

## Measures of Success

The three domains form the framework for this ECE action plan and were used to formulate strategies and interventions. To track progress towards the ultimate goal of raising third-grade reading proficiency, it is important to identify indicators that are both measurable and that drive growth.

The Measures of Success Framework was first developed by experts in North Carolina and called the Pathways to Grade Level Reading Action Framework. TQEE has adapted this Framework to help guide regional Bright Start partnerships and measure progress toward third-grade reading and math proficiency.

The indicators for the 15 Measures of Success will be tracked locally and at the state level, and updated annually on the [TQEE Data Dashboard](#). See Appendix C for the full Measures of Success framework.

### High-Quality Learning Environments



**High Quality  
Child Care and  
Education**



**Grade-level  
Proficiency  
Pre-K-2nd Grade**



**Regular School  
Attendance**



**Positive Early Care  
and Education  
Climate**



**Summer  
Learning**

### Health & Development on Track from Birth



**Healthy  
Birthweight**



**Physical  
Health**



**Social-  
Emotional  
Health**



**Oral  
Health**



**Early  
Intervention**

### Supported and Supported Families and Communities



**Safe at Home**



**Positive  
Parent/Child  
Interaction**



**Reading with  
Children**



**Supports for  
Families**



**Skilled and  
Knowledgeable  
Parents**

TQEE worked with Child Trends, the nation's leading research organization focused exclusively on improving the lives of children and youth, to identify data sources for these measures. The measures will be developed into a state-level data dashboard that will support local Bright Start partnerships, enable policymakers to track trends at the local and state level to identify areas of need, and empower practitioners to provide the most effective interventions.

Using baseline data, we can set growth goals for the measures of success our strategies will most impact. We identify these growth goals as S.M.A.R.T. targets- goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.

# Measures of Success and S.M.A.R.T. Targets



## High-Quality Learning Environments



### **HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION**

**Indicator:** Percentage of children with both or single parents in the labor force with access to high-quality child care.

**Data Source:** TN Department of Human Services state administrative program capacity data and star-rated quality data; U.S. Census data, American Community Survey: Number of children under 6 living with parents that are working, looking for a job, or in school.

**Regional Baseline:** The capacity of high-quality (three-star) child care and education slots is for 34% of children 0-5 with parents in the labor force.

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:** Increase capacity of high-quality child care and education slots from 34% to 40% of children 0-5 with parents in the labor force by 2026.



### **POSITIVE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION CLIMATE**

**Indicator:** Percentage of programs implementing social and emotional development strategies in early learning programs.

**Data Source:** Not available before the time of publication



### **REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

**Indicator:** Percentage of children (Pre-K-3rd grade) who are chronically absent (missed 10% or more of scheduled school days)

**Data Source:** TN Department of Education

**Regional Baseline:** The percentage of chronically absent children (Pre-K-3rd grade) in all 10 school districts in the BSWTN region is 13%.

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:** Decrease the percent of chronically absent children (Pre-K-3rd grade) from 13% to 9% by 2026.



### **GRADE LEVEL PROFICIENCY PRE-K TO 2ND GRADE**

**Indicator:** Percentage of children testing proficient in grade-level standards on assessments in Pre-K through 2nd grade.

**Data Source:** Department of Education; Not available at the time of publication



### **SUMMER LEARNING**

**Indicator:** Percent of children who maintain reading and math gains over the summer

**Data Source:** Department of Education; Not available at the time of publication



## Health & Development on Track from Birth



### Healthy Birthweight

**Indicator:** Percent of babies weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5lb).

**Data Source:** Tennessee Department of Health, State vital records

**Regional Baseline:** In 2020, the 9 BSWTN counties reported 9.4% of babies were born weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5lb).

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:** Decrease the percentage of babies born weighing less than 2500 grams from 9.4% (n=624) to 8.6% (n=574) by 2026.



### PHYSICAL HEALTH

**Indicator:** Percent of parents reporting their child's health is excellent or good

**Data Source:** Parent Survey. TQEE conducted a survey in July 2022. Parents in our 9-county region reported excellent child health. With the help of TQEE, we are exploring other indicators related to child health.

**Regional Baseline:** 93% of parents reported their child's health is excellent or good.

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:** Because this item is being evaluated, no growth target was set.



### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH

**Indicator:** Percent of parents reporting their child exhibits self-regulation skills, good interpersonal skills, and no behavior problems.

**Data Source:** Parent Survey

**Regional Baseline:** 49% of parents in the West Tennessee region reported their child exhibits self-regulation skills, good interpersonal skills, and no behavior problems.

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:** Increase the percentage of parents who report their child exhibits self-regulation skills, good interpersonal skills, and no behavior problems from 49% to 59% by 2026.



### ORAL HEALTH

**Indicator:** TQEE was unable to attain data for untreated tooth decay. The rate of dentists per capita will be used as a proxy.

**Data Source:** Not available at the time of publication.



### EARLY INTERVENTION

**Indicator:** Percentage of children who demonstrated improved early childhood outcomes by the time they exited Tennessee Early Intervention Services (TEIS)

**Data Source:** Data for children birth to 2 years old was obtained from the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities from the TEIS Annual Report to the public. Data for children three-to-eight-year-old has been requested from the Department of Education and was not available at the time of publication.

**Regional Baseline:** The data is reported at a regional level and is not available by county. Therefore, our baseline is for the Northwest and Southwest regions and includes all counties in West TN except Shelby. In West TN, 55% of children ages 0-2 are functioning within age expectations by the time they exit TEIS.

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:** The state target for this metric is 53%. Because West TN is performing above that target, and because our strategies will not directly impact this measure of success, we will not set a growth target for this indicator.



## Supported and Supported Families and Communities



### **SAFE AT HOME**

**Indicator:** Rate of investigations or assessments for abuse or neglect per 1,000 children ages 9 and under.

**Data Source:** National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

**Regional Baseline:** Data was available on the county level for Madison County (7%), but not for the other 8 counties. A regional rate was determined using the county populations of children 9 and under and the state rate for unreported counties. This resulted in a regional rate of 5% (n=1,574).

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:** Decrease the rate of investigated abuse or neglect for children 9 years and younger from 5% (n=1,574) to 4.7% (n=1,474) by 2026.



### **POSITIVE PARENT/CHILD INTERACTION**

**Indicator:** Average number of minutes per day that parents talk to or play with their children.

**Data Source:** Parent Survey

**Regional Baseline:** Not available at the time of publication.

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:**



### **READING WITH CHILDREN**

**Indicator:** Percentage of parents/caregivers reporting they read to their child every day during a typical week.

**Data Source:** Parent Survey

**Regional Baseline:** In the BSWTN region, 16% of parents reported they read to their child every day during a typical week.

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:** Increase from 16% to 25% the percentage of parents/caregivers reporting they read to their child every day during a typical week



### **SUPPORTED FAMILIES**

**Indicator:** Percentage of parents/caregivers reporting no difficulty paying for household expenses

**Data Source:** Parent Survey

**Regional Baseline:** In the BSWTN region, 51% of parents reported no difficulty paying for household expenses.

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:** Increase the percentage of parents reporting no difficulty paying for household expenses from 51% to 55% by 2026.



### **SKILLED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE PARENTS**

**Indicator:** Percent of parents/caregivers reporting frequent knowledge of child development and parenting skills

**Data Source:** Parent Survey

**Regional Baseline:** In the BSWTN region, 88% of parents/caregivers reported frequent knowledge of child development and parenting skills.

**S.M.A.R.T. Target:** Increase the percentage of parents/caregivers reporting frequent knowledge of child development and parenting skill from 88% to 92% by 2026.