

Reward Schools Guide

As part of Oklahoma's ESEA flexibility waiver, the Department is required to annually identify, based on the most recent data available, the highest-performing schools or schools that have made the most significant progress in student achievement as "Reward" schools.

A school will be identified as a High Performance Reward School if they meet *any* of the following criteria:

1. The school receives an 'A-', 'A', or an 'A+' on the A – F Report Card.
2. The school's overall performance on all state assessments is at or above the reward cut score for three consecutive years (see **Appendix A** for details on how the reward cut score is calculated).

Additionally, the school must have a graduation rate of at least 82.4% in the most recently reported school year (High Schools only) and not have already been identified as a Targeted Intervention, Focus, or Priority school.

A school will be identified as a High Progress Reward School if they meet *all* of the following criteria:

1. The improvement of a school's overall performance on all federally required assessments from the most recently reported school year compared to three years ago is at or above the improvement cut score (see **Appendix B** for details on how the improvement cut score is calculated).
2. The school consistently shows positive improvement from year to year (i.e., performance does not go down one year only to go up again the next year).
3.
 - a. The improvement of a school's graduation rate from the most recently reported school year compared to graduation rate reported from three years ago must be at or above the graduation improvement cut score (see **Appendix C** for details on how the graduation improvement cut score is calculated), or
 - b. the school's most recently reported graduation rate is 100% (High Schools only).
4. The school has not already been identified as a Focus or Priority school.

APPENDIX A:

The reward cut score is calculating by ranking the performance of all public schools on all Statewide assessments from the previous three school years. Schools are ranked separately for each year.

Points are assigned to each assessment with a valid score based on the following scale (only Full Academic Year students are included):

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

First, the average performance level point value is calculated separately for the federally required math assessments (grades 3 through 8 Math and Algebra I), the federally required reading assessments (grades 3 through 8 Reading and English II), and all other Statewide assessments. A school must have at least 10 exams in math, reading, or everything else in order to calculate an average performance level point value for that category.

Next, the average performance level point value for each category will be combined into an overall average performance level point value using the following weights:

- Math = 30%
- Reading = 30%
- Everything Else = 40%

If a school only has average values for Math and Reading, each will be worth 50%. If a school only has average values for Math/Reading and Everything Else, Math/Reading will be worth 60% and Everything Else will be worth 40%. If a school only has average values for Math/Reading, it will be worth 100%.

Schools are ranked on their overall average value for each of the previous three years according to their grade span (i.e., PK – 8 school, Elementary School, Middle School, and High School). The reward cut score for each year and grade span will be the score that marks the top 10% of schools within each ranking.

² Federal guidelines limit the number of OAAP tests that can count as proficient or advanced for accountability purposes to 1% of the total number of students tested within a district. Any exams over this limit must be counted as “Limited Knowledge.”

APPENDIX B:

The improvement cut score is calculating by ranking the improvement of all public schools on their performance on all federally required assessments (grades 3 through 8 Reading and Math, Algebra I, and English II) from the most recently reported school year compared to three years ago.

Points are assigned to each assessment with a valid score based on the following scale (only Full Academic Year students are included):

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

The schools are then ranked according to the difference between the average performance level point value from the most recent school year and the average performance level point value from three years ago. A school must have at least 10 exams in reading and/or math to be included in the ranking. Schools are ranked by this difference score separately according to their C³ grade level classification (i.e., PK – 8 school, Elementary School, Middle School, and High School). The improvement cut score for each grade span will be the score that marks the top 10% of schools within each ranking.

³ Federal guidelines limit the number of OAAP tests that can count as proficient or advanced for accountability purposes to 1% of the total number of students tested within a district. Any exams over this limit must be counted as “Limited Knowledge.”

APPENDIX C:

The graduation improvement cut score is calculating by ranking the all public high schools on difference between the graduation rate from the most recently reported school year and the graduation rate reported three years ago. A school must have at least 10 students in both cohorts in order to be included in the ranking. The graduation improvement cut score will be the score that marks the top 20% of schools.

For more information or questions about the identification of Reward schools, please contact:

The Office of Accountability

(405) 522 – 5169

accountability@sde.ok.gov

For more information about what happens to a school identified as a Reward school, please contact:

The Office of School Turnaround

(405) 522 - 0140