

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 2019 Accountability Designations

*Updated: Aug. 2*

School designations for 2018-19 will include the following: Reward, Priority, Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Focus that includes Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI).

### **Reward**

#### **1. How are Reward schools determined?**

Schools that have an overall accountability score of greater than or equal to 3.1 are designated as Reward schools. The overall accountability score is based on performance of all students on each indicator (60 percent) and performance of historically underserved student groups on each indicator (40 percent).

#### **2. What is Reward exempt status?**

Schools may not earn Reward status if they have any student group that performs in the bottom five percent in the state for that group (TSI). Those schools are designated in the accountability file as "Reward exempt."

### **Priority**

#### **3. How are Priority schools identified in 2018-19?**

No new Priority schools are identified in 2019. Schools with a Priority designation were those identified 2017-18 and did not meet Priority exit criteria in 2019.

#### **4. How were Priority schools determined in 2017-18, and what data was used in this determination?**

In April 2018, the Tennessee General Assembly passed [Public Chapter 881](#) and [Public Chapter 1026](#) prohibiting the use of 2017-18 student achievement data to label a school Priority.

Schools identified as **Priority** are schools that:

- a. Ranked in the bottom 5 percent of its pool based on data from 2015-16 and 2016-17 **AND**
- b. Did **not** earn school-wide TVAAS composite levels of 4 or 5 in both 2015-16 and 2016-17 **or** 2016-17 and 2017-18 **OR**
- c. Has a graduation rate of less than 67 percent for the 2017-18 school year

Note that no school was identified as a Priority school using 2017-18 TNReady data. The Priority school calculation was based on a two-year success rate for high schools and a one-year success rate for K-8 schools that incorporates TCAP data from only the 2015-16 (high school only) and 2016-17 school years.

Additionally, schools that demonstrate high growth (represented by a TVAAS level 4 or 5) in 2016-17 and 2017-18 will not be identified as a Priority school.

### **5. What is required of districts who have schools identified as Priority?**

Districts are [required to notify](#) school staff and parents of students attending Priority schools. Additionally, districts must detail how parents can be involved in the school improvement planning process at their school.

### **6. How do schools exit Priority status?**

Priority schools are identified at a minimum of every three years, but are eligible for yearly exit based on the following criteria:

- a. Exceed 15th percentile for most recent year's success rate
- b. Exceed 10th percentile for two most recent year's success rate
- c. Earn TVAAS 4 or 5 in all accountability content areas for two consecutive years
- d. If identified for graduating less than 67 percent of its students, the school can exit by graduating at least 67 percent of its students in both of the two most recent years.

### **7. Will the charter schools that appear on the Priority List be subject to the automatic closure law?**

In 2019, the Tennessee legislature updated the priority charter revocation statute 49-13-122. If a charter school is identified on the priority list the authorizer has the authority to revoke the charter or to keep the charter school open. A **chartering** authority shall revoke a public **charter** school agreement if the public **charter** school receives identification as a **priority** school for two (2) consecutive cycles beginning in 2017. The revocation takes effect immediately following the close of the school year in which the school is identified as a **priority** school for the second consecutive cycle.

Any charter school that is authorized by the ASD that is identified on the 2018 Priority school list and is identified on the 2021 Priority school list will be subject to revocation of their charter agreement, and shall set to close at the end of the 2021-22 school year pursuant to the provisions of T.C.A. § 49-13-122

## **Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)**

### **8. What is the CSI designation?**

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) law requires the department to use data inclusive of 2017-18 to identify a bottom five percent of schools for "comprehensive support and improvement" (CSI). Schools identified for CSI include schools that:

- a. Ranked in the bottom five percent of its pool based on data from 2015-16, 2016-17, **and** 2017-18 **AND**
- b. Earned a one-year TVAAS score of 3 or less in 2016-17 and/or 2017-18 **OR**
- c. Had a graduation rate of less than 67% for the 2017-18 schoolyear **OR**
- d. All schools in the Achievement School District (ASD) are designated as CSI schools, because they are currently receiving the most intensive state intervention.

Note that the vast majority of schools identified for CSI are also identified as Priority.

Additional support through the office of school improvement will be provided to schools identified for

CSI, including opportunities for additional funding through several school improvement grants. Schools identified for CSI are not subject to the intervention requirements outlined in T.C.A. § 49-1-602 or the requirements under T.C.A. § 49-13-122 but will meet all federal requirements and the supports explained in Tennessee’s ESSA plan.

**9. How are CSI schools identified in 2018-19?**

No new CSI schools are identified in 2019. Schools with a CSI designation were those identified 2017-18 and did not meet exit criteria in 2019.

