

2013 TTB List and Priority, Focus and Reward Designations in Brief

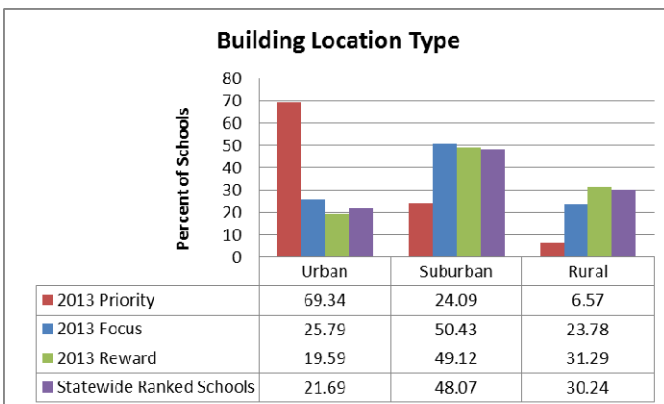
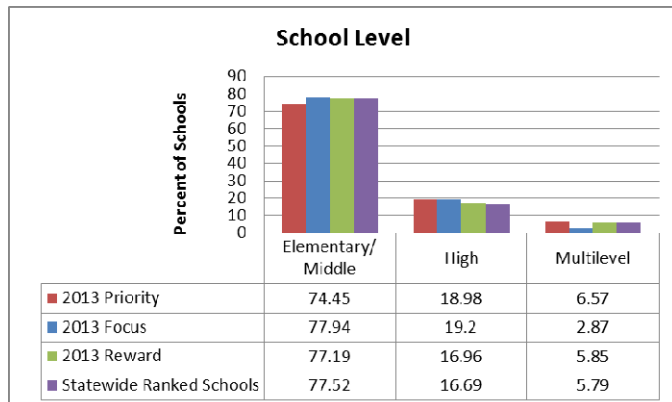
Each year (beginning in 2012) the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) produces a Top-to-Bottom List (TTB), a performance ranking of all eligible schools from the top (99th percentile) to the bottom (0 percentile). The ranking is based on achievement, improvement and within-school achievement gaps.¹ All public schools in the state with at least 30 Full Academic Year (FAY) students in two testing content areas are eligible to be ranked on the TTB List. MDE also highlights groups of schools in order to provide appropriate support:

- **Priority Schools** are the bottom five percent of schools identified by the ranking.
- **Focus Schools** are those with the largest within-school gap in achievement between the top 30% and bottom 30% performing students.
- **Reward Schools** are those showing the highest improvement, highest performance or schools determined to be “Beating the Odds.”

This brief discusses characteristics of the 2013 TTB List.

Characteristics of the 2013 TTB List

- 2,798 schools were eligible for the 2013 TTB List and received a percentile rank. Of these schools, 137 were designated Priority schools, 349 were designated Focus schools and 342 were named Reward schools.
- 78% of all TTB ranked schools are elementary or middle schools, 17% are high schools and 6% are multilevel schools. Schools on the Priority, Focus and Reward lists proportionately represent the statewide distribution of schools. On each list, between 74 and 78% of schools are elementary or middle school buildings.
- Nearly half of all TTB ranked schools are located in suburban areas. Thirty percent of schools are in rural locations and 22% of schools are found in urban areas. Priority schools are disproportionately located in urban areas, while the distribution of Focus and Reward schools is more similar to the distribution of all TTB ranked schools.

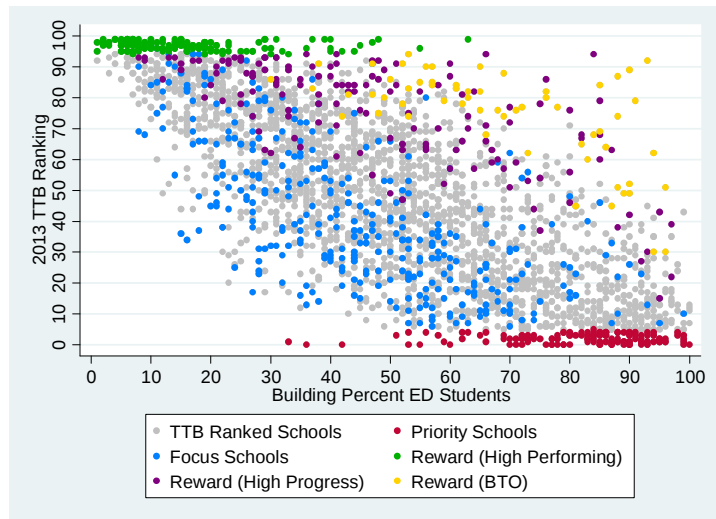


- The mean student enrollment in TTB ranked schools is 510 students. On average, Focus schools have more students (mean of 596), while

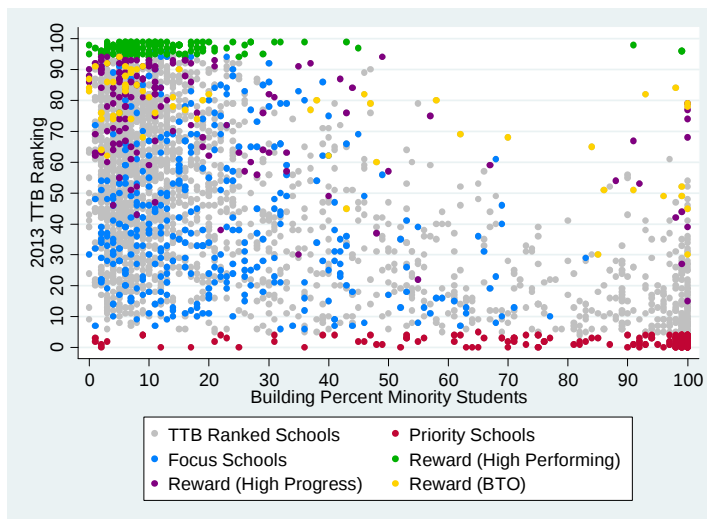
¹ Graduation rate is also factored into the TTB ranking for high schools.

Priority schools have slightly fewer students (mean of 490), as do Reward schools (mean of 480).

- Schools with lower proportions of economically disadvantaged students tend to rank higher on the TTB List, though there is quite a bit of variance to this relationship. The graph to the right displays the relationship between economically disadvantaged and the TTB rank.
- The mean percentage of minority students in all ranked schools is 27%. On average, Focus and Reward schools have smaller than average minority student bodies (21 and 19%, respectively), while Priority schools have higher than average proportions of



minority students (78%). The graph below displays the relationship between a school's proportion of minority students and its TTB rank.



² Minority includes all ESEA-designated racial/ethnic subgroups: black, Asian, Hispanic, Native American and multiracial.