
State Identified Reward Schools

The Background:

In accordance with Tennessee’s accountability system, designed through the state’s waiver from No Child Left Behind, 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 are made up of the top five percent of schools in the state for performance—as measured by overall student achievement levels—and the top five percent for year-over-year progress—as measured by growth in student achievement. These 10 percent of schools receive recognition for their success, and we aim to learn from their successes.

To identify Reward schools for performance, the most recent year of data will be used for the following indicators: 3-8 Math, 3-8 Reading/Language Arts, 3-8 Science, Algebra I, Algebra II, English I, English II, English III, Biology I, Graduation Rate, and the one-year school level composite for TVAAS.

A reward success rate is calculated for each school using the following formula:

Proficient/Advanced Students in Math + Reading/Language Arts + Science
+ Algebra I + Algebra II + English I + English II + English III + Biology + # HS Graduates

Tested Scores in Math + Reading/Language Arts + Science + Algebra I +
Algebra II + English I + English II + English III + Biology + # Students in the HS Graduation Cohort

To identify Reward schools for progress the top five percent of schools are selected based on their one-year school level composite for TVAAS. There are some reward exemptions: Schools cannot be identified as reward schools and must be excluded if:

- 1) Achievement gaps are larger than the median gap for all schools in the state for any gap subgroup and achievement gaps have widened from the prior year for the same gap subgroup.
- 2) The school is identified as a Priority or Focus school and did not meet exit criteria.

The Recommendation:

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