

2014 “At-a-Glance” Overview:

Priority Schools

What are Priority¹ Schools?

Schools in the bottom 5% of the Top-to-Bottom ranking²

How are Priority¹ Schools determined?

Based on the Top-to-Bottom ranking methodology which includes data from achievement, improvement, and achievement gap standardized scores.

All schools with two years of data for 30 or more students in two or more tested subjects are included in the ranking.

What happens once a Priority¹ School is named?

Local Education Agencies (LEA) with schools designated as Priority Schools will be required to implement one of four intervention models as described in the US Department of Education’s Final Requirements for School Improvement Grants:

- Turnaround Model
- Transformation Model
- Restart Model
- School Closure

The timeline for intervention planning and implementation is initiated.

Any school designated as a Priority School on the 2013 list that was previously designated as “Persistently Lowest Achieving” will follow the timeline as mandated in the state law.

A school now designated as a Priority School that was previously designated as “Persistently Lowest Achieving” will follow the timeline as mandated in the state law.

How does a school exit Priority School status?

For a school to exit Priority School status, it has to receive a Green, Lime, Yellow, or Orange on the Accountability Scorecard showing that it has:

- Met all interim measurements of progress for Priority Schools (approved plan, leading and lagging indicators)
- Met proficiency and/or improvement targets on average as a school
- Increased the proficiency rate of all traditional subgroups
- Increased the proficiency rate of their very lowest performing students

Schools designated as a Priority School must either meet aggressive proficiency targets (toward 85% of students proficient by 2022), or demonstrate significant improvement by the close of the third year in the Priority School intervention.

¹Priority schools were formerly known as Persistently Lowest Achieving (PLA) in school years ending in 2010 and 2011.

²The US Department of Education requires that the number of schools identified as Priority Schools is equal to at least 5% of the state’s Title I schools; thus, the number schools designated as Priority may be slightly greater than 5%.