

How Good are Your Child's School and Teachers?

For parents and others who want to know which schools have the best teachers and highest achievement.

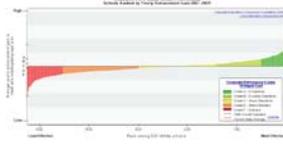
Every parent wants their child to receive a quality education. Parents in Tennessee have access to the most informative data on school performance available in the United States: the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS). As a public service, the Education Consumers Foundation works to make this information understandable to parents. If you want help in making well-informed decisions for your child, visit us at www.education-consumers.org.

How well is your child progressing?

As part of its TVAAS program, the Tennessee State Education Department collects data that can be used to predict their future academic performance of each student. These "Student Projection Reports" can show how your child will perform on standardized assessments like the TCAP, end of course tests, Gateway exams, and even the ACT college entrance exam. Broadly speaking, they tell you whether your child is on the path to academic success or if he or she needs help to change directions.

Which are the Best Schools and Where are the Best Teachers?

ECF has created interactive charts that show which schools are doing the best job of getting students to learn. Students in these schools are making more academic growth per year than other schools around the state. Tennessee's most effective teachers are concentrated in these schools. Most schools have some good teachers, but these schools are loaded; visit our website at <http://www.education-consumers.org/parentreps.htm> to learn how to find grade-by-grade data for each school.



Which Areas of Tennessee have the Best Schools?

Our interactive map gives you a bird's eye view of the state and allows you to zoom into any area for a closer look. Schools



are identified by TVAAS performance level, achievement, poverty, and other indicators. Just click and observe.

What is Value Added Assessment?

See our introductory video regarding the difference between TVAAS and TCAP, what they tell you about school quality, and how you can use the tools on our site.



How are students tested in Tennessee?

If you'd like more information on student testing in Tennessee, visit our Directory of available information. It includes a primer on TCAP and TVAAS, Student Projection Reports, and links to additional information.

What practices are used in the best schools?

In spring 2007, an ECF researcher visited six of the most effective elementary and middle schools in Tennessee to uncover the practices they have in common. His findings, along with commentary regarding published studies of similar practices, can be found in our report: *Effective Schools, Common Practices*.



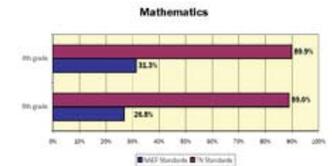
Are the best schools widely known to the public?

Until recent years, Tennessee's best schools have not been widely recognized because most non-educators had heard of TVAAS, much less knew their school's scores. Today, however, The Education Consumers Foundation puts the TVAAS data online in user-friendly graphics and gives cash awards to the principals of the top performing schools. Each year in May, ECF brings the principals of the top schools to the state capitol and honors them in a widely publicized ceremony.



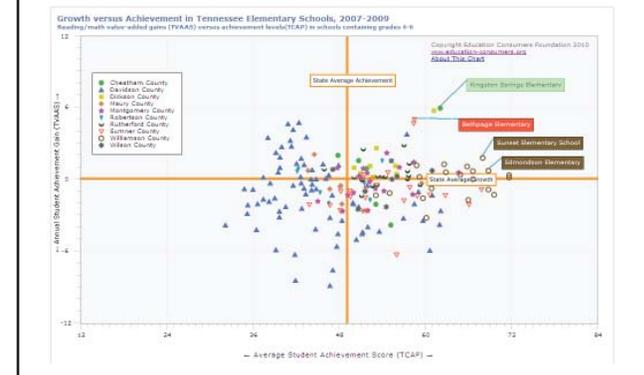
Where Can I get more Consumer-Friendly Information On Good Schools and Effective Teaching?

In addition to its briefings and compilations of research, the Education Consumers Foundation publishes original works on subjects such as alternative teacher certification, the ongoing changes in Tennessee's Test scores and curriculum standards, the Race to the Top reforms, and updates from SCORE--the statewide education reform initiative founded by Senator Frist and Governor Bredesen. All of these reports, briefings, commentaries, and analyses are available at no charge through the Education Consumers Foundation website.



NEW RESOURCE : How does my local school compare to others in my area and around the state?

Most people want to know two things about a school: What is the average level of student achievement and how much achievement growth do its students attain each year. For the first time, parents can see how their school and others in their district compares with any other schools or districts around the state. All can be seen in one easy-to-understand printable chart. Elementary, middle, and high schools are compared on separate charts.



To access these free resources and others from the Education Consumers Foundation, visit:

www.education-consumers.org

What is the Education Consumers Foundation?

The Education Consumers Foundation (ECF) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the interests of education's consumers. The foundation helps parents, parent groups, school boards, legislative committees, and all others who seek to obtain independent, consumer-friendly assessments of education policy and practice.

While the organization provides independent and accurate information to education consumers across the country, much of its current research and outreach efforts occur under the umbrella of its Tennessee Project.

The foundation focuses on Tennessee to take advantage of data generated by the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS), the most sophisticated body of school accountability data available in the country. Value-added data uniquely provides a clear indicator of schools' effectiveness in increasing individual student achievement. And because TVAAS has been in place since the early 1990s, it provides an invaluable historical data trail. Many of the initiatives developed through the Tennessee Project are detailed in this brochure; more can be found at the foundation's website, www.education-consumers.org.

The foundation continues to look at new ways of exhibiting and interpreting the publicly available but often technical data that is available concerning education quality. Its aim is to make this information useful to the consuming public and its elected representatives. To learn more about supporting ECF's work, contact Dr. J.E. Stone at professor@education-consumers.org or call 703-248-2611.



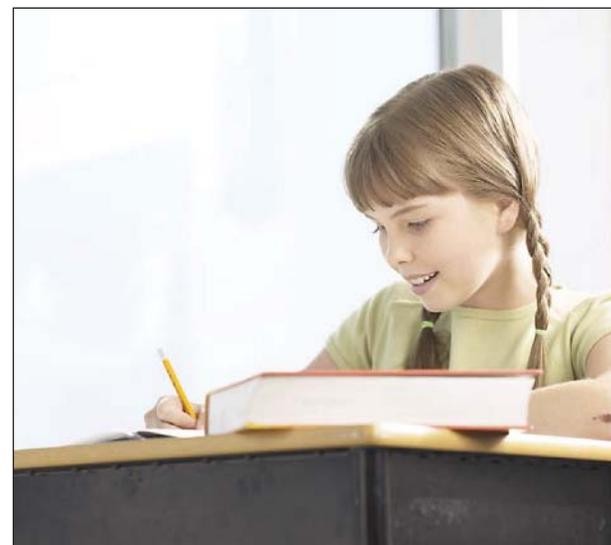
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*For parents and others who want to know
which schools are effective—and how to
prompt those that are not*



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