



# Assessment Standards Setting Process

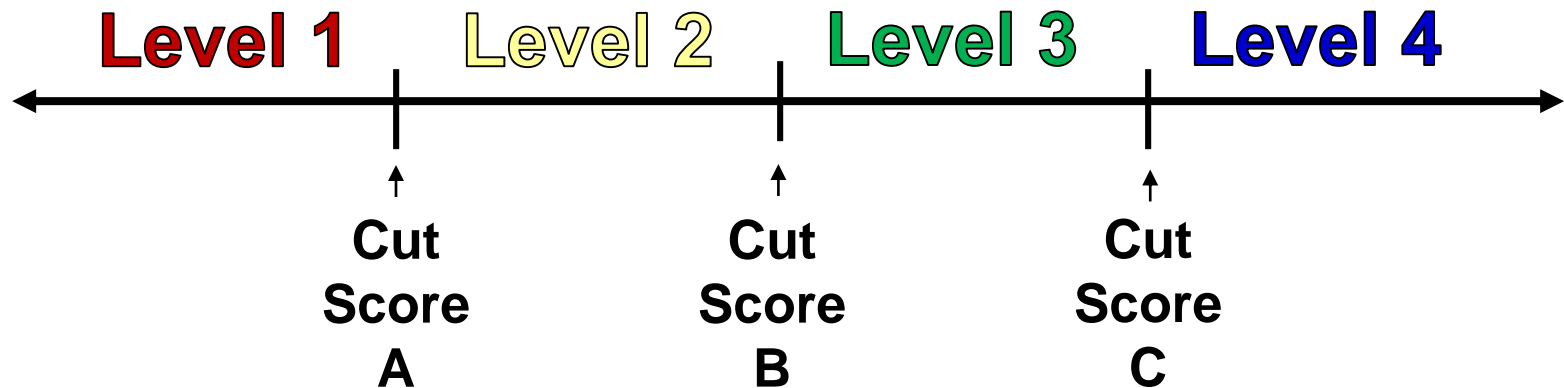
TNReady and Social Studies Transition

# Standards Setting: Purpose

- To make **recommendations to the Tennessee State Board of Education** regarding **cut scores** for all grade 3-11 state assessments.
  - Standards Setting Committee recommendations will be presented to State Board for **first read in July/August 2016**.
  - **The second read and approval will be August/September 2016.**
  - This may require a ***called meeting*** depending upon SBE proposed summer meeting schedule.
  - **Cut scores must be approved *prior* to final score reporting for TNReady.**
- To ensure recommendations are **consistent with expectations stated in the Tennessee Academic Standards**.

