

TISA Calculator

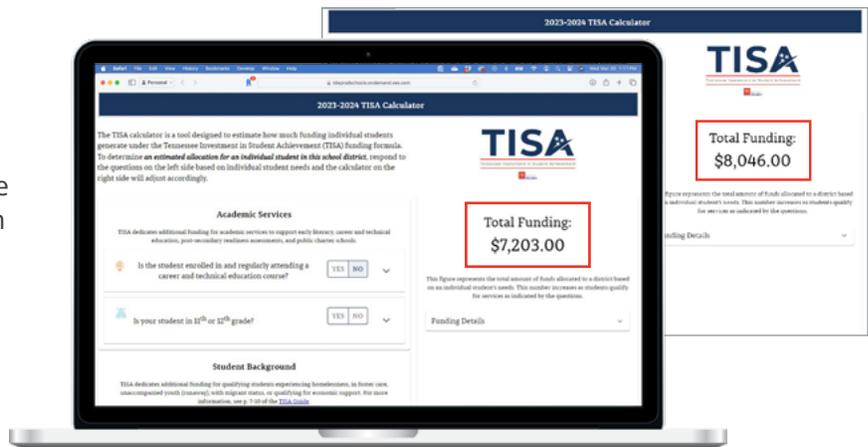
Frequently Asked Questions

What is TISA?

The [Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement \(TISA\)](#) public school funding formula, passed in 2022, updates the way Tennessee invests in public education for the first time in over 30 years and is a student-based funding formula, meaning that for the first time ever, districts are funded based on the individual needs of the students they serve. Additionally, TISA empowers schools and districts to ensure each student can read proficiently by third grade, is prepared for postsecondary success, and is provided the resources needed to help achieve their potential.

What is the TISA Calculator?

The TISA Calculator is a tool designed to estimate how much funding individual students generate under the TISA funding formula. To determine an estimated allocation for an individual student in this school, users can respond to the questions on the left side of the tool based on individual student needs and the calculator on the right side will adjust accordingly.



How can I access the TISA Calculator?

The TISA Calculator is found on the [State Report Card](#). Users can navigate to their school's page, select "Finance" from the drop-down menu, and locate the TISA calculator.

Does the TISA Calculator provide exact funding amounts for schools and districts?

No. The TISA Calculator only displays how much funding would be allocated for an individual student based on user responses. The calculator cannot generate total funding amounts for schools or school districts, which are made up of hundreds of students or more with varying needs and funding requirements.

Does the TISA Calculator show how individual schools and districts are using funds?

No. The TISA Calculator only illustrates the amount of funding that an individual student generates for a school district and a breakdown of the elements that contribute to that number. The calculator considers a student's specific needs to calculate how much funding would be provided at the state level to support those needs. Each school and district make their own decisions about how to spend the funds allotted to them to best serve students. These decisions are not determined by TISA. It is important to remember that TISA is a formula for generating funding, but it is not a spending plan. Expenditure decision-making remains at the local level.

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How does TISA funding work?

TISA provides the same base funding for every public school student in Tennessee (\$6,860 for 2023-24), plus additional funding to support individual student needs. The categories for additional funding include:

School Location

- School considered sparse (Fewer than 25 students per square mile for county districts).
- School in an area of concentrated poverty (eligible for the Title I schoolwide designation).
- School considered small (district size of 1,000 students or fewer). Find a list of small districts in Appendix B (p. 53) of the [TISA Guide](#).
- Charter school.

Academic Services

- Funding for each student in grades K-3 to support early literacy instruction with the goal of all students reading at grade level by 3rd grade.
- Funding for rising 4th-grade students who qualify for additional literacy support based on their performance on the 3rd-grade English Language Arts TCAP, including tutoring or other interventions. For more information, see p. 22 of the [TISA Guide](#).
- Funding for student participation in CTE programs to incentivize LEAs to align program of study offerings with careers that are in-demand and produce strong living wage potential. For more information, see p. 22-24 of the [TISA Guide](#).
- Funding for students who take the ACT in their 11th- or 12th-grade year. This includes the cost of the initial test in 11th grade and one retake. This funding is withheld at the state level and used to pay for the tests via a statewide contract, eliminating the administrative burden on school districts.

Student Background

- Funding for qualifying students experiencing homelessness, in foster care, unaccompanied youth (runaway), with migrant status, or qualifying for economic support. For more information, see p. 7-10 of the [TISA Guide](#).

Unique Learning Needs

- Funding for students with disabilities, English learners (ELs), and students with Characteristics of Dyslexia. For more information, see p. 13-20 of the [TISA Guide](#).

Do my responses on the TISA Calculator affect the funding a student receives?

No. The TISA Calculator is provided as an example and for illustrative purposes only. Your responses are not collected and do not and cannot impact the funds allocated for a specific student. The Calculator serves only as a tool to understand how much money a school district would be allotted from the state based on specified student needs. It is also a tool aimed to empower users to ask questions and take a deeper dive into the strategic investment decisions of their school or district.

When did TISA start?

TISA has gone into effect for the first time for the 2023-24 school year and will be reflected in the 2023-24 allocation information on the 2022-23 State Report Card. Expenditure information from the 2021-22 school year was based on the previous Basic Education Program (BEP) formula in effect at that time.

Can I impact how my child's TISA funds are used?

The money allocated through the TISA funding formula goes directly to school districts. The amount shown on the TISA Calculator represents the amount of money a child's district receives from the state in order to support relevant services. Decisions about how this money is used are made by school and district leaders. However, families should always feel empowered to be active participants in their child's education and make their voice heard through conversations with school or district leaders, school board or PTA meetings, etc.

Where can I direct my questions about the TISA Calculator?

Please contact Data.Management@tn.gov for any questions related to the functionality of the TISA Calculator.