

Polk County (700) Public District - FY 2026 - TISA Accountability Report - Rev 0

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9/18/2025 11:08:27 AM	Valerie Davis	Status changed to 'Draft Started'.	S
8/15/2025 1:49:22 PM	ePlan Help	Status changed to 'Not Started'.	S

Overview
Polk County (700) Public District - FY 2026 - TISA Accountability Report - Rev 0
Overview The Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) public school funding formula marks a significant change in how Tennessee invests in public education. The TISA funding formula updates the way Tennessee funds public education for the first time in over 30 years to empower each student to read proficiently by third grade, prepare each high school graduate for postsecondary success, and provide resources needed for all students to ensure they succeed. As part of TISA, T.C.A. § 49-3-112 requires each school district, starting in the 2023-24 school year, to submit an annual accountability report to the Tennessee Department of Education (department). This report must include: • Goals for student achievement: One of the goals must include the district's plan to pursue the goal of seventy percent (70%) or more of the district's third grade students to score "met expectations" or "exceeded expectations" on the English Language Arts (ELA) portion of the TCAP tests. This goal must also detail the district's goal to increase 3rd grade ELA proficiency rates by 15% of the gap over the next three years (starting with the 2022-23 TCAP results) to achieve the district's stated goal of at least 70% of 3rd grade students proficient in ELA. • Explanation of how the district's stated goals can be met within the district's budget. • For reports submitted starting in the 2024-25 school year, a description of how the district's budget and expenditures from the prior school year enabled the district to make progress toward the stated student achievement goals Each district's TISA accountability report is required to be presented to the public for review and comment before the report is submitted to the department. Additionally, the TISA Accountability must be presented for local school board approval. The report must be submitted annually to the department by November 1st. Furthermore, each district's TISA accountability report is required to be reviewed annually by the TISA Progress Review Board pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-3-114 to determine whether the school district is taking the proper steps to achieve their stated goal. For questions, please review the TISA Accountability Report Guidance document or contact tnedu.funding@tn.gov. Completed reports should be submitted in ePlan by November 1, 2025. Resources Click here to open the guide.

Cover Page		
Polk County (700) Public District - FY 2026 - TISA Accountability Report - Rev 0		
Cover Page		
* District Name	Polk County	
* Director of Schools Name	Dr. James R. Jones	
* District Point of Contact for TISA Accountability Report Name	Zach Swafford	
* District Point of Contact for TISA Accountability Report Phone Number	423-299-0471	
District Point of Contact for TISA Accountability Report Email Address	zswafford@polkcountyschools.com	
	44.8 % of 3rd grade students who scored proficient ("met expectations" or "exceeded expectations") on the English Language Arts (ELA) portion of the most recent spring TCAP	
Documents		
Type	Document Template	Document/Link
(TISA) Previous Year Report	N/A	 (TISA) Previous Year Report
Resources		
Click here to open the guide.		

District Goal Statements

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Goal Statement 1: - 3rd Grade ELA Proficiency

	70 %	of students will score proficient on the 3rd grade ELA TCAP by	Year 2028
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District Goal Statements

Goal Number	GOAL STATEMENT(S)
Goal 2	50% or more students will meet or exceed expectations on 3-8 ELA and Math TCAP and high school EOC tests for all students.
Goal 3	70% of the graduating students will meet the TISA high school outcome goal by 2028.
Goal 4	
Goal 5	
Goal 6	

Note: This is a required goal pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-3-112 and must include 70% or more of 3rd grade students proficient on the ELA TCAP. If your district already has 70% or more of 3rd grade students proficient in ELA, please state a goal that either maintains or increases that proficiency rate.

Goal #1

Polk County (700) Public District - FY 2026 - TISA Accountability Report - Rev 0

Goal Statement 1: 3rd Grade ELA Proficiency

	70 %	of students will score proficient on the 3rd grade ELA TCAP by	Year 2028
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District Goal 1

Year	Annual Outcome Target(s)	Associated Metrics/Data
Year 1: 2023-2024 school year (Previous outcome)	41%	ELA TCAP Grade 3
Year 2: 2024-2025 school year (Use actual outcome)	44.4%	ELA TCAP Grade 3
Year 3: 2025-2026 school year	56.7%	ELA TCAP Grade 3
Year 4: 2026-2027 school year	63.3%	ELA TCAP Grade 3
Year 5: 2027-2028 school year	70%	ELA TCAP Grade 3

* Check the response that best describes the progress made on the 2024-25 target toward Goal 1.