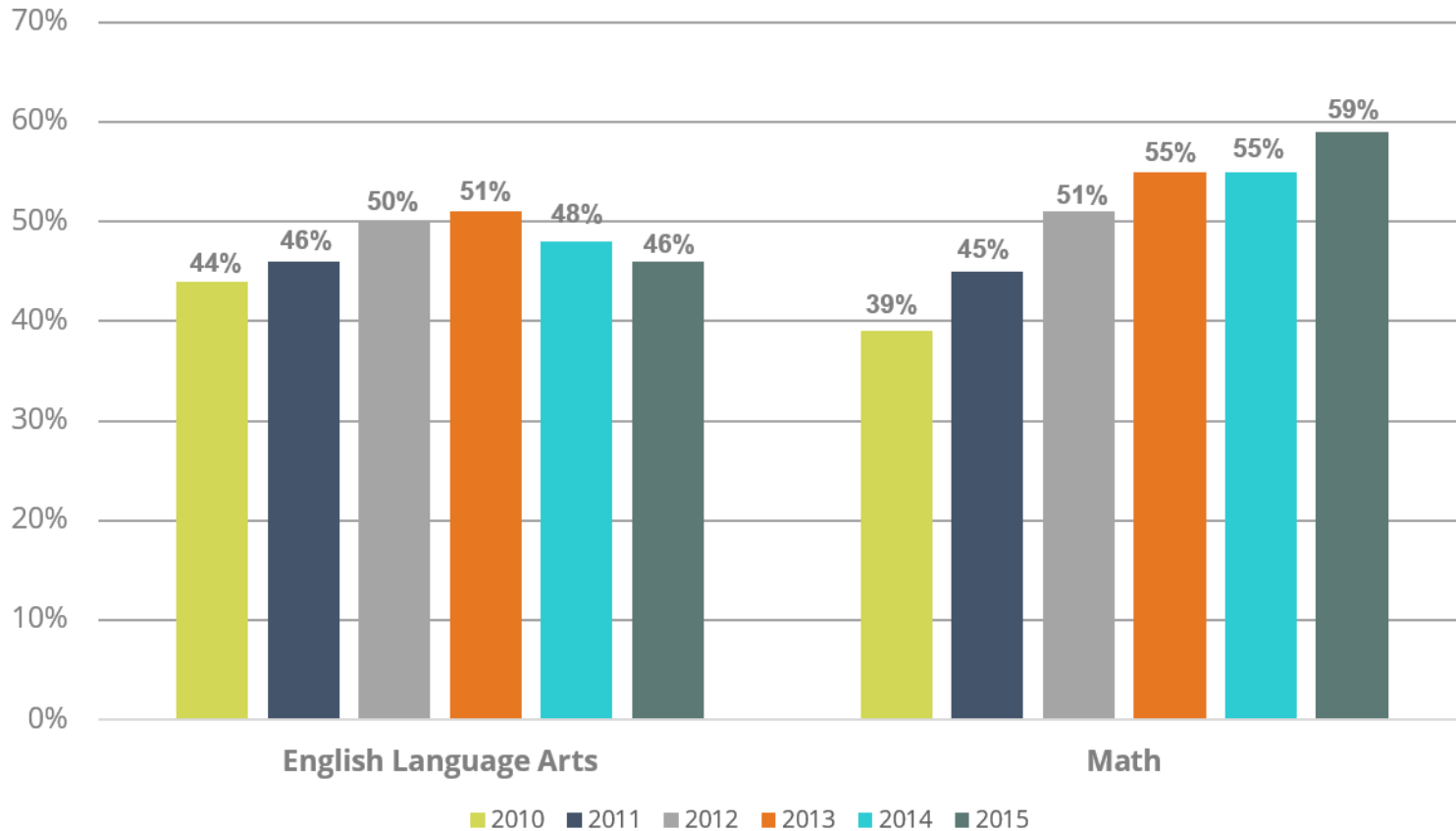
# Standards Setting: What is a Cut Score?

- The **minimum scale score a student must earn to be considered at a certain performance level**
- Three cut scores result in four levels of performance.



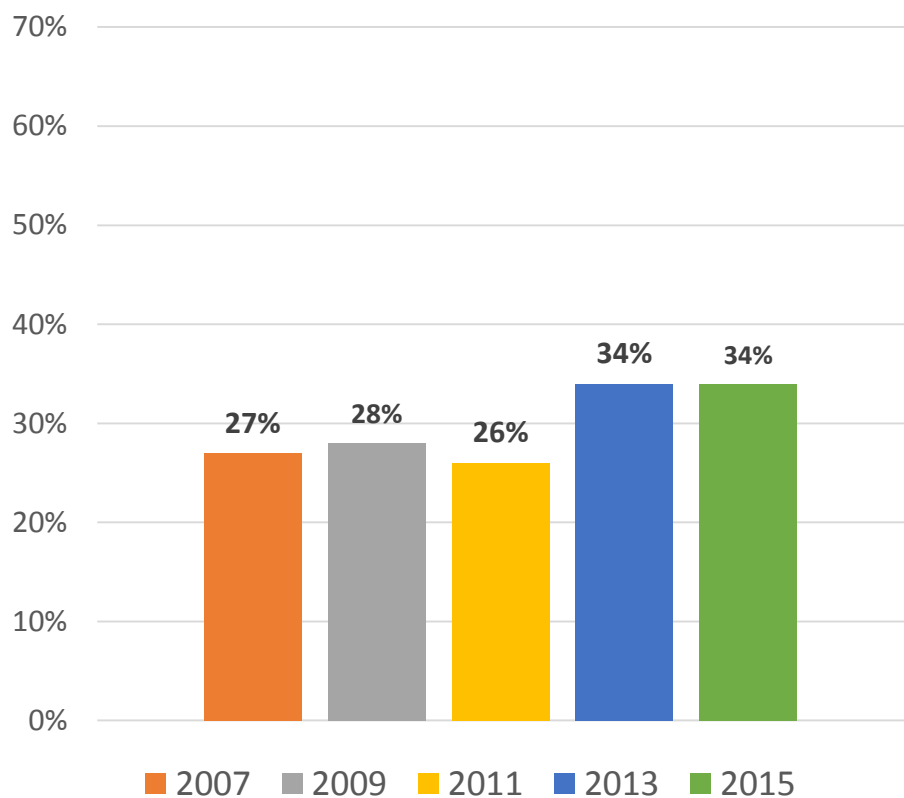
# Cut Scores Matter: TCAP Proficiency Trends

