

# Glossary



**Advanced** is a score on the TCAP and NAEP that denotes mastery of grade-appropriate knowledge of skills and assets.

**At-Risk** children and students as defined by national testing standards are those who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, have limited English proficiency and/or have disabilities.

\***Axon** is the tail of a neuron.

**AYP** is the acronym for Adequate Yearly Progress, a measurement created by NCLB to assess the performance of individual schools. A school is rated to have achieved AYP if its students achieve scores of proficient to a standard set by the district, with exceptions for students in at-risk categories.

**Basic** is a fourth score, or category of measurement, used on the NAEP but not the TCAP. Basic means that the student has partial mastery of prerequisite skills that are fundamental for proficiency.

**Body Mass Index** is a measure of body fat based on an individual's height and weight.

**Below Proficient** on the TCAP and NAEP means that the student has not mastered prerequisite or grade-appropriate knowledge.

**Creative Class** is an identity coined by Richard Florida to describe a cadre of workers with skills and contributions for a post-industrial society.

**Cut Scores** define the percentage of questions that a student must answer correctly to be considered Proficient or Advanced.

**ED** is the acronym for the provisional TCAP category, Economic Disadvantage.

**Families First** is Tennessee's Welfare reform program which replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children in 1996.

**Gestation** is a synonym for pregnancy.

**Graduation rates** are defined in several ways: By entering ninth grade cohort and by percent of twelfth graders who are graduated from high school that school year. By measuring the freshman class as it enters the ninth grade and again at graduation to determine how many finish high school on time. By looking at the percent of graduating seniors (twelfth graders) it is possible to learn how many students were graduated from the senior class that year.

**Infant mortality rate (IMR)** is the number of deaths per 1,000 live births that occur in the first 12 months of life.

**Knowledge Economy** defines an economy that demands high levels of education and knowledge rooted in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computers, rather than physical strength or dexterity.

**STEM** is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

**LEP** is the acronym for the provisional TCAP category, Limited English Proficient.

**Low Birth-Weight** is a weight of less than 2,500 grams, or about 5 pounds 8 ounces, of an infant at birth.

**Memphis MSA** (Metropolitan Statistical Area) defines the area comprised of the Tennessee counties of Shelby, Tipton and Fayette, Crittenden County, AR and DeSoto County, MS.

**NAEP** is the acronym for National Assessment of Educational Progress, the identity of a test given to a sample of students in every state to assess the progress of students nationally.

**NAEYC** is the acronym for National Association for the Education of Young Children that gives accreditation to child care centers nationwide based on performance and standards of excellence in the areas of curriculum, staff, center attributes and family and community relationships. NAEYC maintains a national database of accredited centers.

**NCLB** is the acronym for No Child Left Behind that identifies the 2001 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that enacted vast educational reforms to improve the standing of low-performing schools with rewards for achievement and penalties for lack thereof.

\***Neuron** is a nerve cell.

To **Peg** a state standardized test to the national test means that the state test is written to reflect the rigor and content of the national test (NAEP).

**Physical Activity** is defined as any kind of physical activity that increases heart rate and causes hard breathing for a period during a total of at least 60 minutes per day on five or more of the seven days preceding the survey.

**Pre-Kindergarten** is a program to educate three-and-four-year-olds in classroom settings while functioning also as child care with emphasis on social, emotional and cognitive preparation for kindergarten.

**Premature Birth** (Prematurity) defines an infant born in less than 37 weeks.

**Proficient** is a TCAP and NAEP test result that identifies a student as having prerequisite knowledge for grade-appropriate learning.

**School Readiness** defines the state of a child with the relative social, emotional and cognitive abilities to enter kindergarten.

**Stability** or **Instability** define the degree of transience of students between schools during the school year other than for grade promotion.

**Star Quality Rating System** is a measurement of one-two-or-three-star ratings given to child care centers in the State of Tennessee.