- ☐ Exceeded target
☐ Met target
☒ Increased but did not meet target
☐ Did not make progress toward target
☐ End of year outcome data for 2024-25 is unavailable at the time of this report

Reflection: Based on progress toward the goal, how will this impact your action plan for the coming years?

Although we did not meet our 2024-2025 TISA goal of 50.1% proficiency in 3rd grade ELA, we improved from 41% to 44.8%, showing steady progress. Moving forward, our action plan will focus on strengthening early literacy foundations in grades K-2, providing more targeted small-group interventions with regular progress monitoring, and offering professional development for teachers in evidence-based literacy practices. We are providing more support with learning walkthroughs using the IPG's in all classrooms throughout the district. These adjustments are designed to accelerate growth so we can close the gap and meet or exceed future proficiency goals.

Goal 1 Prior Year Report: 2-3 Prior year, major TISA investments made toward this goal

Major TISA Investment	Expended Amount (Rough Estimate)	Reflection of whether the investment contributed to progressing toward the goal or not, and how so.

Benchmarking-IXL (K-12), Instructional Coaches-(3 for the district), Salaries of all high quality educators	\$ 850,000.00	The district's investments in benchmarking tools (IXL), instructional coaches, and salaries for high-quality educators contributed to measurable progress in 3rd grade ELA. From the prior year to 2024-2025, proficiency increased from 41% to 44.8%, showing that the supports provided to teachers and students are moving achievement in the right direction. Benchmarking allowed us to identify gaps earlier and provide targeted interventions, while instructional coaches supported teachers with evidence-based literacy strategies and real-time feedback. Although we fell short of the 50.1% goal, the steady increase demonstrates that these investments are positively impacting instruction and student outcomes. Continued refinement and deeper implementation will be necessary to accelerate growth to meet or exceed future targets.
Action Plan: List detailed strategies for the 2025-2026 school year that will be implemented to meet your annual target.		
Strengthen K-2 literacy foundations by expanding early phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension instruction to ensure more students enter 3rd grade on grade level.		
Expand targeted interventions through small groups, Tier II/Tier III supports, and frequent progress monitoring. High Dosage/Low Ratio Tutoring for Retained/At-Risk students in K-3		
Increase coaching impact by using instructional coaches to model lessons, analyze student work, and provide differentiated support for teachers.		
Provide sustained professional learning in evidence-based practices aligned with Tennessee's literacy standards and instructional materials.		
Leverage Staff Development Days for district-wide PLCs, focusing on data analysis, lesson planning, and sharing best practices.		
Strengthen family engagement by offering resources, workshops, and communication that equip families to support reading at home.		
Use data-driven decision making to continually adjust instruction, interventions, and supports based on real-time student performance.		
Budget Narrative: Describe how your district intends to use their budget to execute the strategies and meet the stated goal.		
Our most impactful TISA investment is personnel(85%). The district will allocate TISA funds to sustain and expand the strategies outlined in the action plan for 2025-2026. Specifically, funds will continue to support high-quality educators' salaries, ensuring stability and consistency in early literacy instruction. We will also dedicate resources to maintain benchmarking and progress monitoring tools (IXL K-12), which provide timely data to inform interventions and instructional adjustments. TISA funds will support three district instructional coaches who will provide ongoing professional development, model evidence-based literacy strategies, and work with teachers to analyze student data. To further accelerate growth, budgeted resources will cover professional learning opportunities focused on foundational literacy skills, small-group instruction, and use of high-quality instructional materials.		

Goal #2

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Goal Statement 2:

50% or more students will meet or exceed expectations on 3-8 ELA and Math TCAP and high school EOC tests for all students.

District Goal 2

Year	Annual Outcome Target(s)	Associated Metrics/Data
Year 1: 2023-2024 school year (Previous outcome)	33.6%	3-8 ELA and Math TCAP data EOC Test Data
Year 2: 2024-2025 school year (Use actual outcome)	30.8%	3-8 ELA and Math TCAP data EOC Test Data
Year 3: 2025-2026 school year	44.1%	3-8 ELA and Math TCAP data EOC Test Data
Year 4: 2026-2027 school year	47.1%	3-8 ELA and Math TCAP data EOC Test Data
Year 5: 2027-2028 school year	50%	3-8 ELA and Math TCAP data EOC Test Data

* Check the response that best describes the progress made on the 2024-25 target toward Goal 2.

☐ Exceeded target
☐ Met target
☐ Increased but did not meet target
☒ Did not make progress toward goal
☐ End of year outcome data for the 2024-25SY is unavailable at the time of this report

Reflection: Based on progress toward the goal, how will this impact your action plan for the coming years?

