DOES YOUR SCHOOL MEASURE UP?
Understanding the Tennessee school report card

Beginning in December 2018, a new law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to rate schools. In Tennessee, schools will receive a letter (A-F) grade. Learn how the grade will be calculated and see how your school measures up.

What does a minus mean?
Is your school serving ALL students?

Numbers and data can tell us a lot about how schools measure up—but they can also hide important information. Pay attention to your school’s student group grade. This grade will show if your school is serving all students, including Black, Hispanic and Native Americans, students with disabilities, English Learners and students who are economically disadvantaged. You will know if your school doesn’t measure up because their final grade will have a minus (–).
A – F GRADES
What do they mean?

A – Reward School
Status is given to all schools earning an “A” grade. Schools with high standardized test scores will be designated as Reward Schools. But, schools with lower test scores that are making extraordinary academic progress will also be labeled a Reward School.

B – Focus School
Status is given to all schools earning a “B” grade. School districts will need to develop and implement school improvement plans for all schools with a “D” grade.

C – Priority School
Status is given to all schools earning an “F” grade. This means the school ranks in the bottom 5% of all schools in the state and if it’s a high school, that the school is not graduating enough of its students. Schools with this grade will also be placed on the School Improvement Continuum which means the state will allocate additional support and interventions to help improve the school’s performance.

D – F Focus School
Status is given to all schools earning a “−” grade on an A, B, or C grade. A “−” is given to schools who are not adequately serving one or more student groups.

Get Involved
The successful implementation of this new grading system requires collaboration between community members, educators, parents and students. While school grades will not be assigned until December 2018, there is still plenty you can do now to get involved with your local school, and to work with others to ensure all children will receive a world-class education.

Here are a few suggestions:
1. Find out how your school and district is performing now. Go to www.measuretn.gov
2. Explore your local school’s website and learn about their programs and school improvement plans, including timeline.
3. Meet with your principal and request to join the school improvement team, and to help parents and community members learn about the changes coming with ESSA.
4. Consider hosting a gathering with other parents or community members to share information and learn more about the new school grading system.

Learn more at tnedequity.org