

How are Reward Schools selected?

Why identify Reward Schools?

As part of its [ESEA Flexibility agreement with the federal government](#), the Kansas State Department of Education agreed to identify 10 percent of Title I buildings as Reward Schools. For example, if, in a given year, there are 660 Title I schools in Kansas, 66 would be identified as Reward Schools. Some are selected based on high progress, others on high performance.

Assessment Performance Index (API)

The API is used to identify them. It's calculated by assigning more points as students move into higher performance categories. No points are awarded for the lowest performance category.

Only students enrolled by September 20th are included.

Each school's API is calculated by totaling the number of students scoring at each performance level, in math and reading combined. Then the total at each level is multiplied by the points awarded for that level. The grand total is then divided by the total number of students across all performance levels. The school's API score is the average score of all its students. In the example, the school's API score is 655.

High Progress Schools

performance level	points per level	# of students	total points
exemplary	1,000	55	55,000
exceeds standard	750	90	67,500
meets standard	500	82	41,000
approaching standard	250	30	7,500
academic warning	0	4	0
totals		261	171,000

Assessment Performance Index (API) = 171,000 ÷ 261 = 655

High-Progress Schools are identified first. API scores from the four most current years are converted into percentiles. Each school's percentile from the fourth year is subtracted from the current year's. From those Title I buildings showing progress—their current percentile is greater than their percentile from four years ago—the top ten percent are identified as High Progress Schools. Let's say 250 Title I buildings showed progress. The top 10 percent of these—25 schools—would be identified as High Progress Schools.

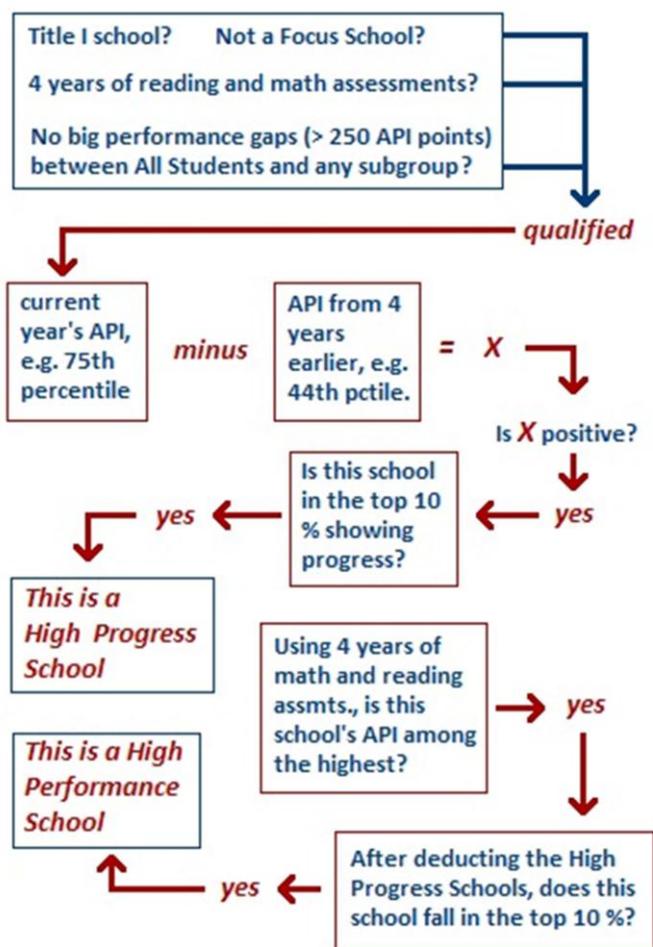
High Performance Schools

The remaining Reward Schools are selected based on high performance. Using all the reading and math

assessment data from the most recent four years, KSDE calculates a cumulative API. All of a school's students who were enrolled by September 20th and assessed in the same year are included in the calculation. This cumulative API is totaled and averaged in the same way as the yearly API. Those schools with the highest cumulative API are selected as High-Performance Schools.

In the examples used here, a total of 66 schools, or 10 percent of the Title I schools, could be selected as Reward Schools. Since 25 had already been identified as High Progress Schools, 41 more could be designated as High Performance schools. The 41 schools with the highest four-year, cumulative API would be selected as High Performance Schools.

Steps in Selection



Additional Conditions for Reward School Selection

Neither Focus Schools, nor schools with an API gap of 250 or more points between the All Students group and any traditional subgroup, can be recognized as Reward Schools. Schools must have at least 4 years of reading and math data.

More Information

E-mail questions to: waiver@ksde.org