**SWD** is the acronym for the provisional TCAP category, Students With Disabilities.

\***Synapse** is an area of the human brain in which communication between nerve cells occurs.

**TANF** is the acronym for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, a Federal initiative that allows states to develop and implement programs that provide assistance and work opportunities for needy families.

**TCAP** is the acronym for Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program, a standardized exam that measures student achievement in Grades 3-12 in Tennessee public schools. TCAP results are used to fulfill No Child Left Behind requirements.

**Title I** is a Federal program that provides funds to schools that have a significant percentage of students who are “low-income” or “poor.”

**YRBS** is the acronym for Youth Risk Behavior Survey that was created by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in 1990 to measure certain behaviors among youths. YRBS includes school-based surveys conducted and reported on national, state and local levels. YRBS was first administered in Memphis City Schools (MCS), Grades 6-12, during the 2003-04 school year, repeated in the 2005-06 and scheduled again for the 2007-08 school year. Details about the Memphis YRBS are available at <http://www.mcsk12.net/admin/research/YRBS-2003.html>.

\*= In section entitled What’s the big deal about 0-3

## Works Cited



Alan Guttmacher Institute. (2001:33). *Family Planning Perspectives*.

Amato, Paul. (2005). "The Impact of Family Formation Change on the Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Well-Being of the Next Generation." *The Future of Children*, Vol. 15 No. 2. Retrieved March, 2006, from [http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr\\_doc/05\\_FOC\\_15-2\\_fall05\\_Amato.pdf](http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/05_FOC_15-2_fall05_Amato.pdf).

American Academy of Pediatrics. (1997) "Committee on Environmental Health, Environmental Tobacco Smoke: A Hazard to Children." *Pediatrics*. 99: 639-642

Annie E. Casey Foundation. <http://www.aecf.org>.

Annie E. Casey Foundation. CLIKS. <http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliks.cgi>.

Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2006). Kids Count. Annie E. Casey Foundation. Baltimore, M.D. Retrieved January, 2006, from <http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/KIDSCOUNT.aspx>.

Astone, N.M., Upchurch, D.M. (August, 1994). "Forming a Family, Leaving School Early, and Earning a GED: A Racial and Cohort Comparison." *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. 56(3): 759-771.

Atreya, V. (2006). "Childcare costs outstrip monthly rents." *Nashville City Paper*. Nashville, T.N.

Behram, B.E., Butler, A.S. (2006). "Preterm Birth: Causes, Consequences, and Prevention." *Institute of Medicine of the National Academies*. Washington, D.C. Retrieved December, 2006, from <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11622.html>.

Birnbaum, A.S., Lytle et al. (June, 2003). "School functioning and violent behavior among young adolescents: a contextual analysis." *Health Edu Res*. 18(3):389-403.

Center for Disease Control. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/chlamydia.htm>

Center for Disease Control. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/Gonorrhea/STDFact-gonorrhea.htm#what>

- Center for Disease Control. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/youth.htm>
- Center for Disease Control.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2005report/table5b.htm>
- Chang, Cyril. (2004). "The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Shelby County, Tennessee." *Memphis, Methodist LeBonheur Center for healthcare Economics, Fogelman College of Business and Economics*. Memphis, T.N.
- Chattanooga Times Free Press. (2006). "Bredesen Touts Pre-K Program." Chattanooga.
- Child Trends Databank. <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org>.
- Child Trends Databank. (2005). "Teen Births." Retrieved March, 2005, from  
<http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/indicators/13TeenBirth.cfm>.
- Committee for Economic Development. (2006). "The Economic Promise of Investing in High-Quality Preschool: Using Early Education to Improve Economic Growth and the Fiscal Sustainability of States and the Nation."
- "Community Guide to School Funding." (2005).
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) & the Department of Agriculture (USDA). (2005). "Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005." Retrieved February, 2005, from  
<http://www.healthierus.gov/dietaryguidelines/>.
- "Education Could Do More." (September, 2005).
- Frantz, A. (1999). "Who's Watching the Kids?" *Memphis Flyer*. Memphis, T.N.
- Gottschalk, P., McLanahan, S, & Sandefur, G. (1994). *Confronting Poverty: Prescriptions for Change*. Harvard University Press. Cambridge.
- Hamilton BE, et al (2007). "Annual summary of vital statistics: 2005." *Pediatrics*. 119:345-360.
- Hart, B. & Risley, T.R. (2004). *Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experience of Young American Children*. Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co. Baltimore, MD.
- Haskin, R., McLanahan, S., & Donahue, E. (2005). "The Decline in Marriage: What to do?" Brookings Institute. Washington, D.C. Retrieved January, 2006, from  
<http://www.brookings.edu/es/research/projects/wrb/publications/pb/200509foc.pdf>.

