

Associate Superintendent Report

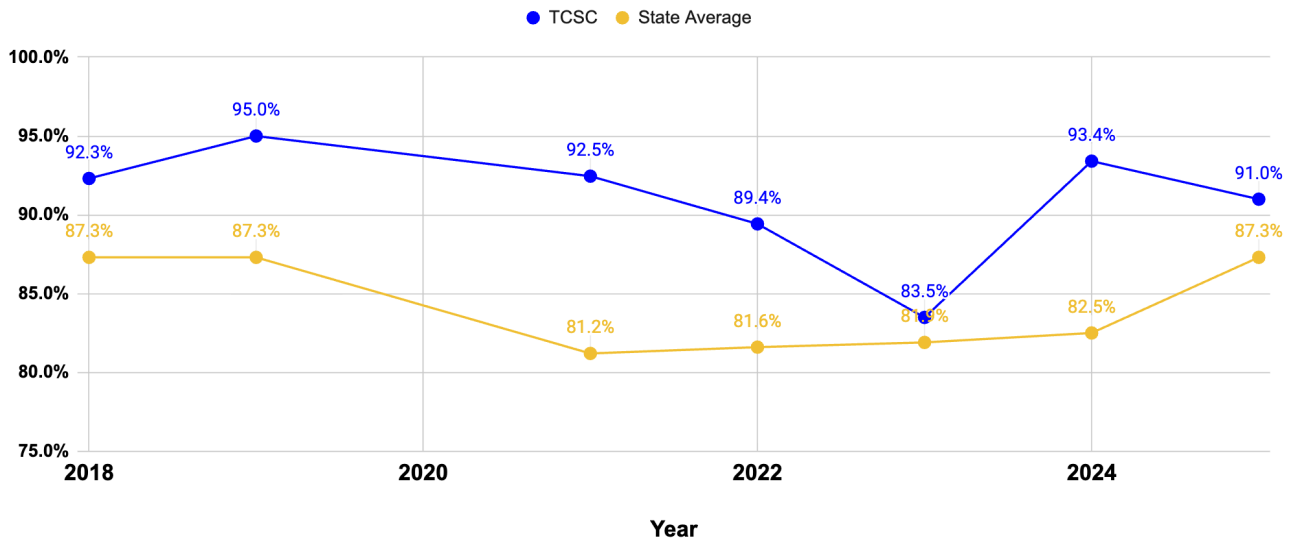
September 9, 2025

Assessments

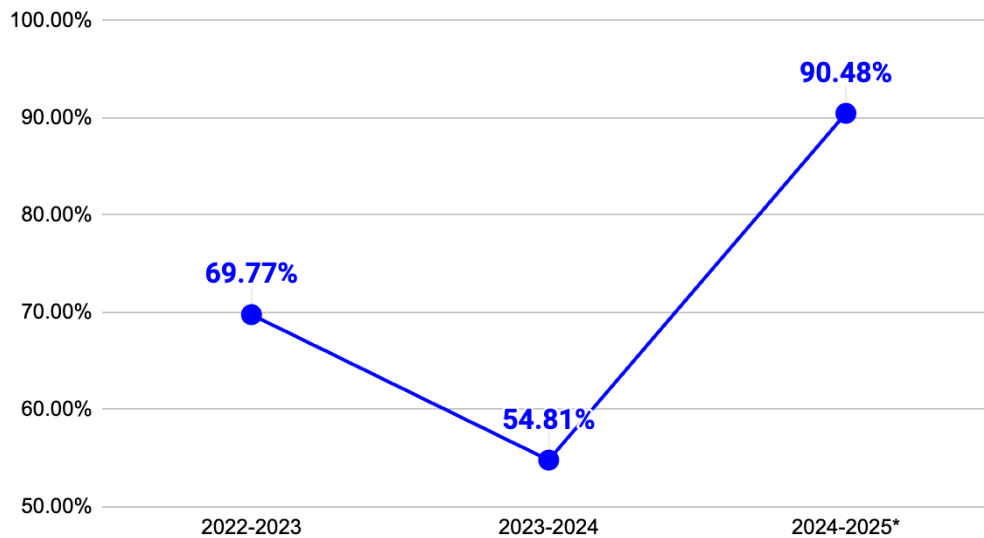
IREAD-3

As I shared at last month's board meeting, our IREAD-3 results were strong at both the 2nd and 3rd grade levels. Our 3rd grade was once again above the 90% pass rate while our 2nd grade was also above 90% either passing or on-track to pass next year.

