

Federal Accountability Methodology

- Federal identification methodology is based on the approved waiver from USDE.
- Campuses may be identified as either priority or focus schools.
- The federal target/AMO for performance on safeguards is 75%.

Priority School Identification

Priority schools are the lowest 5% of Title I served campuses based on performance in reading and mathematics and graduation rates. Priority schools include Tier I or Tier II TTIPS schools, campuses with graduation rates less than 60%, and lowest achieving campuses based on All Students reading/math performance.

- A minimum size requirement of 10 students is used for the 4 and 5 year completion rate denominators. If either value is less than 10 then the graduation rate cannot be evaluated for that campus.
- A minimum size requirement of 25 tests is used for the priority campus ranking by All Students performance. If either the math or reading number of tests is less than 25, then that campus is not ranked for reading and math achievement.

Based on page 46 of the waiver request, the following steps explain the data run used to determine the list of priority schools.

1. Determine the number of Title I served schools in Texas and multiply by 5%. The resulting value is the number of Title I schools in the state that are to be identified as Priority schools.
2. Place TTIPS campuses on the priority list and subtract this amount from the number of priority schools to be identified. The resulting value represents the number of schools to be identified based on graduation rate and achievement.
3. Identify Title I served high schools where the graduation rate¹ is less than 60%, place these schools on the priority list, and subtract this amount from the number of schools to be identified based on graduation rate and achievement.
4. Using the 2013 Accountability System Campus Data Download, rank Title I served schools based on their achievement results on reading and math system safeguards at the All Students level from lowest achievement to highest achievement.

Formula: Number of Reading and Math tests passed divided by the total number of reading and math tests taken.

5. Starting with the lowest-ranked campus, identify the number of schools that make up the remainder of the 5% of priority schools needed.

Focus School Identification

Texas focus schools are 10% of Title I served campuses, not already identified as priority schools, that have the widest gaps between student group performance and safeguard targets. Campuses are ranked based on the largest gaps between student group reading/math performance and AMO targets of 75%.

- Student groups identified for the waiver include African American, White, Hispanic, English Language Learners (ELL), Special Education, Economically Disadvantaged, and All Students
- The All Students group does not have a minimum size requirement.
- For all student groups, with the exception of All Students, the following minimum size requirements are used:
 - For each subject, there are test results for 25 or more students in the student group (summed across all grades), and the student group comprises at least 10% of all test takers in the subject
 - or
 - There are test results for 200 or more students in the student group, even if that group represents less than 10% of all test takers in the subject.

Based on page 55 of the waiver request, the following steps explain the data run used to determine the list of focus schools.

1. Determine the number of Title I served schools in Texas and multiply by 10%. The resulting value is the number of Title I schools in the state that are to be identified as focus schools.
2. Using the 2013 Accountability System Campus Data Download, calculate the gap between reading and math achievement results for federally required student groups and the AMO target of 75%.
3. Sum the differences and divide by the number of qualifying student groups to determine gap.
4. Rank campuses from largest gap to smallest.
5. Remove any identified priority schools.
6. Starting with the school that has the largest achievement gap, identify enough campuses to reach the number of focus schools needed.

¹ The Graduation Rate is determined as the highest of the 2012 four-year and five-year completion rates. This calculation is consistent with the graduation rate analysis used under the state accountability system.