- Hymowitz, K. (2005). "What's Holding Black Kids Back?" *Manhattan Institute for Policy Research*. New York, NY. Retrieved December, 2006 from [http://www.city-journal.org/html/15\\_2\\_holding.html](http://www.city-journal.org/html/15_2_holding.html).
- Institute of Medicine. (2005). "Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance."
- Karoly, L.A., Kilburn, M.R., Cannon, J.S. (2005). *Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise*. Rand Corporation. Santa Monica, CA.
- Koplan, J.P., Liverman, C.T., & Kraak, V.I. (2005). *Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance*. National Academies Press: Washington, DC.
- Kumar, R.B. (2006). "Tennessee low in pre-K report but has big plans." *Commercial Appeal*. Memphis, T.N.
- Lee, V.E., Berkham, D.T. (2002). *Inequality at the Starting Gate: Social Background Differences in Achievement as Children Begin School*. Economic Policy Institute. New York, NY.
- March of Dimes Peristats. <http://www.marchofdimes.com/peristats/>
- March of Dimes. [http://www.marchofdimes.com/pnhec/173\\_769.asp](http://www.marchofdimes.com/pnhec/173_769.asp).
- March of Dimes Peristats. [http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332\\_1171.asp](http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332_1171.asp)
- Memphis P.I.P.E. (Spring, 2007). "Understanding Graduation and dropout Rates." *Memphis PIPE*. Memphis, T.N.
- National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2007). "NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards." Washington, D.C.
- NIAAA Interdisciplinary Team on Underage Drinking Research. (2004/2005). "Alcohol and Development in Youth-A Multidisciplinary Overview." *Alcohol Research and Health*. 28(3).
- Relations, T.A.C.O.I. (May, 2001). "Tennessee and the Knowledge Economy."
- Sawhill, I. (2003). *One Percent for the Kids: New Policies. Brighter Futures for America's Children*. Brookings Institute. Washington, D.C.
- The Tennessee Comptroller's Report. (March 2006). "Weighing the Costs of Obesity in Tennessee." Retrieved March, 2007, from <http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/repository/RE/FinalObesityReport.pdf>.
- Tennessee Department of Education. (2006). "Tennessee TCAP Scores."

Tennessee Department of Health Department of Health Statistics. (2007). "Tennessee Vital Statistics Summary Resident Data 2005." *Tennessee Department of Health*. Retrieved February, 2007, from <http://health.state.tn.us/statistics/PdfFiles/VSSum05.pdf>

Tennessee Department of Health Office of Policy, Planning and Assessment. (2005). "Tennessee's Racial Disparity in Infant Mortality." *Tennessee Department of Health*. Retrieved March, 2006, from <http://health.state.tn.us/statistics/PdfFiles/IM2006.pdf>.

"Tennessee's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program: Every Child Ready Early." (2007).

Wu, L.L, Martinson, B.C. (April, 1993). "Family Structure and the Risk of a Premarital Birth." *American Sociological Review*. 58(2):210-232.

Youth Risk Behavioral Survey. <http://www.mcsk12.net/admin/research/YRBS-2003.html>.