Grades 3-5 TCAP Performance Over Time

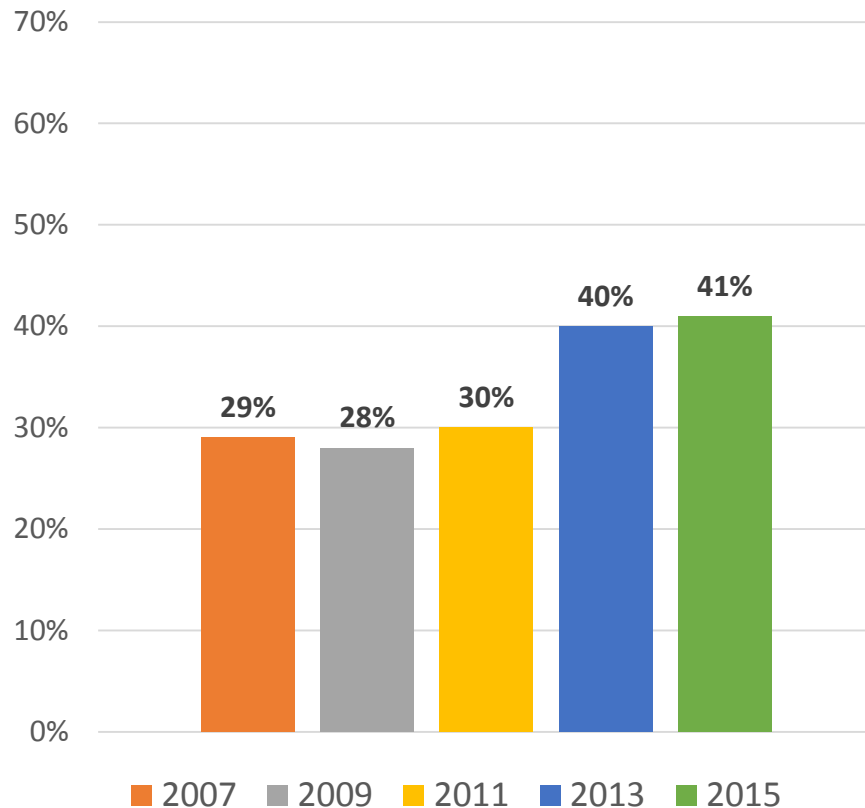


# Cut Scores Matter: NAEP Proficiency Trends

## NAEP Proficiency Trends: 4th Grade READING



## NAEP Proficiency Trends: 4th Grade MATH



# Standards Setting Process

- **Standards setting** determines student **performance and reporting**.
- Tennessee **educators and community members** engage in standards setting to make recommendations about how we define **expectations for student mastery of our state standards**.
- Before the standards setting process can begin, we must have clearly defined those student expectations through **Performance Level Descriptors**.

