

# Focus Schools Guide

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According to USDE, a Focus School is a Title I school with low performance or low graduation rate for an identified subgroup of students. In 2010, The Oklahoma Department of Education identified the three lowest achieving subgroups in the State<sup>1</sup> and the two subgroups with the lowest graduation rates.<sup>2</sup>

A school will be designated as a Focus school if they qualify under one of the following categories:

- 1. Low Performance of a Designated Subgroup**
- 2. Low Graduation Rate of a Designated Subgroup**

If a school meets any of the criteria for the above categories, they will be designated as a Focus school with the following exception:

- A school **CANNOT** qualify as a Focus school if they also qualify for Priority, Targeted Intervention, or High Progress Reward via any criteria.

## **Low Performance of a Designated Subgroup**

### **School Eligibility for Lowest Performance**

In order for a school to be eligible for a focus designation, the percentage of tested students must be greater than the State-wide percentage for a particular subgroup: Black, English Language Learner (ELL), and Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The state percentages for 2013 are listed below.

	CRT Reading and English II EOI	CRT Math and Algebra I EOI
Black	9.3%	9.3%
ELL	7.6%	7.8%
IEP	17.3%	17.4%

Eligible schools will qualify as a focus school if they meet one of the following criteria:

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<sup>1</sup> Black students, students with IEPs, and English Language Learners

<sup>2</sup> Black students and Hispanic students

- The school is a Title I school and is ranked below the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of Title I schools in student achievement on the OSTP Reading and Math assessments in any of the three subgroups (see **Appendix A** for details on this ranking process).
- The school is a non-Title I school but would rank below the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile in student Achievement were it a Title I school.

## **Low Graduation Rate of a Designated Subgroup**

### **School Eligibility for Lowest Graduation Rate**

In order for a school to be eligible for a focus designation, the percentage of tested students must be greater than the state average percentage of tested students in one of two lowest-graduating subgroups: Black and Hispanic. Because graduation data is lagged one year, eligibility is determined using percentages from one year ago. For example, 2013 designations use 2012 graduation rates. Therefore, eligible schools are those that exceeded the statewide average for Black or Hispanic students in 2012. The 2012 state percentages are listed below.

	High School Graduates
Black	9.8%
Hispanic	13.2%

Eligible schools will qualify for a focus designation if they meet one of the following criteria:

- The school is a Title I school and is ranked below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of Title I schools in the average graduation rate over the past three years for either of the subgroups (see **Appendix B** for more details on this ranking process).
- The school is a non-Title I school but would rank below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile in average graduation rate were it a Title I school.

## **Appendix A**

### **Calculation Procedure (Rank Order) for Lowest Performance**

Schools are ranked using the results from all grades 3-8 Reading and Math, Algebra I, and English II assessments. The criteria for inclusion in the ranking is identical to the criteria for the A-F Report Card (e.g., students must have been enrolled in the school for the Full Academic Year, been a first time test taker, etc.).

Points are assigned to each assessment with a valid score based on the following scale:

- Advanced = 4 points
- Proficient = 3 points
- Limited Knowledge = 2 points
- Unsatisfactory = 1 point.

Performance levels are subject to the federally mandates 2% OMAAP and 1% OAAP proficiency caps. These points are summed within subject area (i.e., Math and Reading) and subgroup (Black, ELL, and IEP) divided by the number of valid tests within that subject area/subgroup combination to create an index for each subject/subgroup. At least 25 students are required to create an index. Reading and Math indices are then averaged together (weighted by the number of tests that go into each index) to create to Focus Index for each subgroup.

Schools are ranked separately according to their C<sup>3</sup> grade level classification (i.e., PK – 8 school, Elementary School, Middle School, and High School). Any school that scores below the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile within their classification on any Focus Index will qualify as a Focus school for that particular subgroup.

## **Appendix B**

### **Calculation Procedure (Rank Order) for Graduation Rate**

The graduation rate of eligible schools was averaged for students in the subgroup for 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012. In order to create an average, the school must have had at least 25 students in the particular subgroup for the most recent year (i.e., 2012). Any school that scored below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile in average graduation rate for either subgroup qualified as a Focus school for that subgroup with the following exception:

- A school will **NOT** qualify as a focus school via graduation rate if the difference between 100% and the 2010 graduation rate is reduced by at least half in 2012 (e.g., it was 80% in 2010 but was 90% in 2012).