

Focus School Identification

Focus schools are identified based on the following, being a Title I served school ranked by the widest gaps between reading and math performance of federal student groups. The federal student groups include African American, White, Hispanic, English Language Learners (ELL), Special education, Economically Disadvantage and All Student Group.

Focus Ranking Calculation Steps

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.

The tables below illustrate the focus methodology calculation for a sample campus. The scenario below is an example only. This should be used to help illustrate the steps and processes for identifying schools on the focus list.

1. The performance rates for Reading and Math tests are collected for the federally required student groups.

		All Students	African American	Hispanic	White	Economically Disadvantaged	Special Education	English Language Learners
Reading	Passing Rate	73	65	74	77	64	69	67
Math	Passing Rate	68	76	61	70	78	62	80

2. The number of tests taken by each student group is analyzed to determine if the minimum size requirements were met. Student groups not meeting the minimum size requirements are marked in red in following tables. In this example, the minimum size requirements were met in ten of the student group/subject combinations.

	All Students	African American	Hispanic	White	Economically Disadvantaged	Special Education	English Language Learners
Reading	Yes (341)	No (22)	Yes (115)	Yes (220)	Yes (140)	No (23)	Yes (70)
Math	Yes (345)	No (24)	Yes (117)	Yes (224)	Yes (143)	No (22)	Yes (71)

3. For each student group, the gap between the performance rate and the 75% AMO target is calculated. A gap is not calculated in cases where the minimum size requirements were not met or the actual performance rate

exceeds 75% AMO target. The performance gaps for each subject are then calculated by adding together the student groups' gaps for the subject.

Table C: Performance Gap Compared to 75% AMO By Student Group and Subject								
Original Performance Rate Shown in ()								
	All Students	African American	Hispanic	White	Economically Disadvantaged	Special Education	English Language Learners	Total Gap
Reading	2 (73)	Not calculated (65)*	1 (74)	0 (77)**	11 (64)	Not calculated (69)*	8 (67)	22
Math	7 (68)	Not calculated (76)*	14 (61)	5 (70)	0 (78)**	Not calculated (62)*	0 (80)**	26

*Performance Gaps were not calculated for student groups where the minimum size requirements were not met.
 **Performance Gaps were not calculated for student groups where the performance rate met or exceeded the 75% AMO.

4. Focus gaps were averaged using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Total Reading Performance Gap} + \text{Total Math Performance Gap}}{\text{Total Number of Student Groups Meeting the Minimum Size Requirements}}$$

$$\frac{22 + 26}{10}$$

$$\frac{48}{10}$$

$$4.8$$

5. Focus School status was determined by ranking all campuses by their averaged gap from largest to smallest. Schools with the largest averaged gap were selected as Focus Schools.