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# Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)

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# Types of Performance Level Descriptors



- Policy PLDs
- Range PLDs
- Threshold PLDs
- Reporting PLDs



# Types of Performance Level Descriptors

## Policy PLDs

- High-level descriptors that are the same for all subjects and grade levels
- Committee developed a draft December 14, 2015
- Finalized by January 31, 2016

## Range PLDs

- Grade-level, content specific descriptors which link back to the standards
- Developed by a committee in March to be finalized by April 30, 2016

## Threshold PLDs

- Occurs during standards setting in summer 2016
- Specifically defines what it takes for a student to attain each achievement level
- Applications can be submitted until 5 pm April 25, 2016

## Reporting PLDs

- Puts Range PLDs in public friendly language for reports provided to TN parents
- Created by content experts
- Finalized by June 30, 2016

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# **Policy Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)**

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# Policy PLD-Committee

## 15 total participants

- Central Office Staff: 2
- Principals: 3
- Teachers: 2
- Parent: 1
- Higher Education: 3
- State Board Staff: 1
- CORE Office Consultant: 1
- TDOE Staff: 2

# Policy PLDs: Final Version

*The Tennessee Academic Standards require that students demonstrate **particular skills and knowledge** in each grade level and course area, with the purpose of preparing students for **postsecondary success**. Based on an **aligned assessment** that reflects current results, **student performance** is reported along a continuum of **four levels**.*

# Policy PLDs: Final Version

## Levels:

- 4 - Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has an **extensive understanding** and **expert ability** to apply the grade/course level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee academic standards.
  
- 3 - Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has a **comprehensive understanding** and **thorough ability** to apply the grade/course level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee academic standards.

# Policy PLDs: Final Version

## Levels:

- 2 - Performance at this level demonstrates that the student is **approaching understanding** and has a **partial ability** to apply the grade/course level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee academic standards.
- 1 - Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has a **minimal understanding** and has a **nominal ability** to apply the grade/course level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee academic standards.

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**Range Performance  
Level Descriptors (PLDs)**

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# Range PLDs

- Demonstrate **how the skill** described in a standard **changes** and becomes more sophisticated across performance levels
- Define the **increasing content, reasoning, and contextual evidence** needed to categorize students into a particular performance level.



# Range PLDs: Committee

**54 committee members total** with six educators per committee representing the following subject areas and grade bands:

- ELA 3-5
- ELA 6-8
- ELA High School
- Math 3-5
- Math 6-8
- Math High School
- SS 3-5
- SS 6-7
- SS 8 and US History

**Educator Committee  
Members:**  
Classroom Teachers  
Instructional Coaches  
Supervisors of Instruction

# Range PLDs: Spring Timeline

- **March 16-18:** Draft Range PLDs created
- **April:** Drafts revised for consistency of language and stakeholder feedback gathered
- **May 1:** Range PLDs finalized

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**Threshold Performance  
Level Descriptors (PLDs)**

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# Threshold PLDs

- **Set the stage** for the standards setting process
- Developed by the standards setting committee to **guide the process of cut score determination**
- Specifically **define what it takes for a student to attain each achievement level** for each subject and grade/course

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**Standards Setting**

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# Standards Setting Committee

Committee members will **be selected from multiple stakeholder groups** (educators, higher education partners, parents, community members)

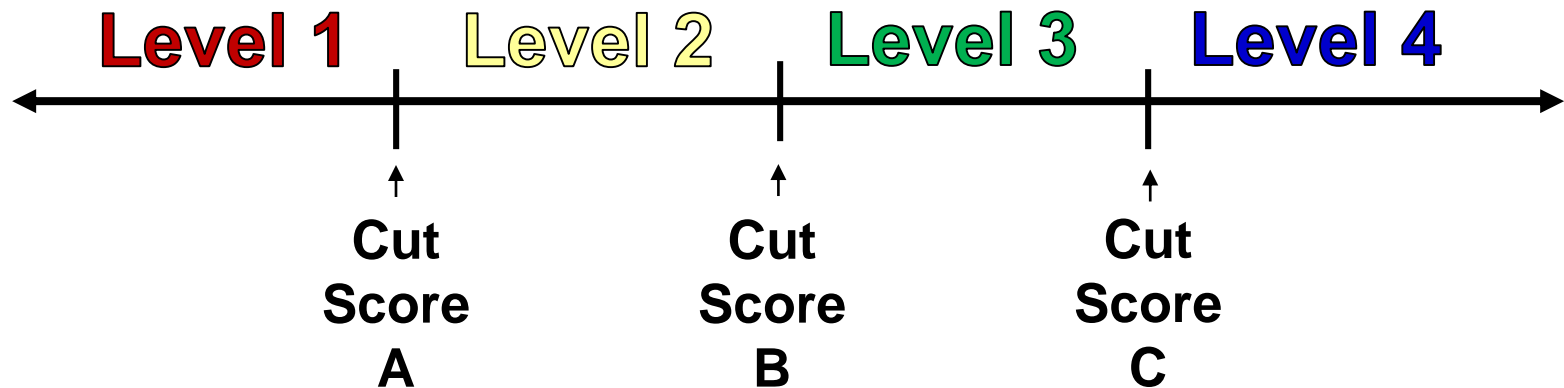
ELA	Mathematics	Social Studies
Grades 3-5	Grades 3-5	Grades 3-5
Grades 6-8	Grades 6-8	Grades 6-7
High School	High School: Alg. 1 and 2 High School: Geometry High School: Integrated Math 1, 2, and 3	Grade 8 and US History

