

## Talking to Students about TNReady

---

Students who understand why TNReady is important for their learning will be more likely to try harder on the assessment. Teachers can help students understand why it is important for them to do their best on TNReady – and all assessments – by talking about how educators use assessment data.

### **EXPLAINING THE VALUE**

As a teacher, you use assessment data from the previous year to reflect on your instruction, curriculum, and lesson plans. TNReady is presenting assessment data in better and deeper ways for educators – including a [class roster report](#) and a [standards analysis report](#) for classroom teachers.

Many students, however, do not see the link between the test they take this year and the learning that will happen next year. When you explain how you use assessment data to support their learning, students will begin to understand why taking TNReady matters.

Here are some ideas for talking to students about TNReady:

- Point to a lesson plan or assignment used in your class that was created or changed based on what you learned from assessment results.
- Have students think about ways assessment keeps them on track to do well in the next grade or to take advantage of other opportunities that lie ahead. For older students, these are things like AP courses, ACT, college and military entrance exams, and Tennessee Promise. For younger students, it could be an opportunity for gifted programs, admission to a chosen school, or special projects and events.
- In one-on-one discussions, explain how last year's assessment identifies strengths and weaknesses to work on this year. Offer ideas from the assessment data for things your student can focus on in your class.

Teachers also can encourage students to think about how they can use their own assessment results to answer three important questions about their schoolwork:

- Where do I need to grow in my learning?
- Where am I now?
- How can I close the gap between where I am and where I need to be?

### **BUILDING CONFIDENCE**

Words of encouragement can help students feel confident before the test. Here are some ideas for conversations that can help students feel ready for TNReady:

**You're getting ready now.** The work you are doing in school is the best preparation for TNReady. Complete your assignments. Participate in class. Ask questions.

**Trust me.** As your teacher, I want to see you succeed. The lessons and assignments I have been making are covering the things you need to be ready for the test.

**Give yourself a pep talk.** I know that you've got this, and you need to know that too. Before the test, tell yourself: "I can do this. I know this material. I have practiced this material. I'm intelligent."

**Take a deep breath.** TNReady is just a test. Take it one question at a time. Read carefully. Then show what you have learned and can do.