

Overview of Methodology Used to Identify Priority and Focus Schools for 2016–17

The tables below outline the criteria used to classify schools as Priority or Focus for 2016–17; though no new list was created for 2016–17, these criteria were used to evaluate the continuation or exit of schools from the Priority or Focus lists. These criteria blend federal guidance for identifying Priority and Focus schools and the State Board of Education’s Achievement Index for identifying challenged schools in need of improvement. Three-year averages (2012–13, 2013–14, and 2014–15) are used in calculations.

Table 1: Criteria Used to Identify Priority Schools for 2016-17* (N = 121)

Lowest 5% Based on “All Students” Performance	Identification Code	State and/or Federal	Number
1. Floor: 3-Year Average for “All Students” group on state assessments in ELA/Math (combined) is less than 40%.	1-LT40	State	48
2. Floor: 3-Year Average for the Adjusted 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate for “All Students” group is less than 60%; these schools generate an Achievement Index.	2-GR60	State/ Federal	9
3. Lowest performing schools based on Achievement Index; State Board of Education requires the state to identify a total of 90 schools under the first 3 criteria (#1 + #2 + #3 = 90).	3-Bot5	State	25
4. Current Priority schools continuing to 2015–16; these schools were not identified under first 3 criteria and did not meet exit criteria.	4-P-Cont	Federal	34
5. Lowest 5% of stack-ranked list of schools based on 3 years of data on state assessments in ELA and Math (not combined); schools were not identified under first 4 criteria. These schools are referred to as Persistently Lowest Achieving (PLA).	5-PLA	Federal	5

Table 2: Criteria Used to Identify Focus Schools for 2016-17 (N = 130)

Lowest 10% Based on Subgroup Performance	Identification Code	State and/or Federal	Number
11. Floor: 3-Year Average for the Adjusted 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate for “All Students” group is less than 60%; these schools do not generate an Achievement Index.	11-GR60	Federal	15
12. Floor – Title Schools**: Includes lowest 10% of Title I schools based on 3-Year Average for subgroups on state assessments in ELA/Math (combined). The threshold for subgroup performance is 13.82%. A Title school with subgroup(s) with 3-Year Average in ELA/Math (combined) less than 13.82% is identified as a Focus school; the only exceptions are schools already identified as Priority or based on graduation rate in step 11.	12-MinTitle	Federal	70
13. Floor - Non-Title Schools**: A Non-Title school with subgroup(s) with 3-Year Average in ELA/Math (combined) less than 13.82% is identified as a Focus school. These Non-Title schools are considered “equally low-performing” to the Title schools identified under criterion 12. The only exceptions are schools already identified as Priority or based on graduation rate in step 11.	13-MinNonTitle	State	45

Table 3: Data Criteria Used to Exit Focus Schools for 2016-17 (N = 4)

Lowest 10% Based on Subgroup Performance	Identification Code	State and/or Federal	Number
11. Floor: 3-Year Average for the Adjusted 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate for “All Students” group is above 60.	11-GR60	Federal	0
12. Floor – Title Schools**: The threshold for subgroup performance is above 13.82%. A Title school with subgroup(s) with 3-Year Average in ELA/Math (combined) greater than 13.82% is exited from Focus status.	12-MinTitle	Federal	3
13. Floor - Non-Title Schools**: The threshold for subgroup performance is above 13.82%. A Title school with subgroup(s) with 3-Year Average in ELA/Math (combined) greater than 13.82% is exited from Focus status.	13-MinNonTitle	State	1

Note that there are additional **programmatic** requirements to exit Priority or Focus status. Please contact the Office of Student and School Success for details about these requirements (<http://www.k12.wa.us/StudentAndSchoolSuccess>).

*Applies to Title schools with at least 20 Continuously Enrolled Students in the “All Students” group in each of the 3 years.

**Applies to schools with at least 20 Continuously Enrolled Students in the identified subgroup in each of the 3 years.

See <https://eds.ospi.k12.wa.us/WAI> for additional detail about the Index.