# Standards Setting Committee

- Knowledgeable in tested **content**
- Familiar with tested **students**
- **Diverse** backgrounds, demographics, and experience
  - ✓ Gender
  - ✓ Years of experience
  - ✓ Region
  - ✓ Ethnicity
  - ✓ Student population

# Standards Setting: What is a Cut Score?

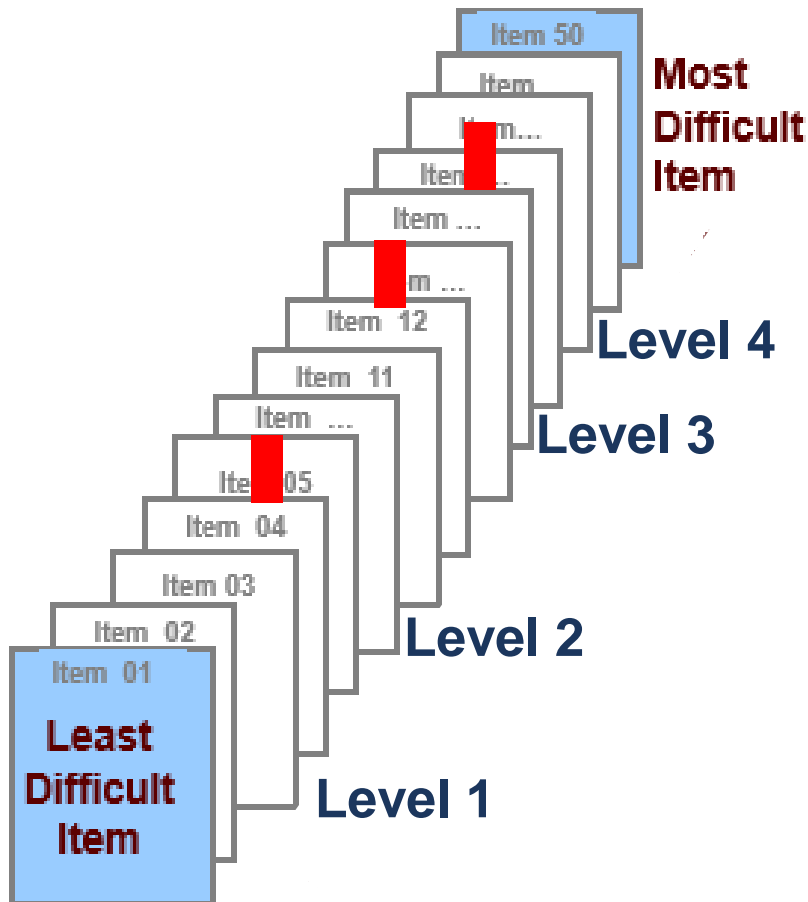
- The **minimum scale score a student must earn to be considered at a certain performance level**
- Three cut scores result in four levels of performance.







# Standards Setting: Bookmarking Process



- Based on the **threshold PLD**, think of **target student** for each performance level, from lowest to highest.
- The committee will go through the OIB and consider, ***item by item***, whether the target student would be able to answer the item correctly.
- If not, the cut score marker is placed **before** that item.

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**Questions?  
Feedback?**



*Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.*

**Excellence | Optimism | Judgment | Courage | Teamwork**