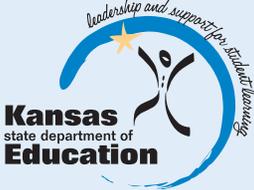




General Information

One of the measures in the state's accountability system for schools is based on improving the achievement of students on the state reading and math assessments. In the state's previous accountability system, which was dictated by the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, achievement was determined by looking only at the percent of students who achieved at the "meets standard" level or above on state assessments. But in Kansas, we have five performance levels on our state assessments - meets standard and two levels that are above meets standard (exceeds standard and exemplary) and two levels that are below meets standard (approaching standard and academic warning).

Believing that it is important to continually move students to higher levels of performance, the new measure for academic achievement considers your school's ability to move students from lower levels of performance into higher levels of performance, wherever those levels may fall on the performance spectrum. So, your school is given credit not only for getting students to the "meets standard" level of performance, but also for moving students from the academic warning level to the approaching standard level, and from the exceeds standard level to the exemplary level.

Kansas
state department of
Education

Leadership and support for student learning

Kansas State Department of Education
120 SE 10th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, 120 SE 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66612 785-296-3201




Kansas
state department of
Education

Leadership and support for student learning

June 2013



Assessment Performance Index (API)

In order to measure the success of your school in moving students into higher levels of performance, an Assessment Performance Index (API) was developed. Within the API, each performance level in the Kansas assessment program is assigned a point value. Those point values are awarded to your school and district for each student performing at the given performance level.

The illustration at right helps explain the API. Point values ranging from zero for academic warning to 1,000 for exemplary are assigned to each performance level. In the example shown, 55 students performed at the exemplary level. Therefore, the school received 1,000 points for each one of those students - or 55,000 points.

| Assessment Performance Index (API) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Performance Levels | Points per Score | # of Scores | Total Points |
| Exemplary | 1,000 | 55 | 55,000 |
| Exceeds Standard | 750 | 90 | 67,500 |
| Meets Standard | 500 | 82 | 41,000 |
| Approaching Standard | 250 | 30 | 7,500 |
| Academic Warning | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Total | | 261 | 171,000 |
| API Score = 171,000/261 = 655 | | | |

To arrive at your school's API, all of the points earned by your school are added together and divided by the total number of students taking the assessment in your school. In this case, the school earned a total of 171,000 points and 261 students took the assessment. The API is determined by dividing 171,000 by 261 - which gives the school an API of 655. API scores can range from 1,000 (all students are at exemplary) to 0 (all students are at academic warning).

Establishing an AMO for Improving Student Achievement

Your school or district's API score is used to establish an achievement goal for the year. That goal is known as an Annual Measurable Objective, or AMO. Each school's AMO will be different, depending on two factors - the school's API score and the percentage of students in the school who perform below the "meets standard" level on the state reading and math assessments.

Using those two factors, an expected level of improvement is determined for your school and district. This level of improvement is your school's or district's AMO target. The target is based on actual rates of school improvement over multiple years for all schools throughout the state. The AMO is expressed as the number of points by which your school or district should improve its API score. Separate AMO targets are calculated for reading and for math.

The calculation to determine the Improving Achievement AMO target takes into consideration how well students in your school and district are already performing on reading and math assessments. Schools and districts where the majority of students are performing very well will have a lower AMO target than schools or districts where a larger percentage of students are not performing well. This factor recognizes that low-performing schools have the greatest room for improvement, and that it is unlikely that very high performing schools will show great increases in performance from year to year.

Schools are only required to meet one of the four performance AMOs to be considered making progress.

