

July, 2015

TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

# 2014-15 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY METHODOLOGY

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I. **Overview:** Schools may only have one determination, and determinations are assigned in the order below. Priority and Focus designations are assigned every three years, and Reward status is assigned every year. Priority and Focus Exit and Improving schools are also identified annually. In the summer of 2015, Priority Exit and Improving, Focus Exit and Improving, and Reward schools will be identified. Please refer to the document “2014-15 School Accountability: Priority & Focus Exit Methodology” for the method used to determine Priority and Focus Exit/Improving schools.

School designations under the current methodology were first identified in the summer of 2012. The second cohort of Priority and Focus schools was identified in summer of 2014. Priority and focus schools were given the 2014-15 year to plan interventions, which will begin in the 2015-16 school year. Schools that are Priority and Focus in 2015-16 are not eligible for Reward status. For example, if a school is Priority because its performance was in the bottom five percent of the State, but its progress is in the top five percent of the State, it cannot be identified as Reward Progress, and the State will need to move farther down the list in order to identify enough Reward Progress schools. Schools that perform well enough to exit the Priority and Focus lists *are* eligible for Reward status.

A. **Priority:** Five percent of schools with the lowest Success Rate (using up to three years of data) in the State. Priority schools were identified in summer 2014 with interventions beginning in 2015-16. New Priority schools will not be identified in summer 2015, but 2014 Priority schools may be designated Priority Exit or Priority Improving. Schools that are Priority in 2015-16 (i.e., schools that were identified on the summer 2014 list and did not exit via the 2015 Priority Exit list) cannot be named Reward in summer 2015.

B. **Focus:** Ten percent of schools identified through one of three pathways. Focus schools will not be identified in summer 2015, but 2014 Focus schools may be designated Focus Exit or Focus Improving. Schools that are Focus in 2015-16 (i.e., schools that were identified on the summer 2014 list and did not exit via the 2015 Focus Exit list) cannot be named Reward in summer 2015. Because schools may only hold one designation at a time, Priority schools are not identified as Focus. The pathways for identifying Focus schools are as follows:

1. **Graduation Rate Pathway:** High schools with an average graduation rate (using up to three years of data) less than 60 percent.

2. Subgroup Pathway: Any subgroup with a Success Rate (up to three years of data) of less than ten percent.

3. Gap Pathway: Schools with the largest gaps between selected groups.

C. Reward: Ten percent of schools identified through one of two pathways. Reward schools are identified every year. Because schools may only hold one designation at a time, Priority and Focus schools cannot be identified as Reward unless they exit Priority/Focus status. The pathways for identifying Reward schools are as follows:

1. Reward Performance: Five percent of schools with the highest Success Rate (using one year of the most recent data) in the State.

2. Reward Progress: Five percent of schools with the highest progress in the State (using one-year TVAAS index values).

II. **School pool identification steps:** School designations are made by considering two pools of schools:

A. K8 Pool: This pool includes schools that have at least 30 valid tests in at least one 3-8 subject (but fewer than 30 valid tests in any high school End of Course subject) in the most recent school year.<sup>1</sup>

B. K12 Pool: This pool includes schools that have at least 30 valid tests in at least one high school End of Course subject in the most recent school year.

Pools are determined by test records in the most recent year. The steps for determining pool status are given below.

1. Using the most recent year of data, change subjects for those taking EOCs in grades less than 9 to TCAP subjects (described below).

2. Determine whether there are at least 30 valid tests in any subject for the "All Students" group.

3. If there are at least 30 valid tests in the most recent school year in any 3-8 subject, and there are not 30 valid tests in any 9-12 subject, then the school is in the K8 pool.

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<sup>1</sup> 3-8 subjects are Math, Reading/Language Arts, and Science. High school EOC subjects are Algebra I/II, English I/II/III, Biology I, and Graduation Rate.

4. If there are at least 30 tests in any 9-12 subject, then the school is in the K12 Pool.

III. **Success Rates:** Each school receives a **one-year** and a **three-year** success rate for the "All Students" group as well as selected subgroups. All Success Rates are rounded to the tenths place.

1. Groups/subgroups
  - a) All Students
  - b) Economically Disadvantaged
  - c) Students with Disabilities
  - d) English Language Learners
  - e) Black/Hispanic/Native American
  - f) Non-Economically Disadvantaged
  - g) Non-English Language Learners
  - h) Non-Students with Disabilities
2. Included measures
  - a) 3 – 8 subjects
    - (1) Math
    - (2) Reading/Language Arts
    - (3) Science
  - b) End of Course (EOC) subjects
    - (1) Algebra I
    - (2) Algebra II
    - (3) Biology I
    - (4) English I
    - (5) English II
    - (6) English III

c) Graduation Rate

3. Subject Modifications

a) EOCs in grades less than 9: If any student in a grade less than 9 takes an EOC test, the subject is changed to the corresponding TCAP subject before suppression takes place. Below are the EOC subjects and their corresponding TCAP subjects.

