

- A revised methodology is being put into place for the 2017-2018 school year to identify Priority and Focus campuses. This revised methodology takes portions of the prior methodology and modifies them to better fit the anticipated staging under ESSA.
- Campuses may be identified as either priority or focus schools.
- The federal target/AMO for performance on safeguards is 87%.
- Student groups identified for the waiver include African American, White, Hispanic, English Language Learners (ELL), Special Education, Economically Disadvantaged, and All Students

Priority and Focus School Identification

Priority schools are 5% of Title I served campuses based on performance in reading and mathematics and graduation rates. Priority schools include TTIPS schools, campuses with graduation rates less than 60%, and lowest achieving campuses based on Improvement Required Status and reading/math performance in the selected student groups.

Focus schools are 10% of Title I served campuses, not already identified as priority schools, that have the next lowest achieving campuses based on Improvement Required Status and reading/math performance in the selected student groups.

- 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.

The following steps explain the data run used to determine the list of priority/focus schools.

1. Determine the number of Title I served schools in Texas and multiply by 5%. The resulting value is the minimum number of Title I schools in the state that are to be identified as Priority schools.
2. Multiply the number of Title I served schools in Texas by 10%. The resulting value is the minimum number of Title I schools in the state that are to be identified as Focus schools.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Using the 2016 Accountability System Campus Data Download, rank Title I served schools based on their Improvement Required Status and percentage of missed system safeguards in reading and math achievement.
6. Starting with campuses rated as Improvement Required for the highest number of consecutive years and missing the highest percentage of system safeguards, identify the number of schools that make up the remainder of the 5% of priority schools needed².
7. To identify Focus campuses, add the remaining Improvement Required campuses from step 6 to the Focus List. To identify the schools that make up the remainder of the focus schools needed, rank the remaining Met Standard campuses by their percentage of system safeguards missed and identify enough campuses to reach the number of focus schools needed².

¹ The Graduation Rate is determined as the highest of the 2015 four-year and 2014 five-year completion rates. This calculation is consistent with the graduation rate analysis used under the state accountability system.

² Since multiple campuses received the same safeguard score, the list was expanded to encompass all equally ranked campuses.