

Measuring School Performance – More than Test Scores

While determination of district and school status with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was essentially determined by test scores, new state accountability measures factor in not only test scores but academic growth (PVAAS) and closing the achievement gap for all students and historically underperforming students.

Previous accountability was focused on proficiency on PSSAs and the determination as to whether or not proficiency was met was based upon federally defined targets. The tables below summarize the prior accountability measure – AYP – and detail the ESEA flexibility and School Performance Profile measures.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Table 1 below summarizes the NCLB factors that were used in determining AYP.

Criteria	Definition
Mathematics Proficiency - All Students Reading Proficiency - All Students	Percentage of students meeting or exceeding scores at the proficient level in Mathematics and Reading (In 2012, these goals were set at 78% of students scoring at Proficient or higher in Mathematics and 81% of students scoring at Proficient or higher in Reading.)
Graduation/Attendance Rate	Eighty-five percent or higher graduation rate or a 10% reduction of the difference between the previous year's graduation rate and 85%. Attendance rate of 90% or higher, or any improvement from the previous year
Test Participation Rate	95% participation on the PSSAs

ESEA Flexibility

Table 2 represents one aspect of Pennsylvania’s new system of accountability: the federally approved reporting system for Title I schools. Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) include proficiency for all students as well as a newly defined student category: historically underperforming students. AMOs must be met for a school to maintain designation as Reward – High Achievement or Reward – High Progress. In addition, AMOs will be reported for all schools and all subgroups regardless of Title I status on the federal reporting site: www.eseafedreport.com.

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Criteria</i>
Reward: <i>High Achievement</i>	<p>Highest 5% Title I schools (based on aggregate Mathematics and Reading proficiency for PSSA and/or Algebra I/Literature for Keystone Exams)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Meets all four Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs). AMOs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Participation in Mathematics/Reading PSSA (and/or Algebra I/Literature Keystone Exams) – All Students • Graduation Rate (or Attendance Rate) – All Students • Closing the Achievement Gap in Mathematics/Reading PSSA (and/or Algebra I/Literature Keystone Exams) – All Students • Closing the Achievement Gap in Mathematics/Reading PSSA (and/or Algebra I/Literature Keystone Exams) – Historically Underperforming Students <p>(Note: For 2012-13 data, Closing the Achievement Gap will not be measured as this is the baseline year. Closing the Achievement Gap AMOs will be considered as being met if the applicable student group is above the statewide proficiency for the applicable subject.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Not a Priority School or Focus School</p>

*Table 2
Federal Accountability Designations*

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Criteria</i>
<i>Reward: High Progress</i>	<p>For 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years: Highest 5% Title I schools based on aggregate PVAAS growth score in Reading and Mathematics for PSSA and/or Algebra I/Literature for Keystone Exams for All Students</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>For 2013-14 school year and beyond: Highest 5% Title I schools based on aggregate progress in closing the achievement gap in Reading and Mathematics for PSSA and/or Algebra I/Literature for Keystone Exams combined for the All Student group and the Historically Underperforming Student group.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Meets all four AMOs as described for Reward: High Achievement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Not a Reward: High Achievement School, Focus School, or Priority School</p>
<i>Focus School</i>	<p>Lowest 10% of Title I schools (based on highest achievement gap for Historically Underperforming students). The aggregate achievement gap is for combined Mathematics/Reading PSSA (and/or Algebra I/ Literature Keystone Exams).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Title I school with a Graduation Rate below 60% - All Students</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Title I school with Test Participation below 95% in Mathematics or Reading PSSA (and/or Algebra I or Literature Keystone Exams) – All Students</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Not a Priority School</p>
<i>Priority School</i>	<p>Lowest 5% of Title I schools (based on aggregate Mathematics and Reading proficiency for PSSA and/or Algebra I/Literature for Keystone Exams)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Title I school receiving School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds</p>
<i>No Designation</i>	<p>A Title I school that does not receive one of the designations outlined above.</p>

PA School Performance Profile

Table 3 details the criteria used in the calculations for an academic performance score for schools across the Commonwealth. Important to note is that academic achievement is balanced against the success in closing the achievement gap as well as meeting targets for academic growth over time.

Table 3 PA School Performance Profile	
Indicators	Definition
Indicators of Academic Achievement	Includes PSSA/Keystone performance, industry standards-based competency assessments, grade three reading proficiency, and SAT/ACT college ready benchmarks.
Indicators of Closing the Achievement Gap – All Students	All student scores are used to define how well a school is making progress toward proficiency of all students.
Indicators of Closing the Achievement Gap – Historically Underperforming Students	Historically Underperforming Students' scores are used to define how well a school is making progress toward proficiency of historically underperforming students.
Indicators of Academic Growth/PVAAS	Measures the school's impact on the academic progress of all students from year-to-year.
Other Academic Indicators	Assesses factors that contribute to student achievement (graduation rate, promotion rate, attendance rate, course rigor, and PSAT/Plan participation).
Extra Credit for Advanced Achievement (up to 7 points)	Added factor of 1% of students advanced on the PSSA/Keystone exams and Industry Standards-Based Competency Assessments and 2% of the performance measure for the percent of the grade 12 cohort scoring 3 or higher on any one Advanced Placement exam.