

Dear Superintendent:

This letter is to inform you of the opportunity to review your preliminary data report that will be used to determine your School Status Designations.

**School Status Designations**

School Status Designations are as follows: High Performance Reward School, High Progress Reward School, Focus School, Targeted Intervention School, and Priority School. These designations replaced the former Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) school improvement designations (School Improvement, Corrective Action, and Restructuring) with the approval of the ESEA Waiver from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 for the state of Oklahoma by the United States Department of Education on August 16, 2012. School Status Designations are determined based on the following criteria:

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Reason for Designation</b>
<b>High Performance Reward</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· A-, A, or A+ on Report Card</li> <li>· Top 10% in Test Achievement</li> </ul>
<b>High Progress Reward</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Top 10% in Test Improvement</li> </ul>
<b>Focus</b>	<p>Low achievement in one or more of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Black—Reading and Math</li> <li>· IEP—Reading and Math</li> <li>· ELL—Reading and Math</li> <li>· Black Graduation Rate</li> <li>· Hispanic Graduation Rate</li> </ul> <p>Was previously designated as Focus and has not met exit criteria (met AMOs for two consecutive years in Focus category)</p>
<b>Targeted Intervention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· D -, D, or D+ on the Report Card</li> <li>· Graduation rate below 60%</li> </ul>
<b>Priority</b>	<p>A school meeting any one or more of the criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· SIG—School Improvement Grant</li> <li>· C3 Partnership School</li> <li>· F on Report Card               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bottom 5% for grade span served in Reading and Math</li> </ul> </li> <li>· Graduation Rate 50% or less for any given year</li> <li>· Graduation Rate below 60% for three consecutive years</li> </ul> <p>Was previously designated as Priority and has not met exit criteria (grade of C- or higher)</p>
<b><i>Some schools do not have a designation under the ESEA Waiver. These schools will not be listed.</i></b>	

Your school status designation will be available online on the Accreditation/Accountability/HQT Application. To access your School Status Designation report, go to: <https://sdeweb01.sde.ok.gov/SSO2/Signin.aspx> and log into the Single-Sign-On (SSO). After logging in, click on the **Accreditation/HQT/School Improvement**. Then, click on the School Improvement tab. A report of all schools in your district with designations will be listed along with the reason for the designation. If no schools in your district have School Status Designations, then the report will read "NO DESIGNATIONS." To assist you, note the following documents posted at the **School Improvement Webpage**.

- Guide to Priority School Identification
- Guide to Focus School Identification
- Guide to Reward School Identification

### **School Status Designation Appeals (form posted on Single-Sign-On (SSO) in Accreditation/HQT/School Improvement)**

The appeal process for School Status Designations is set forth in 210:10-13-18(c). If you have a substantive or statistical reason to appeal your preliminary School Status Designation, you may appeal within 10 working days of the release of the designations by completing the School Status Designation Appeal Form and attaching all supporting evidence. **All School Status Designation Appeal Forms and supporting documents must be submitted electronically to [SSDAppeals@sde.ok.gov](mailto:SSDAppeals@sde.ok.gov). All appeals of School Status Designations must originate from the district level and must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.**

The purpose of this appeal relates solely to the **School Status Designation**. The window for data verification requests related to the A-F report card and corrections of accountability data for the 2013-2014 school year have closed. Because the process for completing data changes has concluded, no additional changes will be made.

Appeals of School Status Designations may be made on the following grounds:

*Statistical reasons for appeal exist when the statistic on the preliminary data report does not reflect the true measure of the district/school. For example, a statistical reason may exist when a school's declining enrollment impacts the graduation rate, since their dropouts from four years ago were drawn from a larger student body than the student body providing the number of graduates in the current year.*

*Substantive reasons for appeal exist when mitigating circumstances, outside of the district's/school's control, have negatively impacted the district's/school's performance. Substantive reasons may include circumstances (e.g. natural disaster, flu epidemic) that affect test conditions, test scores, percent tested, and/or other factors (e.g. attendance rate or graduation rate).*

Districts requesting a School Status Designation Appeal must submit the following documents:

- A completed School Designation Appeal Form (available in the Accountability/HQT/School Improvement and on the SDE Accountability website).

- A letter from the district superintendent to the Oklahoma State Department of Education to Dr. Cindy Koss, requesting an appeal on the school's behalf.
- All appropriate evidence, in a clear and concise format, supporting the basis for appeal.

Upon receipt of the request for appeal, the appeal will be processed by the State Department of Education Office of School Turnaround.

In addition to requesting to appear before the School Status Designation Appeals Committee (in person or by phone), a district may also request a hearing under the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act, Title 75 O.S. § 309. If such a hearing is requested, the district must provide a written waiver of the right of the district to receive a final determination from the State Department of Education within the period required by federal law. A district's request to a hearing under the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act (Title 75 O.S. § 309) must be indicated on the School Designation Appeal Form.

### **Contact Information**

- Please contact the Office of Accountability, at (405) 522-5169, with any questions regarding calculations of School Status Designations.
- Please contact the Office of School Turnaround, at (405) 522-0140, with logistical questions regarding the School Status Designation Appeals Process.
- Please contact the SDE Service Desk, at (405) 521-3301, for technical support in - navigating and logging into SSO, the **Accreditation/HQT /School Improvement** to view your **School Status Designations**.

We appreciate your dedication to improving the quality of education in Oklahoma schools.

Sincerely,

Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction