



Education Consumers Foundation

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Tennessee Parents See How Local Schools Are Performing with ECF “Birdshot” Chart

Note: This press release references an interactive online tool available at www.education-consumers.org.

The Education Consumers Foundation today released its Growth vs. Achievement “Birdshot” Chart, an interactive online tool that allows Tennessee parents and others to easily see how their local schools are performing on these two key indicators. The chart is located at the Foundation’s website, www.education-consumers.org.

ECF’s Birdshot chart was created in response to a problem raised by parents: How can we easily see which are the best local schools? Parents are accustomed to looking at achievement scores, such as those from the TCAP and ACT tests in order to see whether their students are performing at grade level. Many parents have also learned to review achievement growth data from the state’s value-added assessment system (TVAAS). But, there was no way to see a “snapshot” of both at once.

The Birdshot chart allows parents and interested others to do exactly that. By simply selecting the elementary, middle, or high schools they wish to review, anyone can instantly compare local schools to each other and to state averages. They can see which schools are doing the best job of lifting student achievement—regardless of economic advantage or disadvantage—and which have the more students achieving above or below grade level.

The new chart also allows users to identify high poverty schools, view each school’s state-assigned letter grade for recent performance, and find other useful information. All charts can be customized to the user’s schools of interest and then printed in color.

According to Dr. J.E. Stone, founder and president of the Education Consumers Foundation, “Although we are a national foundation, our current aim is to show all states how the value-added data pioneered by Tennessee can be a critically important tool for bringing parents, taxpayers, and all consumers of education into the conversation about local school quality. Our new “Birdshot” Chart is an important addition to the set of tools we are developing for that purpose.”

Those wishing to review the Foundation's free and interactive Growth vs. Achievement "Birdshot" Charts can find them at www.education-consumers.org.

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About the Education Consumers Foundation:

The Education Consumers Foundation is a national nonprofit consumer organization. It gathers and disseminates information about education policy and practice on behalf of parents, taxpayers, and their elected representatives. Tennessee initiatives include its annual Value-Added Achievement Awards, online access to school performance data through its website, and events like its Prepared To Learn meeting on early childhood education. Please visit us at www.education-consumers.org.