Although we did not meet the 2024-2025 outcome target of 41.2%, the data highlights the need for deeper alignment of instruction to grade-level standards, more intentional intervention strategies, and using the HQIM with fidelity. Moving forward, we will strengthen tiered supports in both ELA and math, increase coaching and collaborative planning opportunities. This reflection has informed our action plan to focus on accelerating growth through early interventions, consistent progress monitoring, and teacher support in high-leverage practices.

Goal 2 Prior Year Report: 2-3 Prior year, major TISA investments made toward this goal

Major TISA Investment	Expended Amount (Rough Estimate)	Reflection of whether the investment contributed to progressing toward the goal or not, and how so.

Benchmarking-IXL Instructional Coaches (3) Salaries of all high quality ELA and Math educators in grades 3-8 and EOC. \$	While the investments in benchmarking tools, instructional coaches, and high-quality educators provided a foundation for progress, several of our new math teachers, though certified, were not specifically trained in math. This presented challenges in consistently delivering strong Tier I instruction aligned to grade-level standards. The support of instructional coaches and PLCs helped address some of these gaps, but additional development is needed to fully leverage the investments. Moving forward, the district will continue to build teacher capacity by establishing stronger PLC structures, providing targeted support for new teachers, and increasing instructional walkthroughs using the Instructional Practice Guides (IPGs) to provide actionable feedback. These steps will ensure that the investments translate more directly into improved student outcomes in both ELA and math.
Action Plan: List detailed strategies for the 2025-2026 school year that will be implemented to meet your annual target.	Strengthen Tier I instruction in both ELA and math through professional development in high-quality instructional materials and evidence-based practices. Provide targeted small-group interventions with frequent progress monitoring, especially for students below grade level. Expand use of instructional coaches to model lessons, guide collaborative planning, and support data-driven instruction. Increase use of formative assessments to adjust instruction in real time. Utilize Staff Development Days for district-wide PLCs to analyze data, share strategies, and refine interventions. Provide additional family engagement opportunities focused on math fluency and literacy support at home. Budget Narrative: Describe how your district intends to use their budget to execute the strategies and meet the stated goal. Our largest TISA Investment is personnel (85%)

Goal #3

Polk County (700) Public District - FY 2026 - TISA Accountability Report - Rev 0

☐ This goal not established.

Goal Statement 3:

70% of the graduating students will meet the TISA high school outcome goal by 2028.

District Goal 3

Year	Annual Outcome Target(s)	Associated Metrics/Data
Year 1: 2023-2024 school year (Previous outcome)	38.1%	2024 Ready Graduate District Level file provided by TDOE. Ready Graduate status is defined in the TDOE Federal Accountability Protocol as graduates earning a regular or AAD diploma and meeting one of the following criteria: - a score of 21 or higher on the ACT composite - completion of 4 EPSOs and an industry certification - completion of 2 EPSOs and a score of 31 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT).
Year 2: 2024-2025 school year (Use actual outcome)	47%	2023-24 District TISA Level file provided by TDOE. Protocol as graduates earning a regular or AAD diploma and meeting one of the following criteria: - a score of 21 or higher on the ACT composite - completion of 4 EPSOs - completion of 2 EPSOs and an industry certification - completion of 2 EPSOs and a score of 31 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT).
Year 3: 2025-2026 school year	55%	2024 Ready Graduate District Level file provided by TDOE. Ready Graduate status is defined in the TDOE Federal Accountability Protocol as graduates earning a regular or AAD diploma and meeting one of the following criteria: - a score of 21 or higher on the ACT composite - completion of 4 EPSOs - completion of 2 EPSOs and an industry certification - completion of 2 EPSOs and a score of 31 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT).
Year 4: 2026-2027 school year	63%	2024 Ready Graduate District Level file provided by TDOE. Ready Graduate status is defined in the TDOE Federal Accountability Protocol as graduates earning a regular or AAD diploma and meeting one of the following criteria: - a score of 21 or higher on the ACT composite - completion of 4 EPSOs - completion of 2 EPSOs and an industry certification - completion of 2 EPSOs and a score of 31 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT).
Year 5: 2027-2028 school year	70%	2024 Ready Graduate District Level file provided by TDOE. Ready Graduate status is defined in the TDOE Federal Accountability Protocol as graduates earning a regular or AAD diploma and meeting one of the following criteria: - a score of 21 or higher on the ACT composite - completion of 4 EPSOs - completion of 2 EPSOs and an industry certification - completion of 2 EPSOs and a score of 31 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT).

