

2015 Washington Achievement Awards Methodology

The Washington Achievement Awards use the State Board of Education Revised Achievement Index and are based on statewide assessment data for the three previous years. Schools must not be identified for the Priority/Focus list and are required to have at least 95% participation on state tests. The awards are given in seven categories:

- Overall Excellence
- High Progress
- English Language Arts Growth
- Math Growth
- Extended Graduation Rate (only awarded to high and comprehensive schools)
- English Language Acquisition
- Achievement Gap

Overall Excellence

Schools qualify for recognition if they are among the top 5% of schools based on the Composite Achievement Index rating. The Composite Achievement Index rating is based on proficiency and growth for schools not graduating students, and on proficiency, growth, graduation and dual credit for schools graduating students.

High Progress

Schools qualify for recognition if they are in the top 10% of schools making the most progress in the reading or ELA and math combined performance of the All Students group, using the three years of data. The Progress Score (PS) is an average of an Achievement Score (A) and an Improvement Score (I).

Progress is determined in two ways:

1. Achievement Score - The Achievement Score is an average of proficiency rates in both reading or ELA and math for the previous three years. Schools must have tested students in both reading or ELA and math for each of the three years. Reading or ELA and math are weighted equally.
2. Improvement Score - The Improvement Score is an average of improvement from year to year for the previous three years. Schools must have tested students in both reading or ELA and math for each of the three years. Reading or ELA and math are equally weighted.

Special Recognition – English Language Arts Growth and Mathematics Growth

Schools qualify for recognition if they are in the top 5% of the 3-year average Median Student Growth Percentiles (MSGPs) in reading or English language arts and/or math. To be eligible for recognition a school must have reportable school MSGPs in reading or English language arts and/or math for the previous three years.

Special Recognition – Extended Graduation Rate

Schools qualify for recognition if the 3-year average graduation index rating for All Students is at least 9.0 AND the gap between the All Students 3-year average graduation index rating and the Targeted Subgroups 3-year average graduation index rating is less than 1.0.

Special Recognition – English Language Acquisition

Schools qualify for recognition if they are in approximately the top 5% of schools based on the median point gain on the Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment (WELPA). Schools must have at least 20 valid WELPA results. Schools must also have met Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives AMAO 1 and AMAO 2 federal accountability targets.

Special Recognition – Achievement Gap

Schools qualify for recognition if they have demonstrated closing the achievement gap between the reference group and the subgroup, based on three years of data. Schools must close the gap by at least 10 percentage points, the subgroup performance must not decline over the three years and the All Students group must not decline by more than the state average.