



Academics

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

EARLY LITERACY

A critical foundation for life-long learning, early literacy must be a top priority for Tennessee. Early literacy supports will focus on **rapidly increasing** the percentage of students who are able to read proficiently at grade level.

All K-2 teachers in Tennessee must have access to and use a **foundational skills curriculum**, and will participate in **statewide training** to build and strengthen their knowledge in teaching children how to read. Elementary schools will have the opportunity to participate in **regional implementation networks** to support educators in literacy instruction.

HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

After the teacher in the classroom, the instructional materials a teacher uses become the next most impactful part of a child's education. High-quality instructional materials provide teachers with the necessary tools and resources they need to **prepare and deliver strong lessons** that align to high academic standards and boost student outcomes.

The Department approves a suite of **high-quality textbooks and instructional materials** to empower districts across the state to select materials that will best address the needs of their local students, and advances the effective implementation and utilization of these materials in schools and classrooms every day. An **online portal** will provide educators access to a suite of resources that will help facilitate ongoing learning at the local level.

INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Tennessee's work to create and adhere to **high academic standards has lead to increases in student achievement** and outcomes. However, student assessments based on these standards are being developed by districts with their own resources, and a majority are not yet fully aligned to state standards.

Tennessee will develop and deploy a **suite of free, curriculum-aligned assessment resources** and provide direct, easy access to these resources to educators, school leaders, and districts.

CAREER EXPLORATION

Over the next year, the Department will research **national career programs** and visit elementary, middle, and high schools with "exemplar" career awareness, exploration, and advising programs to determine best practices and strategies, and identify ways to scale and improve career exploration in Tennessee.