

## Press Release

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## **TCAP Testing Starts Next Week**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (April 12, 2006) – Thousands of Metro Nashville Public Schools students in grades two through eight will begin taking Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests Monday, April 17. The important annual tests can create anxiety and tension, but many MNPS students, parents, teachers and principals are taking steps to ease the stress.

"It's been great to see so many good efforts to reduce the pressure these tests can generate," said Dr. Sandy Johnson, MNPS Chief Instructional Officer. "Schools have been doing practice tests and conducting family activities to encourage parental involvement, while some students have been giving each other encouraging notes to do well. We're pleased parents have been calling schools and the central office for preparation tips to help their children do well."

MNPS is providing parents the following advice to lessen stress and improve performance during the testing sessions:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep prior to the testing session.
- Provide a healthy breakfast to provide energy during the day.
- Be sure your child gets to school on time.
- Avoid high-stress activities or conversations.
- Encourage your child to do his or her best, and to think carefully during the test process.
- Praise the student for his or her good work thus far this year.

The state-mandated TCAP testing includes timed, multiple choice assessments that measure skills in reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

Test results are reported to parents, teachers and administrators – and provide important benchmarks to measure performance.

"The TCAP test is one of several measurements in our district for teachers and parents to evaluate an individual student's progress," Johnson said. "The test results are also an integral part of evaluating individual schools under standards of the No Child Left Behind Act. The tests can be useful in reviewing what is working well and what needs refinement – and our district studies the results every year to build a stronger educational program for all students."

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to nearly 73,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.