(1) Algebra I, Algebra II = TCAP Math in grades less than 9

(2) English I, English II, English III = TCAP Reading/Language Arts in grades less than 9

(3) Biology I = TCAP Science in grades less than 9

4. Years of data

Up to three years of data are used in school accountability calculations and a school must have at least two years of data to be eligible for a designation.

5. Suppression

In order for a subject to be included in Success Rate calculations, there must be 30 or more tests within each subject, subgroup [when applicable], and year. Reassignment of EOC records to TCAP subjects for students in grades less than 9 occurs prior to suppression. Records with missing grades are excluded.

A. K8 pool Success Rate

$$\text{K8 Success Rate} = \frac{\# \text{ Proficient or Advanced (Math + RLA + Science)}}{\# \text{ Valid Tests (Math + RLA + Science)}^2}$$

B. K12 pool Success Rate

$$\text{K12 Success Rate} = \frac{\# \text{ Proficient or Advanced (Math + RLA + Science + Algebra I + Algebra II + English I + English II + English III + Biology I) + Graduate Count}^3}{\# \text{ Valid Tests (Math + RLA + Science + Algebra I + Algebra II + English I + English II + English III + Biology I) + Graduation Cohort}}$$

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<sup>2</sup> All subjects and years (where applicable) are weighted equally in the success rate.

<sup>3</sup> Graduation Rate data lags by one year. The 2010 Gradation Cohort is used in the 2015 school identification processes.

#### **IV. Designation Exclusions**

- A. Schools with only graduation data in the most current year or in all of the last three years are included in the overall pool of schools but are excluded from all designations. This is determined after suppression rules have been applied.
- B. Schools with only one year of data are included in the overall pool of schools but are excluded from all designations. This is determined after suppression rules have been applied.
- C. Schools that closed are included in the overall pool of schools, but are excluded from all designations.
- D. Special education schools are included in the overall pool of schools, but are excluded from all designations.
- E. Schools in the following special districts are not included in the overall pool of schools, and are excluded from all school designations.
  - 1. CTE and adult high schools
  - 2. Department of Children's Services (system # 970)
  - 3. Tennessee School for Deaf (system # 964)
  - 4. West Tennessee School for Deaf (system # 960)
  - 5. Department of Mental Health (system # 972)
  - 6. Tennessee School for Blind (system # 963)
  - 7. Schools that do not have 30 tests in any subject for the most recent school year
  - 8. Alternative schools: Records from students in alternative schools are remanded back to their home district/school, and therefore these schools are not included in the overall pool of schools.



V. **Reward Identification:** Reward schools are ten percent of all schools in the State that are the top five percent of highest performing and the top five percent of highest progress schools.

A. Reward Exclusions

1. Any school that is a Priority or Focus school in the 2015-16 school year (named in summer 2014 and did not exit<sup>4</sup> in summer 2015) cannot be named a Reward school.
2. Any school that meets the exclusion criteria outlined in section four "Designation Exclusions" (see page seven of this document) cannot be named a Reward school.

B. Reward Exemptions

1. If the three year Success Rate Gap<sup>5</sup> for the following gap groups is larger than the three year school pool median Success Rate Gap AND the one year Success Rate Gap has not narrowed for that same eligible subgroup from previous to current year, then a school cannot be Reward.

- a) Black/Hispanic/Native American v. All students
- b) Economically disadvantaged v. Non-economically disadvantaged
- c) English language learners v. Non-English language learners
- d) Students with disabilities v. Non-students with disabilities

2. Schools meeting the following criteria are excluded from the school pool when calculating the school pool median Success Rate Gap for an eligible gap group:

- a) Schools where either the historically underperforming subgroup or the comparison group in the gap group has only one year of data.

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<sup>4</sup> See the Priority and Focus Exit/Improving methodology for details outlining how schools exit Priority or Focus status.

<sup>5</sup> All Success Rate Gaps are rounded to the tenth place.

b) Schools where either the historically underperforming subgroup or the comparison group in the gap group has only graduation data. This is determined after suppression rules have been applied.

C. Reward Performance: Using the *one-year success rate* for the "All Students" group, schools are ranked from highest to lowest performing and the top five percent are chosen after excluding reward exempt schools.

D. Reward Progress: Using the *one-year TVAAS school composite index*, schools are ranked from highest to lowest in terms of progress and the top five percent are chosen after excluding reward exempt schools.