**10. How do schools exit CSI status?**

Schools identified for CSI are eligible for yearly exit based on the same criteria as Priority schools. Those criteria are as follows:

- a. Exceed 15th percentile for most recent year’s success rate
- b. Exceed 10th percentile for two most recent year’s success rate
- c. Earn TVAAS 4 or 5 in all accountability content areas for two consecutive years
- d. If identified for graduating less than 67 percent of its students, the school can exit by graduating at least 67 percent of its students in both of the two most recent years.

**11. What is required of districts who have schools identified as CSI?**

Districts are [required to notify](#) school staff and parents of students attending schools identified Comprehensive Support and Improvement. Additionally, districts must detail how parents can be involved in the school improvement planning process at their school.

**Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)**

**12. What is a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) designation?**

TSI schools are those that fall in the bottom five percent for their weighted overall accountability score for any given student subgroup (i.e. Black/Hispanic/Native American, Economically Disadvantaged, English Learners, or Students with Disabilities) or any given racial or ethnic group (i.e., Hispanic/Latino, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Asian, and White).

Schools will be eligible for targeted support from the department’s Office of School Improvement and the Centers of Regional Excellence (CORE). Schools identified for CSI or Priority status are not eligible for TSI or ATSI.

**13. Are schools designated for TSI the same as Focus schools?**

There are two types of Focus schools, Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI).

**14. How often will schools be identified for TSI?**

TSI schools will be identified annually.

**15. How does a school exit TSI status?**

A school exits TSI status by not being identified as targeted support the following year.

**16. What is required of districts who have schools identified as TSI?**

Districts are [required to notify](#) school staff and parents of students attending schools identified Targeted Support and Improvement. Additionally, districts must detail how parents can be involved in the school improvement planning process at their school.

### **Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)**

#### ***17. What is the Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) designation?***

ATSI schools are those in which any student group success rate is less than or equal to the highest success rate of any Priority school in their school pool and where they do not earn a score of 3 or 4 for each indicator for which that student group is eligible.

Schools will be eligible for additional support by the department's office of school improvement and the Centers of Regional Excellence (CORE). Schools identified for CSI or Priority status are not eligible for TSI or ATSI. In addition, those schools identified for ATSI are not eligible to be identified for CSI or Priority status.

#### ***18. Are schools designated for ATSI the same as TSI schools?***

ATSI schools are a subset of TSI schools in which one or more student group(s) have success rates less than or equal to the success rate of any Priority school.

#### ***19. How does a school exit ATSI status?***

Schools identified for ATSI are eligible for yearly exit based on the following criteria:

- a. Exceed the 15<sup>th</sup> percentile in the state for the most recent year's success rate for each student group for which it was identified **or**
- b. Exceed the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile in the state in both of the two most recent year's success rate for each student group for which it was identified **or**
- c. Earn a TVAAS level of 4 or 5 in all accountability subjects/content areas for both of the two most recent years for each student group for which it was identified **or**
- d. If it was identified for graduating less than 67 percent of its students, the school can exit by graduating at least 67 percent of its students for each subgroup for which it was identified in both of the two most recent years.

Additionally, schools may exit ATSI status every three years by not appearing on the subsequent ATSI list.

#### ***20. What subsequent action can take place if identified ATSI for the same student group(s) for multiple cycles?***

Tennessee's ESSA plan states that schools identified for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) in two consecutive cycles will become Priority schools. Schools that are identified for multiple student groups must exit for each identified group at least once within the three-year cycle to avoid Priority identification.

#### ***21. What is required of districts who have schools identified as ATSI?***

Districts are [required to notify](#) school staff and parents of students attending schools identified for ATSI. Additionally, districts must detail how parents can be involved in the school improvement planning process at their school.

## **General Questions and Available Supports**

### **22. Why do we have these designations?**

Priority, CSI, TSI, and ATSI designations required by state and federal law. These designations are also outlined in Tennessee's ESSA plan.

### **23. Will the department publish the lists of school designations?**

School designations (i.e., Reward, Priority, CSI, ATSI) will not appear on the state [report card](#) this year; however, the department will publish lists of Reward, Priority, CSI, and ATSI schools on the state's [accountability website](#), as required by state and federal law.

### **24. What supports are available for schools identified as Priority, CSI, and ATSI?**

The office of school improvement will provide guidance and support for schools identified as Priority, CSI, TSI, and ATSI to revise their 2019-20 school plans. Additionally, schools will be eligible for various state and federal school improvement grants.

*\*Please note, all designations are pending until approval by the State Board of Education. As a reminder, all data and results are under embargo until **5 p.m. CT on Aug. 13**.*