

How are Reward Schools selected?

Why identify Reward Schools?

As part of its [ESEA Flexibility agreement with the federal government](#), the Kansas State Department of Education agreed to identify 10 percent of Title I buildings as Reward Schools. For example, if, in a given year, there are 660 Title I schools in Kansas, 66 would be identified as Reward Schools. Some are selected based on high progress, others on high performance.

Assessment Performance Index (API)

The API is used to identify them. It's calculated by assigning more points as students move into higher performance categories. No points are awarded for the lowest performance category.

Only students enrolled by September 20th are included.

Each school's API is calculated by totaling the number of students scoring at each performance level, in math and reading combined. Then the total at each level is multiplied by the points awarded for that level. The grand total is then divided by the total number of students across all performance levels. The school's API score is the average score of all its students. In the example, the school's API score is 655.

High Progress Schools

performance level	points per level	# of students	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
totals		261	171,000

Assessment Performance Index (API) = 171,000 ÷ 261 = 655

High-progress schools are identified first. API scores from the four most current years are converted into percentiles. Those schools showing yearly improvement in each of the last 4 years are identified first because they are more likely to be making systematic improvements. From those Title I buildings showing 4 years of year-to-year progress, the top 5 percent of Title I schools are identified as high-progress reward schools.

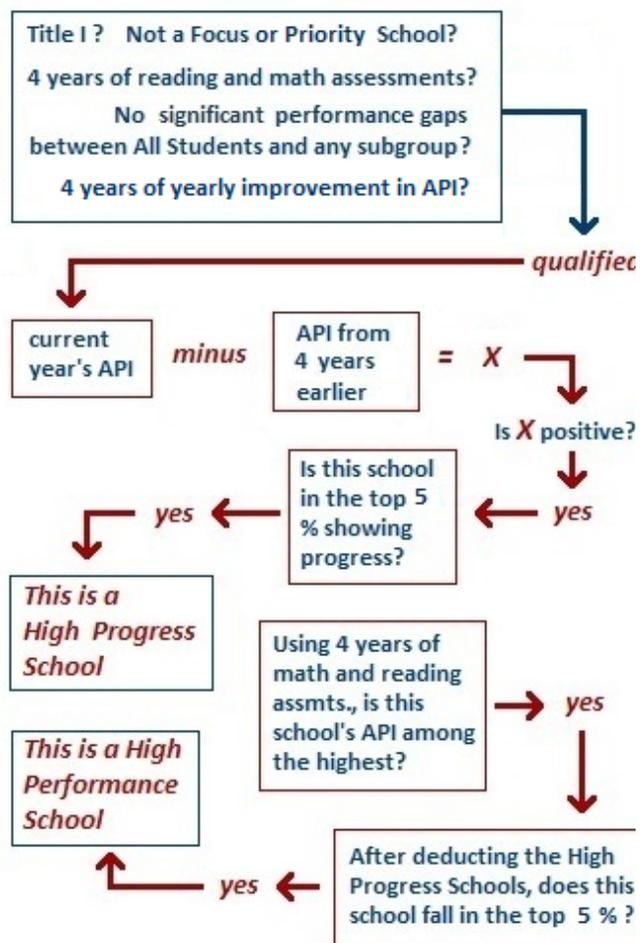
High Performance Schools

The remaining reward schools are selected based on high performance. Using all the reading and math assessment data from the most recent four years, KSDE calculates a cumulative API. All of a school's students

who were enrolled by September 20th and assessed in the same year are included in the calculation. This cumulative API is totaled and averaged in the same way as the yearly API. Those Title I schools with the highest cumulative API are selected as high-achieving reward schools.

In the examples used here, a total of 66 schools, or 10 percent of the Title I schools, are selected as reward schools: 33 in each category.

Steps in Selection



Additional Conditions for Reward School Selection

Neither Focus nor Priority Schools, nor schools with an API gap of 250 or more points between the All Students group and any traditional subgroup, can be recognized as Reward Schools. Schools must have at least 4 years of reading and math data.

More Information

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