

Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System

Philosophy behind Value-Added Assessment

- Schools can and should add value for each student during a school year.
- This is true whether the student comes in above grade, at grade or below grade.
- Students are entitled to grow at least at a rate they have demonstrated in the past.

Value-Added works because it separates student effects from school effects.

- **Student effect:** ethnicity, family background
- **School effect:** teachers, administrators and academic programs

Value-Added: The Basics

- Value-Added is not a test
- It is a way of looking at the results that come from tests.
- Value-Added lets us determine whether the students in the class, school or district are making enough academic growth each year.

What makes Value-Added fair?

- **Educators** – fair to administrators and teacher because prior academic achievement data already incorporates the student background characteristics that bias absolute test scores.
- **Students** - fair to students because it bases their projected score only on their prior academic record. That ensures that all children are expected to make progress each year from wherever they start.

Simple terms of Value-Added

- Value-Added calculates a projected test score for a student in a given grade and subject.
- The projected score is based entirely on the student's prior academic achievement.
- It is then compared to the actual score at the end of the year.