Alternative Growth Measure- Universal Reading Screener Frequently Asked Questions

Teachers in non-tested courses may access a student growth portfolio or an [alternative growth measure (AGM)](#) to represent their individual impact on academic growth. In both scenarios, the growth score comprises 35% of the teacher's Level of Effectiveness (LOE). The 2021 [Tennessee Literacy Success Act](#), codified as T.C.A. § 49-1-901 et. seq., allows for districts and public charter schools to use a Universal Reading Screener (URS) as an approved alternative growth measure (AGM) for **Pre-K-2** teachers. The Tennessee Department of Education (the department) has collected questions from implementing district and charter leads from across the state to provide support and clarity to alternative growth measure (AGM) implementation.

1. ***Does the teacher's name in TNCompass need to match what is in the URS roster and the spreadsheet roster? For example, our teacher has had a name change but has not updated their license to reflect this change in TNCompass.***
   While it is best that the teacher's name in TNCompass, the URS roster, and spreadsheet roster match, with the URS vendor and on the roster, the data will be matched by the teacher's license number. Teachers are encouraged to keep their personal information in TNCompass up to date.

2. ***Can we submit teachers who are team teaching? For example, one second-grade teacher teaches skills, and the other teaches knowledge to the same students.***
   Yes, if they are both teachers of record in EIS.

3. ***Do we roster Math and ELA teachers?***
   The URS assesses ELA skills. If the teacher of record teaches both Math and ELA, they are rostered. If the teacher of record only teaches Math, they are not rostered.

4. ***Is the growth measure only based on literacy? Is that why the focus on ELA? What about numeracy data and/or math teachers?***
   The 2021 [Tennessee Literacy Success Act](#), codified at T.C.A. § 49-1-901 et. seq., allows for districts and public charter schools to use a URS as an approved AGM for **Pre-K-2** teachers. It does not provide this same allowance for math.

5. ***How can we see the error reports that are sent to the vendors?***
   The department will send error (exception) reports to districts/charters after each submission. Districts/charters should work with their vendor to correct any errors. District testing coordinators can access exception reports in their district TNShare files.

6. ***If new teachers are hired, can their information be submitted?***
   No. The first testing window ended on September 30, 2022. Teachers hired after the first testing window will not be the teacher of record for the students assessed during the first testing window. Teachers must be the teacher of record for both the first and the last testing window to receive a growth score.

   Tennessee statute requires that the evaluation process shall not apply to teachers who are employed under contracts of duration of one hundred twenty (120) days per school year or less or who are not employed full-time. For more details on [Partial Year Exemption](#) (PYE).

7. ***How do districts ensure special education students are linked to the correct teacher for alternative growth measure calculations?***
   All student scores linked to a teacher of record are used in the calculation of the teacher's growth score. Districts and charters should ensure accuracy of student and teacher data in their EIS platform. All federal requirements must be met.

8. ***How do we know if our Universal Reading Screener student data has been sent to the department?***
   The district-selected vendor submits universal reading screener data to the department on the district's behalf. Data submissions are processed daily through a secure file transfer (SFTP) during each administration window. After the daily upload, an automated email with summary data is sent to each vendor for review. Vendors may access the detailed exception report through the SFTP site, and district testing coordinators can access exception reports in their district TNShare file. Finally, the department will send a notification letter to each district to inform data submission status within two weeks following the close of each administration window.

9. ***Does a teacher have to be on the roster <u>and</u> in EIS as teacher of record <u>and</u> on the data from the vendor to be eligible to generate a growth score?***
   The teacher of record in EIS for the students' scores will be matched against the submitted rosters when generating a growth score. Only the teachers on the roster will receive a URS growth score in TNCompass.

10. Does a teacher of a self-contained class implementing an AGM need to be coded as the Teacher of Record (TOR) for the ELA class in EIS?

Districts can list a teacher of record for an ELA class in EIS. If no TOR for ELA is listed, the homeroom teacher will receive the score.