



## Education Consumers Foundation

### **About the ECF School Performance Chart**

The Education Consumers Foundation's School Performance Chart is a simple interactive tool designed to help education's consumers easily see how schools and districts in Tennessee compare to each other and to state standards. It ranks schools statewide using publicly available value-added data and allows users to view and print charts with local schools and districts highlighted. Tennessee's school-level value-added data has been publicly available for some time, but only in numerical form. The Foundation's chart is the first effort to provide consumers with access to this information in a clear and understandable way.

### **About Value-Added Assessment**

Tennessee's K-12 accountability system is the most statistically sophisticated among the states. Developed by Dr. William Sanders for the Knox County Schools in the 1980s, value-added analysis removes non-educational factors such as demographics and socio-economic status from the assessment of student academic growth. It allows evaluators to make fair and accurate comparisons of schools with respect to student achievement, teaching effectiveness, and other school quality issues. The result is a statewide database that enables policymakers and the public to identify effective and ineffective schools.

In addition to its use in tracking school performance, value-added data can be used to evaluate teachers, improve professional development courses, hone classroom instruction, identify effective teaching methods, and improve communication with parents and community groups. Value-added data is becoming widely available. Besides Tennessee, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, New Mexico, New Hampshire, and North Carolina are developing the capacity to collect and report value-added analyses of student, teacher, and school performance data.

### **About the Value-Added Achievement Awards**

The Education Consumers Foundation sponsors the Value-Added Achievement Awards to heighten the visibility of Tennessee's value-added data and to give recognition to the state's most effective elementary and middle school principals. Awards for first, second, and third place are given to the principals of the top three elementary and the top three middle schools in each of Tennessee's three regions- East, Middle and West. The awards for \$3,000, \$2,000 or \$1,000 are based on the school's 3-year value-added gains in Reading/Language Arts and Math and are presented in a ceremony at the state capitol. Because the awards are given for school leadership, only principals who have served for five or more years are considered.