
State Identified Reward Schools

The Background:

In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-1-602 and Tennessee's accountability system as approved in its Every Student Succeeds Act plan, the Tennessee Department of Education is charged with presenting to the State Board of Education a listing of Reward schools. Reward schools are presented by the Department annually.

Reward Schools Criteria

Reward Schools consist of all schools with an overall accountability score greater than three that are not identified as Priority (or other federally required designation). These scores reflect schools' performance across all indicators and student groups for which they are eligible. There are four indicators for K-8 schools: Achievement, Growth, Chronically Out of School, and English Language Proficiency. There are also two additional indicators for high schools: Graduation Rate and Ready Graduate. Schools that are identified as Priority or that have any student group in the bottom five percent of performance may not earn Reward status.

Descriptions of each indicator of the accountability system are as follows:

- The Achievement and Growth indicators reflect what proportion of students meet content standards and whether students are making expected academic growth.
- The Chronically Out of School indicator measures the proportion of students missing 10 percent or more of the school year.
- The English Language Proficiency indicator evaluates how students with limited English proficiency are improving their language fluency.
- The two high school indicators (Graduation Rate and Ready Graduate) assess whether students are earning regular diplomas on time and whether they are prepared for postsecondary success, as measured by their performance on the ACT or SAT.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.