannot be compared to previous years.

Jefferson County's students in grades 3-8 compared very close to the state average.

Grades 3-8 Achievement	Jefferson County	State
Math	49/C	50/B
Reading/Language Arts	49/C	50/B
Science	51/B	50/B
Social Studies	50/B	50/B

*NOTE: A score of 50 equals a B.*

The district's three-year average for secondary achievement performance is based on ACT scores. Jefferson County scored very close to the state average with the exception of math. Jefferson County students had a three-year average of 18.8 on the math portion of the ACT, while the state's three-year ACT math average was 19.9. The three-year and individual ACT composite score was comparable to the state average.

Tennessee also measures writing composition performance as part of the NCLB reading requirements. The 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade writing tests indicate that the district's three year average is slightly above that of the state.

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### Value Added

Tennessee has also changed the benchmark requirements for the Value Added section of the report card. Value-added measures student progress within a grade and subject, which demonstrates the influence, or the value, the school has on the students' performance.

Grades 3-8 Value Added	Jefferson County
Math	B
Reading/Language Arts	B
Science	B
Social Studies	C

Value Added in grades 9-12 is measured by how secondary students in Jefferson County performed compared to the state's predicted performance level.

Grades 9-12 Value Added	Jefferson County
Math (Alg I)	No Difference
English I & II	Above
Science (Bio)	No Difference
U.S. History	Below

In light of the significant changes Tennessee has made in achievement and value added reporting, we feel our students continue to show improvement. Our administrators and teachers are dedicated to modifying instruction and offering the most effecting classroom practices in order to provide our students an opportunity to achieve. We are working diligently through professional learning communities, training, and enrichment resources to meet the higher expectations established by the new standards and the requirements of Tennessee Diploma Project. The report is available at the Tennessee Department of Education's website (<http://www.state.tn.us/education/>) or by accessing the link on the Jefferson County Schools website (<http://jc-schools.net>).