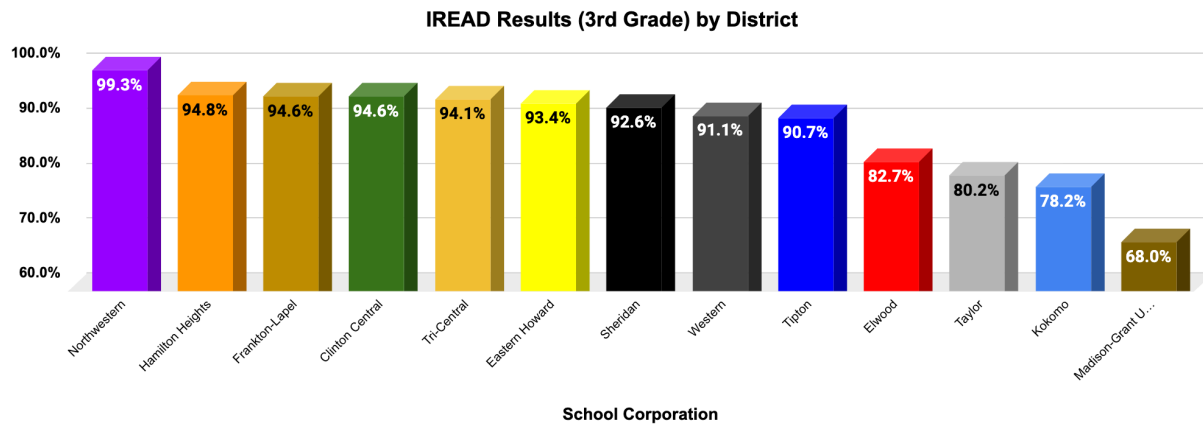
Historical IREAD Results (3rd Grade)



IREAD-3 Pass/On-Track Rate (2nd Grade)



Now that the State has released all the 3rd grade results, we can see where our 3rd grade stacked up compared to the the region:



The State reported its largest growth ever in IREAD scores this past year. With our incoming (current) 3rd grade class already at a 90% level, I anticipate TES reaching our goal of 95% pass rate this Spring.

ILEARN Checkpoint #1

This year, the Indiana Department of Education has introduced a new assessment opportunity (requirement) called ILEARN Checkpoints. These are short, on-demand assessments aligned to Indiana Academic Standards, designed to give teachers and families an early look at student progress toward grade-level expectations.

In the past, ILEARN was administered only in the spring as a summative test. With the addition of Checkpoints, schools now have a mid-year tool to measure progress, identify areas of need, and adjust instruction well before the spring assessment. Checkpoints are not high-stakes tests, they are intended to inform teaching and learning.

Tipton Community School Corporation will administer ILEARN Checkpoint #1 the week of October 13. There will be a total of three formative ILEARN checkpoints, followed by the summative ILEARN in April/May. To make up for the lost instructional time, and to reduce the amount of testing required of our students, we are no longer administering the i-Ready diagnostic testing for students in grades 3-8 (this was another formative assessment for math and reading). i-Ready will still be administered to students in grades K-2, and still serves as a method for high ability identification.

Families will be able to view their child's ILEARN checkpoint results directly through the Cambium Family Portal, which provides secure online access to assessment data. A brochure explaining this resource is available here: [Indiana Family Portal Brochure](#).

These checkpoints will give both educators and families valuable information to support student learning throughout the school year.

Special Programs

As you are aware, the Indiana Department of Education required all school districts to transition from Indiana IEP to Special Programs through PowerSchool beginning this school year. Indiana IEP was the state's web-based platform used by school districts to manage the development, implementation, and compliance of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students receiving special education services. Beginning with the 2025–2026 school year, the Indiana Department of Education transitioned districts from to Special Programs, a module within the PowerSchool suite. Special Programs is designed to provide the same core functionality—creating and managing IEPs—while integrating more closely with a district's student information system (SIS).

While the move aligns our state with a more integrated student information platform, the change has come with its own set of challenges. Since the start of the school year, our staff have experienced:

- **System Downtime:** The platform has gone down statewide multiple times, limiting staff access and delaying important work.
- **Loss of Familiar Features:** Tools such as IEPs at a Glance, which teachers relied on to quickly access key student accommodations, have not transferred over as they were in the previous system. This has added extra steps for staff trying to ensure accommodations are implemented consistently.
- **Learning Curve:** As with any new system, staff are working through the process of learning new navigation, features, and workflows, which has required additional time and support.

Despite these hurdles, I want to highlight the outstanding leadership of Dr. Clif Hackman, our Special Education Coordinator. Dr. Hackman has been proactive, clear, and highly responsive in communicating updates to staff, troubleshooting issues, and working with both district and state contacts to resolve concerns. He has consistently been courteous, prompt, and intentional in his efforts. Our staff feel supported through this transition, and we are fortunate to have him guiding our special education department.

Monthly Shout Out

This month I would like to give a shout out to Dr. Clif Hackman. As I mentioned in my Special Programs update above, Dr. Hackman has done an exceptional job supporting our special education department through this massive transition from Indiana IEP to Special Programs. Apart from that, he has handled his own personal transition to the role of Special Education Coordinator so well. He is already improving systems and solving problems we didn't even know we had. He is an absolute asset to our team and his efficiency, along with Mr. Ayars' support, have made this move a highly effective one.