

Reward Schools

Understanding the Designation

How are Reward Schools determined?

- ▶ Based on the Top-to-Bottom (TTB) overall school ranking methodology which includes data from:
 - ▶ Achievement results
 - ▶ Improvement results
- ▶ All tested subjects are included in the ranking where possible for a school.
- ▶ A ranking is determined for all schools with 2 years of data for:
 - ▶ 30 or more students
 - ▶ In 2 or more tested subjects

How are Reward Schools determined?

- ▶ After all schools are ranked based on achievement and improvement, the highest 5% of ranked schools designated as Reward Schools.
- ▶ The highest 5% of ranked schools for improvements are also designated as Reward Schools.
- ▶ Additionally, schools meeting the criteria for “Beating the Odds” are designated as Reward Schools.

What are Reward Schools?

Identification as a Reward School results from:

- ▶ Achieving one or more of the following distinctions:
 - Being in the top 5% of the overall school ranking
 - Being in the top 5% of schools on the improvement metric in the overall school ranking
 - Being a school identified as “Beating the Odds” (BTO) by:
 - 1) performing better than predicted based on traditional risk factors, or by
 - 2) performing the highest in their peer group of similar schools.

What happens once a school is named?

Reward schools will:

- ▶ Receive recognition for their achievements through a communication and dissemination effort regarding the identification of the schools to local media from MDE. This recognition is intended to inform the public about their success and encourage media coverage to tell each school's unique story.
- ▶ Have their promising practices highlighted through conferences and other events, such as MDE's School Improvement Conference. Again, such efforts are to recognize and share their work through educator networks and professional organizations as exemplars and models for others to follow.