* Check the response that best describes the progress made on the 2024-25 target toward Goal 3.

☐ Exceeded target

☒ Met target

- ☐ Increased but did not meet target
- ☐ Did not make progress toward goal
- ☐ End of year outcome data for the 2024-25SY is unavailable at the time of this report

Reflection: Based on progress toward the goal, how will this impact your action plan for the coming years?

We met the 2024-2025 target of 47%, which reflects positive momentum toward the long-term TISA high school outcome goal. This progress indicates that investments in career coaching, ACT preparation, and exposure to post-secondary opportunities are beginning to pay off. Moving forward, the district will build on this success by expanding access to industry certifications, strengthening ACT preparation, and creating stronger pathways for students to demonstrate readiness through multiple measures. We will also place a greater emphasis on individualized academic planning, ASVAB and military readiness, and partnerships with local colleges and industries to sustain and accelerate growth.

Goal 3 Prior Year Report: 2-3 Prior year, major TISA investments made toward this goal

Major TISA Investment	Expended Amount (Rough Estimate)	Reflection of whether the investment contributed to progressing toward the goal or not, and how so.
Career Coach-Middle School, Career Coach-High School, School Counselors, post secondary expose visit	\$	Investments in career coaches (middle and high school), school counselors, and post-secondary exposure visits directly contributed to meeting the 2024-2025 target. Career coaches and counselors provided individualized support for academic planning, ACT preparation, and post-secondary readiness, while exposure visits helped students connect classroom learning with real-world opportunities. These initiatives improved student awareness of multiple pathways to readiness, leading to increased participation in early post-secondary opportunities (EPSOs) and higher ACT scores. Continued support in these areas will be essential to reaching the long-term 70% TISA Graduate goal.

Action Plan: List detailed strategies for the 2025-2026 school year that will be implemented to meet your annual target.

Expand ACT prep opportunities and embed practice into core instruction.

Strengthen academic and career planning through middle and high school PLCs, career coaches, and counselor collaboration.

Provide greater emphasis on ASVAB as a pathway for students pursuing military readiness.

Enhance partnerships with local businesses, industries, and higher education to increase career exposure and student engagement in certification pathways.

Budget Narrative: Describe how your district intends to use their budget to execute the strategies and meet the stated goal.

The district will continue to allocate TISA funds toward sustaining career coaches, school counselors, and post-secondary readiness initiatives. Funds will support ACT preparation programs, industry certification costs, and student transportation for post-secondary exposure visits. By maintaining and expanding these investments, the district will maximize student readiness opportunities and continue progressing toward the long-term 70% TISA High School Outcome Graduate target by 2028.

Goal #4

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  This goal not established.

Goal #5

Polk County (700) Public District - FY 2026 - TISA Accountability Report - Rev 0

  This goal not established.

Goal #6

Polk County (700) Public District - FY 2026 - TISA Accountability Report - Rev 0

  This goal not established.

Public Comment and Board Approval

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Public Comment

The TISA accountability report must be presented for public comment to parents, educators, and local community members prior to its submission to the department by November 1.

Details	Answer
Date(s) of opportunity for local public comment	October 1, 2025 -October 12, 2025
Description of public comment opportunities (e.g. collection of written comments, public hearing, local board meeting discussion, etc.)	Google form posted on the District Website, local board meeting discussion
Summary of public comment received. If no comments were received, state, "None received."	
Description of how your district did or did not incorporate public comment received into the final accountability report submission.	

Board Approval

TISA accountability reports should be presented to the local school board for approval prior to its submission to the department by November 1. Please select the option that best describes the board approval status when submitting the TISA accountability Report to the department.

- ☐ Board approval received. Minutes documenting board approval have been uploaded to the 'Related Documents' section.
- ☐ Board approval to be received after Nov. 1. The board agenda for the upcoming meeting or a memo referencing the board meeting date for which the TISA accountability will be on the agenda has been uploaded to the 'Related Documents' section. Immediately upon approval, my district will upload the minutes documenting board approval to the 'Related Documents' section and adjust the response to this question.

Related Documents

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Required Documents		
Type	Document Template	Document/Link
(TISA) Board Approval [Upload at least 1 document(s)]	N/A	

TISA Accountability Report Checklist

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General Checklist Comment	
No comments have been made at this time	
Checklist Description (Collapse All) Expand All	
1. Report Status 1.01 The LEA has completed all fields and upload(s).	Not Reviewed